

**Submission
No 85**

**INQUIRY INTO REGISTERED NURSES IN NEW SOUTH
WALES NURSING HOMES**

Name: Ms Amanda Thackeray

Date received: 21/07/2015

I have worked in nursing homes on and off for nearly twenty years. I currently work in an aged care hostel. RNs are vital to looking after our aged. They have attended university and have done their time studying and therefore are a lot more knowledgeable than ENs/AINs. That's a given fact and one you are all probably well aware of. In my time of employment I have been lucky to work with some caring and compassionate RNs and have learnt a lot from them. They are very knowledgeable and our older generation/disabled residents often have more than one disease/illness and our RNs are trained how to deal with this and what signs/symptoms to look for if a resident is becoming worse or another problem is arising. At the moment I work in an Aged Care Hostel with an aging in place policy and only a small number of residents and one RN for the hostel. The RN in this environment is equal to a Dr in her knowledge and experience. Residents especially with dementia are too frail/vulnerable to go to hospital and she does everything in her power to keep them in their "home" and for us to look after them where they feel safe and secure. This means a lot to the families and to the residents. As a staff member in this caring environment I feel like I make a difference and know at all times that the RN can be contacted even when logged off for the day. I am still learning after all this time and about to undertake further study to be a EN and continue to work in aged care. I would not want to work in a facility without a RN on duty and have done before and quit as it was a shambles and nowhere near professional as I was used to. Our elderly/disabled and most vulnerable deserve the best care and RNs are trained to do this and no one else can match their knowledge. AINs need more money for the jobs they do and are the backbone of the aged care industry. More qualified staff need to be employed in this industry and more training needs to be provided. If you increase AIN wages you will be able to keep the quality staff. Staff shortages are huge in this industry and that's because it's a huge job and it's a hard job with a great responsibility. Staff members soon learn they can earn more at their local supermarket ! Take a few days and come spend some time in an aged care facility. We do more than you think and more than you know, as do RNs. Please don't make it worse for our elderly