Submission No 28

INQUIRY INTO REGISTERED NURSES IN NEW SOUTH WALES NURSING HOMES

Name: Mrs Anne McDonald

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My experience with a nursing home comes from having my mum in low level hostel care for 12 months. I know that enrolled nurses provide most of the excellant basic nursing care on a daily basis. I would not feel confident in safety of my relative if a registered nurse was not on duty 24/7. The implications for care of residents depends on a team of informed staff led by an RN. I know I want someone who is trained to manage many different scenerios that can occur with elderly residents. I want an RN to dispense medications - not only regular medications but be able to treat other issues that may require medication. I don't believe an EN has the knowledge or experience base to manage medications. An effective RN's knowledge can treat a patient and avoid a hospital admission. I know I have had an episode where a carer was grossly overstating the posssible emergency (due to limited education) and it took an RN to calm and treat the situation.

RN's have the education to treat and manage the health client. I know I want an RN 24/7 when I am in an aged care facility for my safety.