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Retirement living industry needs more time to comply with Qld housing legislation - LASA

Leading Age Services Australia (LASA) has called on the Queensland Government to revise the go-live date for changes to the Housing Legislation Amendment Act (HLAA) saying the retirement living industry has not been given enough time to comply.

The Government informed LASA on 16 November that changes to the legislation governing retirement villages would commence on 1 February 2019 and at that stage had not released the mandated forms required to replace the public information document (PID). The department only released the documents last Friday, 30 November 2018.

A legal review of the forms has also identified a number of inconsistencies with the Act and the regulations.

LASA CEO Sean Rooney says while the Minister says the department is willing to work with operators on a case by case basis to achieve compliance up to 30 June, the inconsistencies may still place operators in breach and restrict the ability of residents to sign a contract and move into a retirement village unit post 1 February 2019.

“LASA has written to both the Department of Housing and Public Works and the Minister Mick de Brenni, pointing out the inconsistencies and identifying that it is unrealistic to expect operators to comply with the 1 February 2019 date because of the time needed to prepare for the change.

“It is not only implementing the forms but education and training for all staff to comply with the new requirements.

“There is significant work that must occur to ensure that standard operating procedures are amended to comply with the changed legislation.

“Scheme operators will now have significant work to be done in just a few weeks which is not operationally achievable, nor respectful to all stakeholders involved, including residents who will be impacted by the changes.

“We don’t think it is unreasonable to request a revised date, six months from the date on which the Department corrects the inconsistencies in the forms,” Mr Rooney said.

About Leading Age Services Australia (LASA)

LASA is the national peak body representing and supporting providers of age services across residential care, home care and retirement living. Our purpose is to enable a high

performing, respected, and sustainable age services industry delivering accessible, affordable, quality care and services for older Australians.

We represent providers of age services of all types and sizes located across Australia's metropolitan, regional and rural areas. Consistent with the overall industry profile, 57% of our Members are not-for-profit providers, 33% are for-profit providers and 10% are government providers.

Our diverse and representative membership gives LASA the ability to speak with credibility and authority on issues of importance to older Australians and the age services industry.

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