

Submission
No 6

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

Name: Ms Susan Ardill

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Partially Confidential

When my elderly father was being discharged from a Sydney hospital into a nursing home, no longer able to walk, I went to look at about 20 nursing homes. I was often shown around by admin or financial staff who were eager to show me that they had cable tv or ensuite bathrooms, none of which was of use to my father.

Finally, when I rang a nursing home in _____, for the first time my call was taken by the Director of Nursing, whose questions were about my father's physical condition and nursing care needs. This was such a relief and so refreshing, that I immediately took a place there for him. Sensitive and skilled nursing care was always at the forefront of what we wanted for him and we were fortunate enough to find that home, where he spent the last five months of his life. They were able to give him palliative care as he was dying and the registered nurses always communicated well with me, always kept me informed. I had complete confidence in his care as I knew that registered nurses were directing or giving that care, in contrast to most of the places I had visited while searching for a nursing home, where there was a strong smell of urine when you walked in the front door and often a bleak atmosphere. It would be criminal of the NSW Government to loosen any requirements to have RNs on duty in high needs nursing homes around the clock.