

Ryman's Comprehensive Care Retirement Village – Park Terrace/Dorset Street.

Submitter: Dora Roimata Langsbury

Expertise: long term inner city resident

Focus: Social, economic and well being benefits of this development

I made a commitment to becoming an inner city resident in 1996 when I bought my apartment at Clock Tower Lane in Montreal Street. I was living and working overseas at the time and had decided, of all the cities in the world that I could choose from, that inner city Christchurch was my preferred retirement location. I moved back from overseas to reside in that property in 2002. I currently live in a rebuild at the Barbados end of Salisbury Street that has been adapted for my retirement needs.

My father, Kuaō Langsbury, who was a previous chair of Ngai Tahu Holdings, was a great advocate of Ryman's and their business model. He was proud of the fact that Ngai Tahu had made a financial investment in Ryman's in their early days. My father always said to me that when it was time for me to move into a comprehensive care retirement village, that I choose Rymans, as they are focused on their residential members as well as the communities that they chose to locate their villages in. I have great respect for my father's business and social wellbeing acumen and this is one of the key reasons that I support Rymans becoming a key component of our inner city neighbourhood.

Inner city people are a special breed. We have consciously chosen this lifestyle. Many of us are strong advocates for the benefits of bringing more residents into the inner city, especially in mixed use developments. After the quake I was an active member of Pita Kaika (Peterborough Village) which advocated for mixed use communities. This Ryman's facility will be an excellent example of such a mixed use community. It's community members and employees will add to the diversity of the city.

The people and their families, in this complex, will bring additional spending to our inner city hospitality, performing arts and retail sectors. They will also be great supporters of the arts and continuing education sectors as most of them will be retired and will be interested in supporting their local community.

Unfortunately my physical health challenges have changed recently. I have Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, Fibromyalgia and a disintegrating jaw joint and my doctor has recommended that in the very near future I move into a comprehensive care village. However, I am passionate about being an inner city resident. This Ryman's development will be the first comprehensive care facility located in the boundaries of the inner city.

I am ready to move into a retirement village and I wish to continue to reside in the inner city so that I can continue to support and contribute to the many groups I am part of, such as the Moa Residents Association, Avon cottage, The Tuesday Club, Rehua Marae and Otautahi Maori Women's Welfare League. As well as Ara, where I currently work as a Learning Advisor Māori. On my retirement I intend to join U3A, WEA, and the Art Gallery and Court theatre as a volunteer.

If I had to move into the suburbs to gain residence in a comprehensive care facility, it is unlikely that I would be able to continue my involvement in these many organisations. I believe this would be the same for many other inner city residents when it comes time for them to move to a community such as Ryman's. Retired people are the backbone of our volunteer organisations and providing them with a facility that will allow them to stay in the inner city and continue to contribute is essential to the social and well-being health of our inner city.

I support having a Ryman's complex as they will provide the best comprehensive care for me as I transition through the next stages of my life. Having this village located in the inner city will allow me to continue to support the various groups, cultural, educational and businesses that I am actively involved with now. Living in this inner city community will allow me to maintain my independence and community involvement, while being cared for at the times when it will be required.

Please approve the building consent for this Ryman's comprehensive care retirement village as I consider that it will be a great role model of a diverse, mixed use community within the inner city boundaries.