Submission No 46

INQUIRY INTO REGISTERED NURSES IN NEW SOUTH WALES NURSING HOMES

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Aged care is complex, I work in a Residential Aged Care Facility, dementia specific, this means our residents cannot articulate their concerns not their symptoms. it takes an experienced Registered Nurse to manage their complex care needs - being multi system failure, multiple diagnosis and polypharmacy. Our residents are unable to tell you if they are in any discomfort or pain, nor can they tell you why they are agitated or subdued. It takes a committed RN to assess each resident, communicate with the resident, GP and family. Alas, some residents develop or acquire wounds and/or pressure injuries which may require complex management/dressings thence palliation with Schedule 8 medications. Removing the need for RNs would be cheaper but this would allow inferior staff to care for our senior citizens. Our vulnerable seniors deserve a level of care commensurate with all other citizens, thank you for this opportunity