

RETIREMENT VILLAGES ACT 1992 — REVIEW

623. Hon SUE ELLERY to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Commerce:

I refer to the review of the Retirement Villages Act 1992, which began in 2006, and which was the subject of an issues paper released in July 2007, and was further the subject of a report by the Economics and Industry Standing Committee in June 2008.

- (1) What is delaying the release of the review into the act?
- (2) When will the review of the act be completed and legislative changes introduced to provide greater protection to residents of retirement villages?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question, and I provide this answer on behalf of the Leader of the House.

- (1) The consumer protection division of the Department of Commerce issued a draft report of the review of the retirement villages legislation during August 2009 and invited comment from village operators and residents, and the public. The report contained more than 80 recommendations for change. The department received more than 50 submissions in response, many of them detailed and complex. The department has been working through these issues to provide a report that safeguards the interests of residents, while encouraging growth in this important seniors' housing sector.
- (2) The department is finalising the report of the review and will hold final meetings with key resident and industry groups during late September and early October. The department will then submit the report to the Minister for Commerce for consideration and approval. The minister expects to table the approved report in Parliament before the end of the 2010 sitting. The department anticipates that the report will serve as the basis for amending legislation governing retirement villages. Subject to cabinet approvals and drafting priority, the minister would look to introduce an amendment bill during 2011.