



The Hon Ken Wyatt AM, MP

**Minister for Aged Care
Minister for Indigenous Health
Member for Hasluck**

MEDIA RELEASE

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Ministerial statement on retirement homes regulation

The Turnbull Government will not tolerate any behaviour that leads to the exploitation of elderly and vulnerable Australians.

Retirement villages are an important housing option for older people and the Government will consider the issues raised in recent media reports.

We will expedite work across relevant portfolios and the States and Territories - which have overall responsibility for retirement villages - with respect to short, medium and long term solutions.

The issues that have come to light show an emerging trend whereby aged care providers are also providing retirement-style living options.

While the industry advises me the majority of residents are happy, these highlighted cases are not what we want in a fair-go society.

Older Australians should be able to feel safe and secure in their aged care, and not be subjected to mistreatment or abuse of any kind.

The Government will consider all the recommendations of both the 2007 Parliamentary inquiry and the 2011 Productivity Commission review, in the context of the recently highlighted cases.

The Government will identify which recommendations can be taken forward, to prevent these situations occurring again, in consultation with the States, Territories and the retirement sector.

The health, safety and wellbeing of older Australians is of paramount importance to the Government, and we will be taking meaningful action to ensure this kind of behaviour is not tolerated, is dealt with accordingly, and that the necessary regulatory framework is in place to prevent it from happening.

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