

Submission  
No 77

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date received:** 21/07/2015

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Partially Confidential

My mother spent the last 18 months of her life living in residential aged care. This includes a short stay at the end of her life in a high care facility where she died. My mother was only able to die a dignified death in a supportive and caring aged care facility due to having a RN available 24/7 who was able to liaise with myself and the GP, and organise and manage pain relieving medication (she was on morphine at the end). If there had been no RN available I am sure she would have been transferred to hospital to die. The RN had the experience and knowledge to provide excellent palliative care. At 90 years of age and with dementia and complication resulting from a fall and fracture she deserved to be cared for in a familiar environment that had the staff skilled in providing complex nursing care. My mother was on multiple medications during her 18 month stay and had a number of health issues and events. Having a RN on duty meant that instead of being sent to hospital each time there was an incident the facility was able to appropriately manage her needs. The RN was able to advise the care staff and put in place a care management plan. People in aged care facilities are people at their most vulnerable and need access to professional and expert care where they live. The costs of living in aged care should cover this. I implore the inquiry to not degrade the quality of care in residential aged care by removing the need for RNs to be employed.