



PETER ABETZ MLA – MEMBER FOR SOUTHERN RIVER

DR MIKE NAHAN – MEMBER FOR RIVERTON

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

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HOUSING HELP FOR SENIORS

Local Members of Parliament, Dr Mike Nahan (Riverton) and Mr Peter Abetz (Southern River) welcomed the opening of the Senior's Housing Centre in Perth today.

“With the increasing number and complexity of choices facing seniors in deciding what kind of housing is most appropriate for their situation, it is important that they have access to independent expert advice,” Mr Abetz said.

Dr Nahan, who chaired on a Parliamentary Committee looking into aspects of senior's accommodation last year, said the inquiry highlighted the fact that many seniors signed housing contracts without fully understanding the legal issues.

“The free advice from the Centre will be particularly helpful for people who are considering their options as they move towards retirement,” said Dr Nahan.

“Once a person has moved into a retirement village, a residential park or a lifestyle village, the costs of moving out again at a later date can be prohibitive for many. That's why it is vital to get good advice that can help people make the choice that is right for them the first time.”

In opening the centre, the Minister for Commerce, the Hon Simon O'Brien, said it was the first of its kind in Australia, and he expects it to be copied by other states once it has proved to be successful. The State Government is also considering providing an outreach arm to the centre, which can visit shopping centres and regional towns.

The Seniors Housing Centre will provide free, independent advice for seniors considering buying or building a house, provide information on strata title issues and help people to understand the contracts offered by retirement villages, residential parks and lifestyle villages. It will also provide information on aged care options.

The Seniors Housing Centre is centrally located in the city on the ground floor of the Forrest Centre, 219 St Georges Terrace, Perth, which also houses the Department of Commerce. Advice is available over the counter, by telephone on 1300 367 057 or by email at seniorshousing@commerce.wa.gov.au.

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