

QUESTION ON NOTICE

House of Assembly

ASKED BY: Janie Finlay MP

ANSWERED BY: Hon Guy Barnett MP
Attorney-General and Minister for
Justice

QUESTION:

There is no doubt that reform is needed in caravan parks with long-term residents, as both proponents and residents are calling for reform as a matter of urgency. Tasmania is the only state not to have legislation to regulate tourist parks. Will you make interim regulations to allow for repairs on dwellings and for the ability to sell dwellings until such time that you complete the much-needed reforms? Will you consider requiring mandatory Working with Vulnerable People registration for workers in tourist parks, the management and workers who, as an example, directly engaged with elderly long-stay residents?

ANSWER:

The Registration to Work with Vulnerable People (RWVP) scheme is a screening and monitoring tool for people who work, or volunteer with children and vulnerable people.

Registration is currently not required for the purpose of operating a tourist park.

The Tasmanian Government has committed to expanding the scope of regulated activities under the scheme to tighten some current exemptions in child-related activities, and to expand the scheme to cover further categories of vulnerable adults and new regulated activities.

This will include people in aged care services, health services, and people subject to mental health or guardianship orders.

An early round of consultation on changes to the Registration to Work with Vulnerable People Regulations and Ministerial Order has occurred.

Substantial feedback was received from stakeholders and community members, suggesting further work is required to increase clarity for organisations and individuals on the new obligations that will result from the proposed changes.

Work is continuing, with a dedicated Project Manager now engaged to drive the project forward. Stakeholder engagement and further rounds of drafting and consultation are priority activities in the coming months.

I have asked the Department of Justice, as part of the consultation for the expanded scheme, to reach out to residents of Beauty Point Tourist Park.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Guy Barnett', is written over a thin vertical line that extends from the top of the signature down towards the text below.

Hon Guy Barnett MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice

Date: 9 September 2024