

Submission
No 88

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

Name: Mrs Janice de Jager

Date received: 22/07/2015

Partially Confidential

My mother, _____ is 90 years of age and has been in the dementia unit of _____, NSW since April 14 this year. Mum was transferred from _____, NSW on that date as they were no longer able to give her the care she needed. At _____ the dementia wing has 30 clients and approximately two thirds of those need very high levels of care. I visit my mother twice weekly and my sister visits _____ each week. We have both observed that the care staff are frantically busy the whole of their shifts, many residents needing two staff to lift/give personal care/toilet them. I cannot imagine how they would cope safely with the responsibility of an RN in giving medications and offering a level of care that avoids unnecessary transfer to hospital - the worst place possible for anyone with dementia. Aside from the absolute necessity of an RN on duty 24 hours a day there needs to be an inquiry into the staff to resident ratio in dementia and high care units of aged care homes. At _____, I have been assured that the ratio is correct, and it may be in theory, but certainly not in the reality of the number of frail residents as well as those who have behavioural issues.

I look forward to the results of this inquiry and sincerely hope that it becomes an Australia wide ruling to have an RN on duty 24/7 AND staff levels are increased in dementia areas of care. Sincerely,
Janice de Jager.