



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 3

MEDIA RELEASE

SHOULD REGISTERED NURSES BE MANDATORY IN NURSING HOMES?

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

29 June 2015

The requirement for a registered nurse to be on duty in a nursing home at all times may be at risk due to potential changes to New South Wales legislation regarding staffing requirements in aged care facilities.

An Upper House committee inquiry has been established to investigate the matter. The inquiry will examine the need for registered nurses in nursing homes and other aged care facilities with residents who require a high level of care. It will also consider the adequacy of nurse to patient ratios in aged care facilities, and whether there is a need for further regulation and minimum standards for assistants in nursing and other employees or carers.

The Committee Chair, Ms Jan Barham MLC, said: 'A number of organisations have expressed concern that without registered nurses on duty at all times, the quality of care for residents of aged care facilities could be compromised. Residents of aged care facilities are often vulnerable, and the residents and their families should be confident that they will receive the highest quality care possible.'

'We hope that this inquiry will identify and address any gaps in the level and quality of care provided by nursing homes and other aged care facilities. We strongly encourage all interested individuals, groups and organisations to contribute,' Ms Barham said.

The closing date for submissions is Thursday 23 July 2015. The committee anticipates holding public hearings later this year.

For further information about the inquiry, including its terms of reference, or for more information on how to make a submission, please go to our website: www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/gpsc3, or call the committee secretariat on (02) 9230 3081.

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For further information please contact Committee Chair, Ms Jan Barham MLC, on 9230 2603.