



**TO THE INQUIRY INTO THE PROVISION USE & REGULATION OF
CARAVAN PARKS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA.**

My name is Anne Levens

This is my submission to the Inquiry into Provision Use & Regulation of Caravan Parks of Western Australia.

I was very pleased when I heard that there was going to be a Bill going through Parliament with the outcome being protection for long term residents of Caravan Parks, unfortunately this was not the case and in fact seemed to favour the owners rather than the residents.

I chose this lifestyle after I was made redundant from my employment and had to make some changes in my living arrangements, as I was afraid that at my age I would not get another job, but thank goodness I was very lucky and I did.

When we were issued with the new lease agreements I was absolutely appalled, I had never read anything more draconian in my life, I do hope the Committee has read the one we were given, with hindsight I believe that Mr Chako the Co Owner hoped we would all just get up and leave, but myself and quite a few others refused to sign, but this didn't seem to faze Mr Jacob Chako who proceeded to carry on with some of his new regulations, one of which was locking the gates which lead into the medical Centre, these are our closest exits, the gates are locked from 7.30 pm to 7.30 am, heaven help us if ever there is a fire. I leave for work at 6.30 am I now have to walk all the way through the park to catch my bus and if I happen to go out for dinner or visit family I have the same inconvenience, but more than that I don't feel safe as the park is badly lit.

I would like to mention that Mr Paul Miles tried to intervene on my behalf by requesting a key so I could let myself in or out, Mr Chako agreed to this but then changed his mind.

The absolute devastation we felt when we were given eviction notices I cannot put into words, I myself found out when I turned on the television to watch the news and saw my fellow residents being interviewed by a reporter, because I was at work I didn't get my notice until that night. We had been told by Mr Chako at a meeting on Mothers Day 2008 that Kingsway Tourist Park was the Jewel in his Crown and would never be sold, we received our eviction notices in October 2008.

We were then in the terrible position of finding somewhere to live, both Northam Shire & Moora came to the rescue of some of the residents, they kindly offered to relocate them on a monthly payment plan, as you can imagine most of the pensioners have no money, their sole income is their pension and the only asset they have is their home.

I was hoping to retire next year but because of the loss of some of my superannuation I have had to put that on hold for now, I am sixty eight years old and don't have a great deal of money but I still have my health and will keep on working for as long as I can.

The effect of Mr Chako's decision to close the park has changed the lives of all the residents, we have had people threatening suicide, some of the elderly pensioners have had to give up their homes and move into Nursing Homes others into State Housing, these people were happy and independent home owners until now, they have had to take a lot less money for their homes than what they are worth, can you imagine the sheer misery that that they have been through.

Thanks to the owners of Cherokee Village Tourist Park and the member for Kingsley, myself and 24 others now have somewhere to live, but it is going to cost us about twenty thousand dollars each to move, there goes my life savings along with everyone else's.

This committee must change the Legislation to help protect long term residents of Caravan Parks, we like this lifestyle, we help one another and never feel lonely, isn't that worth protecting, the fact that Mr Chako has wrecked so many lives should not be allowed to happen again, people are having to move far away from relatives and friends because they do not have any money and this is heartbreaking.

I sincerely hope that this committee takes note of our representations, and please include some compensation to long term residents in hopefully the new or amended legislation.

Yours Faithfully

Anne Levens