

**Submission  
No 136**

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

**Name:** Ms Jennifer Blennerhassett

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Dear Legislative Council committee,

As a pharmacist, I am addressing 1 (c) in the terms of reference.

There are much data to indicate that it is essential to have a registered nurse on duty at all times in Aged Care Facilities. Many high level residents in these facilities have multiple conditions and therefore are taking multiple medicines. In the NRM Survey (attached) 18% of residents were taking warfarin and approx 23% were having insulin administered. These are classed as high risk medicines and require nurses who are trained at the registered level to administer and monitor. In this same document (attached) it was noted the majority of staff administering were registered nurses, but only 39%: this should be higher.

There are National Standards for Medication Safety and the requirements applied to public hospitals should be applied to high level care residents, due to the following statistic:

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data demonstrates that 30% of the 39,466 resident admissions to acute care in 2008-2009 resulted from adverse medication events. Of these, 73% are estimated to have been preventable. This is a significant national safety and quality healthcare issue. Therefore care standards in RACFs should be improved, not potentially reduced, especially for vulnerable residents requiring high care.