RETIREMENT VILLAGES ACT — STATUTORY REVIEW

182. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Minister for Commerce:

I refer to the statutory review of the retirement villages legislation, and the recommended amendment that residents who leave a village will only be paid out 45 days after leaving the village if the operator does not intend to find a replacement resident.

(1) Does the minister agree that this amendment will disadvantage residents whose unit is intended to be sold by the operator but takes longer than 45 days to sell; and, if not, why not?

(2) Does the minister acknowledge that this amendment, recommended by his department, means that residents who need to leave a retirement village to go into high care may have to wait 50 days or 100 days, or even longer, to receive money that is urgently needed to pay their high-care costs?

(3) Will the minister commit to ensuring that if residents leave a retirement village, they will be paid out within 45 days of leaving; and, if not, why not?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

(1)–(2) The statutory review does not recommend that the Retirement Villages Act be amended as described in the preamble to this question.

That sort of gets the member off to a pretty slow start!

(3) The timing of the repayment of a premium paid for admission to a retirement village is governed by the provisions of the act and the relevant provisions of the contract that the resident has entered into. There is a wide range of contracts in the retirement villages sector, and these often contain different conditions for repayment of a premium. The government is giving close consideration to the recommendations of the report and the views of industry and stakeholders, and the final arrangements that will be brought before Parliament will strike a fair balance and provide greater clarity on the issue of payment of premiums.