

Submission
No 63

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

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially Confidential

In nursing homes I consider the 24 hour service of registered nurses, a service which incorporates wound care, insertion of tubes and catheters, overseeing multiple medications, and palliative/end-of-life care, to be absolutely vital. Without such care, under-treatment and over-treatment will likely become prevalent with traumatic consequences to nursing home residents and their families. The resultant extra burden imposed on NSW hospitals, with the added factor of an aging population should be realised.

My own mother recently became a resident in a NSW nursing home. At this nursing home, a visiting general practitioner failed to diagnose a serious and life threatening condition which had already shown very obvious early symptoms. Had it not been for the expertise and guidance of the nursing home's registered nurses, my mother would not have achieved her healthy outcome with minimal complications. This personal anecdote is testimony to the irreplaceable medical experience and vital service provided by registered nurses in NSW nursing homes.

Last year during a respite admission for high care in another nursing home in NSW, my mother with immobility and falls risk, encountered frequent long waiting times (often 45 minutes) for toileting assistance. Normally without bladder/bowel problems, my mother, as a result of protracted waiting times, suffered the indignity and emotional upset of being forced into "toileting accidents". I was led to believe that staff shortage was the cause of this unacceptable situation.

I therefore urge that the 24 hours service provision of registered nurses be maintained in NSW nursing homes and that nurse to patient ratios be more stringently regulated to eliminate staff shortages.