



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE PROVISIONS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AMENDMENT (REGISTERED NURSES IN NURSING HOMES) BILL 2020

MEDIA RELEASE

INQUIRY INTO REGISTERED NURSES IN NURSING HOMES BILL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
15 December 2020

A new Upper House Select Committee has recently been established to examine the Public Health Amendment (Registered Nurses in Nursing Homes) Bill 2020, a private members bill introduced by the Hon Mark Banasiak MLC. The object of the Bill is to ensure that the requirement for a registered nurse to be on duty in a nursing home at all times is continued by updating the definition of nursing home so that it is consistent with the terminology used under Commonwealth legislation.

The Chair of the Select Committee, the Hon Courtney Houssos MLC said, "The inquiry has been established to examine the bill into registered nurses. However, the inquiry will be much broader, considering lessons from COVID-19 pandemic, how the public health system and aged care can work together more effectively, and safe levels for staffing other positions, including carers and allied health care professionals."

"The Royal Commission has starkly highlighted the many issues in our aged care facilities. This upper house inquiry will begin hearings as the Royal Commission releases its final report. It will naturally consider how the relevant Royal Commission findings can be implemented by the NSW Government."

"Importantly, as we deal with the COVID-19 pandemic, the inquiry will also examine the lessons that can be learnt from the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on private aged care facilities where staffing ratios are not mandated', the Chair added.

Have your say

The committee welcomes interested individuals to have their say through its [online questionnaire](#). Organisations are encouraged to make a submission via the [online portal](#). Both the online questionnaire and submission portal close on 29 January 2020.

For information about the inquiry, including the committee membership and the terms of reference, please visit the Select Committee's [website](#).

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For further information please contact Committee Chair, the Hon Courtney Houssos MLC, on 9230 2694.