

## Supplementary questions:

### **What recommendations to the NSW Government would you like to see come out of this inquiry?**

It is no doubt apparent from our submission and interview that we are greatly concerned about the possible absence of registered nurses in aged care facilities 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

We do believe that care of these residents is enhanced and safer when registered nurses are present.

We understand that small facilities or those in rural areas may find it difficult to provide such staffing, but we believe that if they accept care of frail older residents with multiple comorbidities they need to have registered nurse availability around the clock.

We would like to see the current legislation to be **unchanged**.

If the legislation was changed we believe that facilities would need to be assessed independently as to whether they could be managed without an on-site available registered nurse. This would allow individual facilities not to be able to make their own decision and therefore would remove concerns that decision making may be made not taking into account resident's care needs.

### **Task from Hon. Natasha Maclaren-Jones. Would you be willing to maybe speak to your national president about the other states in comparison to New South Wales?**

I have canvassed the other State Presidents of the Australian and New Zealand Society for Geriatric Medicine with regard to how they see the importance of legislation requiring aged care facilities having registered nurses 24 hours/day. Their arguments are totally along the lines we have provided. RNs reduce risk, allow for reduction in hospitalisations and provide leadership to improve the culture and understanding of aged care. They are concerned about working with aged care facilities when registered nurse support is not readily available. One geriatrician remarked "Only 10 years ago many of our sites (the Low level care sites) did not have RNs 24/7 - however we elected to reinstate RNs in the majority of our sites as ageing in place occurred and acuity increased. There were "too many complaints" from residents and families - when an RN was not present.