

Supplementary questions
Booroongen Djugun Aged Care Facility

1. Does your organisation have a director of nursing? If so, what are the qualifications and experience of the current director of nursing?

Yes, I am the Director of Care at Booroongen Djugun Aged Care, I have worked in the aged care industry for nearly 30 years, and however I have had no formal training as a manager but quite a lot of experience in all areas of quality aged care.

2. In the 2014-15 financial year, on how many occasions was a resident transferred to a hospital emergency department and what were the reasons for those transfers?

I estimate that there were between 50-60 falls that year roughly around 2-3 a week on average over the year. A good percentage of Residents that fall are transferred to the local hospital. Most of the reason for falling is suspected broken bones or head injuries, usually the Residents don't have any broken bones or head injury, but to be on the safe side the facility likes to have the Resident checked by the doctor.

3. In your evidence at the hearing you discussed the role of a registered nurse in "ongoing assessment, monitoring and planning". Could you please elaborate about the circumstances or conditions where a registered nurse's capacity to perform this role would be crucial?

I believe that having the Registered nurse on duty at all times eliminates other potential problems that may occur as a result of decline in the condition of that Resident.

With experienced RNs there can be treatment started in collaboration with the GPs to prevent visits to emergency departments for minor issues such as infections or wounds. This early intervention by the RNs can reduce further problems that may occur and may require hospitalisation.

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

I would definitely recommend the NSW Government should identify the benefits of having a RN on duty and ensure that our elderly frail and disabled people in the community continue to receive the best possible care options.