

RETIREMENT VILLAGES

**583. Hon LYNN MacLAREN to the Minister for Commerce:**

- (1) How many retirement villages currently operate in Western Australia?
- (2) Of those, how many are not for profit?
- (3) How many people live in retirement villages at present?
- (4) How is that number expected to increase or decrease over the next five years?
- (5) What is the estimated value of this industry?
- (6) On average, for how long does a resident of a retirement village remain liable for the recurrent charges of the village after he or she has moved out?

**Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question.

The member may wish to refer to page xxiv of the "Statutory Review of Retirement Villages Legislation", Final Report, November 2012, where a lot of this information is expanded upon.

- (1) The precise structure of the retirement villages sector in Western Australia is not fully known. Recent industry figures indicate that in Western Australia in 2009 there were a total of 192 villages with 13 026 independent living units and 282 serviced apartments.
- (2) Of this number, the total not-for-profit sector administered approximately 75 per cent.
- (3) Preliminary industry statistics indicate a total population of between 15 000 and 16 000 persons living in retirement villages in WA.
- (4) While the Australian Bureau of Statistics has forecast that in another 40 years nearly a quarter of WA's population will be over 65, it is not possible to ascertain with any certainty how this might translate into future trends in the retirement villages industry.
- (5) The value is unknown.
- (6) The Retirement Village Association estimates that the average vacancy period for retirement village units is eight months, meaning that such residents would, on current arrangements, actually pay recurrent charges for eight months on average after leaving a village.

Some contracts in the not-for-profit sector provide that residents remain liable for payment of recurrent charges only for a set notice period after leaving a village—say, 30 or 45 days.