

RETIREMENT VILLAGES LEGISLATION — STATUTORY REPORT

**9. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Minister for Commerce:**

- (1) Is the minister aware that the statutory report of the review of retirement villages legislation was tabled in Parliament late last year?
- (2) Has the minister read the report; and, if not, why not?
- (3) What is the minister's position on the payment of ongoing charges after a non-owner resident leaves a retirement village?
- (4) Does the minister agree that the payment of ongoing charges after a non-owner resident leaves a retirement village should be restricted to six weeks; and, if not, why not?

**Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:**

That was such a long question without notice that some of the details get a bit lost.

**Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich:** If you wrote something down, you would know what the question is!

**Hon SIMON O'BRIEN:** I am not here to take shorthand.

- (1) Yes, I am—thank you very much—well aware that the report —

**Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich:** Have you read it?

**The PRESIDENT:** Let him answer the question.

**Hon SIMON O'BRIEN:** Yes, indeed I have read it.

**Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich:** You have read it?

**Hon SIMON O'BRIEN:** Yes, I have. I thought you would like to know that. Have you?

**Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich:** Yes.

**Hon SIMON O'BRIEN:** We have all read it then; isn't that nice!

**Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich:** What is the answer? You will know the answer then to the other two!

**Hon SIMON O'BRIEN:** I have done rather more than that. I have been actively engaged over the recess in discussions and visits to certain retirement villages that have been prominent in the public debate to improve my hands-on, face-to-face understanding that we only get from visits and face-to-face discussions, which we often need in order to supplement what is written in reports.

In connection to retirement villages, my department is drawing up proposals for legislation that I can take forward to cabinet. I indicate to the member that the proposals that I want to take forward have been given substantial priority by me. That means that my department has significant extra work to do but we want to progress some improvements to retirement village legislation. I predict the member will be glad to see a combination of proposals to provide not only some immediate improvements in the rules that govern retirement villages but also some legislated changes, where necessary, to give effect to some long overdue improvements in the regime. Once those proposals have gone through the cabinet process, I look forward to receiving the honourable member's support to progress that legislation.