



## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

### Petition

Registration No:	23
Title:	Establishment of a retirement village for self-funded retirees in the Darwin area
Presented on:	13 June 2006
Presented by:	Chief Minister (Martin)
Referred To:	Minister for Planning and Lands (Burns)
Response due:	12 October 2006
Response received:	25 July 2006
Response presented:	22 August 2006

#### **Petition**

The Establishment of a retirement village for self-funded retirees in the Darwin area

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory

We the undersigned respectfully showeth that while accommodation facilities exist in the Darwin area for pensioner retirees, no such facilities are available for self-funded retirees.

At present many Darwin residents leave Darwin on retirement mainly because there is no suitable accommodation to meet their changed circumstances. They realise that as they progressively age they will not be able to satisfactorily manage life in a conventional residence, and secondly a village means more companionship and more security, as normally that is part of the enjoyment we hope for. There is a great need for this to proceed quickly; otherwise all the people who made Darwin what it is will never know the pleasure that is so plentiful in other cities of Australia for the older generation.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that the NT Government moves now to establish a retirement village for self-funded retirees in the inner Darwin area by setting aside a suitable site and proceeding to have a developer design and construct this facility.

And you petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

#### **Response**

Masonic Homes Inc has recently been offered title over an additional 2.4 hectares of Crown land at Tiwi for the purpose of constructing aged care accommodation, assisted living units and an Independent Retirement Village for senior Territorians. The

development is to be staged over a period of five years and the project is estimated to cost \$18 million.

The proposed development consists of various levels of aged care:

- 45 single bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms constructed in three pods, one pod is to be provided for secure dementia care;
- 12 one or two bedroom self contained units with carport and access to the rehabilitation and meal service provided by the service provider, Tiwi Gardens Aged Care Services;
- independent Retirement Village consisting of 35 two or three bedroom detached dwellings; and
- new hall facilities/ cyclone shelter.

Despite evidence of growth in numbers of older people in the Territory, growth is very small by comparison to other sectors of the age profile.

The Office of Senior Territorians, in conjunction with other Government agencies, continues to undertake research in housing options for senior Territorians. The Department of Business, Economic and Regional Development is also researching population demographics and likely demand for retirement villages in the Northern Territory. The Department of Planning and Infrastructure is investigating the appropriateness of releasing the Old Waratahs site in Fannie Bay for an aged care / retirement village should it be determined there is a demand for such a facility.