

27th November 2006

Submission No..... 30
Date Received.....

AVEO NEWMARKET

Association of Residents of Queensland Retirement Villages (inc.)

- (1) Queensland has one legal Service for older people in the south East Area of Brisbane called S.A.I.L.S. (Senior Advocacy Information & Legal Service). which is funded by the Department of Communities from their Domestic Violence Department. It is to help older people take out family violence orders. But it does not allow funding to go to court to recover money that has been stolen from a person.

This Service has one Lawyer and one Social worker, working three days per week (which is not enough).

- (2) The Australian Pensioners & Superannuants League, Queensland, have been lobbying the Government, both State and Federal, for over eighteen months, for State Wide Legal Service (which should be a National Legal service).

In October, the Minister for Communities, Warren Pitt, announced a 1.9 million funding to trial a legal Service in Cairns – Townsville – Toowoomba - Hervey Bay and Brisbane. This will be set up within the Community Legal Service that now exists.

This Service is just now in the Service Agreement mode and will not start working for some months.

People are saying that we have 5% of abuse in the Community, but I would say it was much more if a lot more research was done.

- (3) Financial Abuse.

- * E.P.A. (Enduring Power of Attorney)>
- Family Trusts
- * Tradesmen and overcharging
- Nursing Homes
- Retirement Villages
- Service for Older People
- Family and Relations on Drugs

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- (4) Socially Isolated people who are befriended by strangers and abuse them in many ways.
- (5) Getting parents to sell house to build a granny flat on their house, marriage fails, ends in divorce and parents have nowhere to go.
- (6) We have a Community that discriminates against older people saying that they....
Use all the welfare dollars (welfare dollars are many things)
Use all the health money (many older people have health cover)
Younger people have to pay taxes to keep them (all older people worked and paid taxes all their life).
- (7) Legal Aid do not take older people and if own a house cannot get their help.
- (8) In a court case, if one person has legal aid the other person can not.
- (9) Legal Aid tend to take winnable cases.