

Submission  
No 106

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

**Name:** Mrs Susan Knight

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Partially Confidential

Hello.

My mother died last year after 15 months in what was then . She had Parkinsons, and had lived with two unmarried sons on the family dairy. I was heavily involved in her care.

Mum lasted as long as she could at home but when she couldn't always swallow without choking, or make it to the toilet in time, and kept falling and remained down for hours we realised she needed more care - more specialised care.

We were most unhappy with the ratio of carers to patients, especially as mum's wing had 2 floors, but had the same amount of carers as though there was one. The only up side was that when a good RN was on duty, the place ran more smoothly, the carers were happier as they knew exactly what was expected of them.

Mum was placed into a nursing home because she needed specialised care. Three times when she choked eating, and was on the floor, not breathing, the RN was called, and was able to revive her because she had the training to do more than simply lay her in recovery (in fact, after one incident, a carer told those upstairs that mum was dead. we were very grateful that a RN was there. She was also ably to administer tricky sucker things that kept mum able to breathe.

Many times mum would have been in hospital except for the level of care by the RNs. Hospital is not good for old people (many die there!). They become distressed and disorientated, putting demands on hospital staff that simply are not available to offer the level of care and supervision that a nursing home with RNs can offer.

Thus, keeping RNs in nursing homes means that their patients are more able to stay there, thus freeing those much-needed hospital beds!

These lovely old people in nursing homes need their RNs because they are frail, they have huge health problems when they arrive, and they are at an age where more and more health problems appear. They are all at risk of terrible things happening to them - and these things do happen. This is the reason families put their loved old members into care. The RNs know when to call an ambulance (a horrific journey for very frail people) and when tender care (OK, by carers but under orders from RN) is all that's needed.

Who takes responsibility when there's a problem, if there's no RN? I understand carers are paid a pittance. To take on the responsibility of a RN, pay increases would have to occur, major ones. And lots more training. Better to stick to the present system, and save on unnecessary ambulance call outs.

We love our frail aged people who reside in nursing homes. They have lived good lives. They deserve the best we can do for them. Cutting back on their care is negligence. Rather, increase the ratio of carers to old people! And pay the RNs and carers more. It will be us one day that they care for.

I've copied one of the may letters I've sent to mum's nursing home - not sure how to attach it. All of the letters I sent were about mum's care.