

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date received: 16/07/2015

Partially Confidential

I would like to make a submission in regards to 24/7 RNs in nursing homes or residential aged care facilities. I have worked within aged care for 10 years in various positions. I am a University qualified Diversional Therapist but have just gone back to study to become a registered nurse. This submission is not just for my own self interest of becoming a registered nurse. I currently have two nans in residential aged care facilities. Over the years in working in aged care I have seen a change in the quality of care that has been provided to residents. I have worked in various management positions in aged care and been a part of senior clinical teams and quality teams within aged care organisations. Over the years I have noticed a decline in the number of qualified staff being employed. This relates directly to the funding tools and no staff ratio being dictated. Organisations are employing less qualified staff members which has a direct result on patient care, medication errors, patient outcomes, more hospital admissions, residents unable to return to their accommodation after hospital admission if their needs can not be met due to staffing, resident falls, more restraints being used etc. Another recent development is employing less experienced staff so that the rates paid would be less than for someone who has been with the organisation for 30 years. Bringing in first year nurses and using them on the more expensive shift penalty shifts. At this time there is less staff and supervision and is a very dangerous practice. Compared to a hospital setting where there is a mixture of qualified staff higher ratios, the staff qualifications are mixed which leads to greater patient outcomes. Please take this issue seriously as our beautiful aged care residents are the ones that are being left without the care that they deserve. Thank you for taking the time to read this submission.