

**Submission
No 32**

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

Name: Mrs Margaret Zanghi

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I write to express my first hand knowledge of the absolute necessity of having registered nurses in nursing homes at all times. I spent just over three years visiting my husband in a nursing home on a daily basis. During that time I became aware of the very complex needs of all the residents and their dependence upon the registered nurses for their health care and safety. In my husband's case his condition lead to frequent urinary tract infections and we had absolute reliance upon the RN in interpreting his symptoms. Similarly, the relatives of other residents depended upon the RN when they became aware of changes in their family member which could indicate the return of pneumonia or some other deterioration. Residents with dementia can't describe their symptoms and it requires the knowledge base, the training and the skill of an RN to observe and interpret each situation and to put in train an appropriate course of action. It is my very real observation that the health, the comfort and the safety of nursing home residents is dependent upon the RN. To remove the requirement for an RN on a twenty four hourly basis would seriously compromise the care offered in nursing homes.