




📷 Thorneside's Rodney Macklin, Thornlands' Geoffrey Robson, Caxton Legal Centre's Brittany Smeed and Thorneside's Allen Abel. Photo: Supplied

A SEMINAR has helped shine a light on exit fees and costs involved in retirement village living.

The information session, hosted by Redlands Probus Club, was delivered by Caxton Legal Centre on Wednesday, November 1.

Lawyer Brittany Smeed said it was important for seniors to be aware of their legal obligations when considering retirement living options, with exit fees and other important details often included in lengthy and sometimes hard to understand contracts.

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Park and Village Information Link

Fees and Charges

Moving in, living in and moving out of retirement villages all attract fees. This factsheet and the Department of Housing and Public Works factsheet *Fee Increases in Retirement Villages* describe what fees are payable and how they can be increased.

The information contained in this factsheet is for general information only and should not be relied upon as advice. It is important to get legal advice that is specific to your circumstances.

No matter what type of tenure your unit is subject to, you will be charged fees when you are living in a retirement village. All fees should be clearly outlined in the *Public Information Document* and

will be. It will also depend upon the standard of the unit, the location and the facilities that are available within the village. Usually, the ingoing contribution that is payable for a new unit will be more than the contribution that will be charged for an older, pre-existing unit.

Operator's legal and administration costs

Sometimes operators of retirement villages will ask residents to pay for the legal and administration costs that arise when moving into a village.

Surveyor's cost

Club president Gordon Somes said he was delighted with the number of people who turned up to learn more about their rights.

“We have many retirement villages in the Redlands and it is a great place to retire to, but you need to be fully aware of the legal differences of the options available.”

“It was refreshing to hear about this subject from a lawyer’s perspective.”

If you live in a retirement village, how much do you know about your legal obligations?

☐ I read the contract in full and understand everything.

☐ I know there could be exit fees, but don't know how much they are.

☐ I have no idea.

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