



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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

MEDIA RELEASE

REPORT INTO AGED CARE REVEALS CONDITIONS ARE GETTING WORSE, NOT BETTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

10 June 2021

The Legislative Council select committee established to examine the Public Health Amendment (Registered Nurses in Nursing Homes) Bill 2020 released its final report today.

The report makes 7 recommendations and 5 findings about how the shocking state of aged care can be improved by the NSW Government.

The inquiry was repeatedly told how conditions were getting worse in aged care, with cuts to key staff, food budgets and allied health professionals, including physiotherapists.

The committee recommends the introduction of safe staffing levels for aged care in NSW, including mandated levels of registered nurses, personal care workers and allied health professionals. These levels should be based on the number and needs of residents.

The report calls on the NSW Government to legislate for registered nurses, and for the Federal Government to introduce mandated safe staffing levels for all staff in aged care.

The report also found that the NSW Government response to the COVID-19 outbreak at Newmarch House was sub-standard. The outbreak led to 71 cases in staff and residents and 19 deaths. 1 in 5 deaths from COVID-19 in NSW occurred at Newmarch House.

The inquiry heard directly from workers at Newmarch House, the Anglicare CEO Mr Grant Millard and senior NSW Health officials, along with other aged workers, including registered nurses and personal care workers, and other key stakeholder groups.

The Hon Courtney Houssos MLC, Chair of the Select Committee said: “The inquiry revealed the shocking conditions faced by so many residents are getting worse, not better.”

“But there are a number of measures the NSW Government can do now to improve aged care.”

“Most importantly, the NSW Government must implement safe staffing levels to ensure every aged care resident receives the safety, dignity and quality care they deserve.”

-ENDS-

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