



YOUR RETIREMENT VILLAGE “INSIDER’S GUIDE”

Here’s what residents *REALLY* think about living in a retirement community

If you’re thinking about moving into a retirement village, you may not be completely sure what they’re really like.

Of course, it’s easy to find out what retirement villages think of what they have to offer... but what about the people who actually live there?



We spoke to some of our Kensington Gardens community members to find out what it's actually like when you live in a modern retirement village. We've put together their answers in this handy "Insider's Guide" to retirement living.

one

"Honestly, you'll never be bored in a retirement village!"

When you take a tour of a modern retirement community, you might think it's more like a 'resort' or country club than an "old people's home"!

Retirement community residents are blessed with a wide range of facilities to use and activities to enjoy. There's the Residents' Clubhouse, cinema, library, pool and gymnasium just to name a few.

Then there are the residents' groups that are organised by the members themselves. From arts & crafts to the resident workshop, and events such as the Melbourne Cup luncheon or Christmas get-togethers, residents love making their own fun!

If you're the hands-on type you can volunteer to help out on the social committee – or just enjoy taking part in whatever new events they organise. Either way, life in a retirement village is never dull.





two

“You can do as much or as little as you choose”

Even though there are seemingly endless things to do in a retirement village, it's completely up to residents what they do or don't do with their own time.

One resident told us, “There is always the opportunity to socialise when you want to, but there's never any obligation.”

In a retirement village, your home is your own. You'll have the privacy to “do your own thing” and enjoy your retirement your way.

So if you're concerned that every hour and minute of your time will be scheduled for you, don't be. As a resident said, if you're a private person you can keep to yourself – it's just that there are plenty of chances to be around friendly faces when you want to.





three

“The people here really do look after each other”

Retirement village residents tell us they feel a great sense of community where they live. They find that the people they live around and with actually say hello and smile!

There's the opportunity to create close friendships with people who enjoy life and all it has to offer; who look out for one another, and who actively work towards the harmony of where they live.

This close-knit community of well-meaning neighbours who keep an eye out for each other also acts as a sort of “security system” that gives our residents peace-of-mind.

Some people say it's a little bit like the country town they grew up in – where your neighbours are people you can rely on and trust to help out when it's needed.



four

“Having my home's exterior maintenance taken care of makes things so easy”

When you're enjoying your retirement, you don't want to spend precious time having to maintain your home and garden! So just imagine how valuable it would be to have all your home's external maintenance taken care of for you.

Of course, if you choose to do some gardening as a hobby, you're welcome to! It's just the drudgery of having to weed and mow the lawn, and trim the hedges that you won't have to worry about any longer.

That's exactly what you'll find in a modern retirement village. There's a long list of tasks that are taken care of in your monthly general service charge, leaving you with plenty of time to spend on – whatever you want really!



five

“I really do feel safe, secure, and valued in my retirement community”

All retirement village brochures say it of course – yet until you've lived it, you won't really appreciate how safe and secure you feel in a retirement community. That's what we hear from the people who've done it themselves.

Retirement village 'insiders' tell us that just being able to say “G'day” to the neighbours contributes to this feeling. Everyone keeps an eye out for each other, and the sense of belonging to a community makes the world of difference.

Another point is that the tradespeople and gardeners who come and go from time-to-time are all known to and trusted by village management. You won't have to worry about strangers hanging around your home or your street.

And hand-in-hand with feeling secure comes feeling valued and supported. Residents tell us that retirement village life means being part of a community of people who share friendship, support, and social engagement.

six

“I never knew my pet would be so welcome at the village”

Some residents tell us that they imagined their “fur babies” might not have been welcomed into a retirement village. That's definitely not the case!

So long as you don't have a Great Dane or small tiger as a pet, you'll find that a retirement village will be happy for you to bring along your furry friend when you move in.

Look for a village with a variety of walking tracks in different settings – such as through bushland or beside the water – so that the two of you will have plenty of scope to explore together.





seven

“I can go away for a holiday and not have to worry”

If you're living in the suburbs, you might not always feel comfortable locking up your home and heading off on holidays.

That's perfectly understandable – but it doesn't help you relax and enjoy your vacation.

That's why many retirement village residents will tell you they really appreciate being able to go on holiday without having to worry about anything.

They call it the “lock and leave” retirement lifestyle – where you can simply pack a bag, lock the door, and head off on your next retirement adventure whenever the fancy takes you!





Get an insider's
perspective
on retirement living

Visit us at Kensington Gardens
Albury & Shepparton



If you'd like to find out what it's really like to live at Kensington Gardens, you're welcome to come and visit us whenever it suits you!

Come along and walk through our available homes, see their features, and really get a feel for the spacious open plan living. We'll also be happy to show you around the facilities and give you a real sense of what you can look forward to as a resident.

To arrange your personal tour of Kensington Gardens, visit us at kensingtongardens.com.au or call our friendly team at Albury on 02 6049 3100 or Shepparton on 03 5820 5100 today.