

**Question on Notice  
No. 461  
Asked on 4 June 2014**

MR STEVENS asked the Minister for Housing and Public Works (MR MANDER)-

**QUESTION:**

Will the Minister update the House on the progress of the Retirement Villages Act review and how will the carefully considered approach taken by the Minister and his working party benefit Queenslanders?

**ANSWER:**

The Government has given a commitment to fully review the *Retirement Villages Act 1999* (the Act) to ensure the welfare of seniors is protected.

In late 2012, the Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee of the Parliament conducted a review and tabled a report of 37 recommendations. These recommendations ranged from straightforward initiatives, such as publishing fact sheets, through to significant amendments to the Act.

To balance consumer protection with the ongoing viability of the retirement village industry, the Government must be aware of potential implications of implementing the report recommendations. The Government response to the report, tabled in February 2013, identified that many of the recommendations required further investigation to ensure this balance is met.

In 2013, the Department of Housing and Public Works (DHPW) established a working party of resident and operator stakeholders, to guide implementation of the report recommendations. Membership of the working party included the Association of Residents of Queensland Retirement Villages, the Property Council of Australia, Leading Age Services Australia Queensland, the Council on the Ageing and the Queensland Law Society.

The working party met throughout 2013, and in November 2013, I was presented with their findings. Based upon the outcomes of the working party, DHPW will release a regulatory impact statement (RIS) for consultation before the end of June 2014.

The RIS will seek public feedback on implementing the report recommendations, and particularly about amendments to the Act in relation to village closure, best practice standards, alternate financial models and early payout of the exit entitlement.

Amendments to the Act arising from the report recommendations be progressed in the second half of 2014 and will include consultation on a draft Bill.