

Submission  
No 59

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially Confidential

To Whom It May Concern

Regarding the need for registered nurses in nursing homes and other aged care facilities

Registered nurses are essential to the safety and care of the residents in aged care facilities. Registered nurses are highly trained, often with specialist knowledge of residents of aged care facilities. These residents often have high care needs and communication difficulties. To have a person in charge of the care of these residents who may have only had three months training and very little experience would obviously impact on the safety of those in care

A registered nurse would be better able to judge critical incidents and the need or not to intervene. A person with less training may be unable to judge if the resident is in need of extra treatment or not. This could lead to unnecessary and expensive trips to hospital for the resident. A registered nurse has the ability to judge when medication may be needed and the ability and training to administer it

An AIN and other employees may not have the training or understanding to know that what may seem like a minor problem such as a person not having their bowels open for a couple of days may in fact become a serious condition if this is not dealt with and at the very last can have a serious effect on the comfort and well being of the resident. An RN with training would also know that this may be a side effect of medication which a resident was taking and the need for this to be monitored

Lower patient to nurse ratios result in better care, less stress for staff and residents and better outcomes for the residents and their families. While my mother was in a nursing home it was obvious that staff were under extreme pressure with the ratios as they are now. There were simply too few staff to cope with the high needs of clients in the nursing home. While staff were caring there was only so much they could do at any one time.