

**Submission
No 19**

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

Name: Mrs Deborah Lang

Date received: 11/07/2015

My mother was in a residential Hostel for approximately 3 years because of early Dementia. Her care over this time was monitored and appropriately managed by the facility . On the 21st May 2015 , she was admitted to hospital and diagnosed with stage 4 cancer of the oesophagus and stomach. With Prognosis very poor and life ending , she chose ,after 2 weeks in hospital for pain management , to return to her residential Hostel for palliation and her final days in familiar surroundings.

She made this choice ONLY because she knew there were Registered nurses on duty 24 hours every day to provide for her care needs and her pain medication would be given in a timely manner.

My sister and I were with her through her final week and watched as the only registered nurse on duty for 111 residents struggled to administer timely pain medication . At times this was heartbreaking!

After just one week Mum lost her battle and passed away on the 11th June 2015.

It is my belief With all the constraints of their role responsibilities , the Registered Nurses in Aged care facilities need MORE support not less or the threat of their roles being withdrawn altogether. The less skilled care staff provide care within the scope of their practice but they need the support of a qualified , professional Registered Nurse to oversight their caregiving at all times. This was also particularly evident with the palliation care given to Mum.

Frail, vulnerable residents deserve nothing less than appropriately qualified , skilled staff to be observing , monitoring and caring for them at all times.

The suggestion Registered Nurses should be On Call and not in the facility at all times is irresponsible and unworkable.

I can't imagine the extra time wasted if the Registered nurse wasn't on site for S8 as required medication provision. The needless suffering that would be caused with delay in administering pain medication is unthinkable.

My Mothers journey was made easier by the professional care given when she needed it. The identification of her deteriorating condition which led to her hospitalisation initially was due to the recognition by the REgistered nurse things were not right with Mum.

When required, the clinical assessment of a person for their escalation of care or admission to hospital is firstly the responsibility of the Registered nurse .

This enables those in need to get the care they require and avoid unnecessary admissions to hospital for minor or at least manageable conditions on site at the residential care facility.

Unnecessary admissions only block up much needed EMergency beds and cost the health system dearly.

Residential care facilities should provide an appropriate level of care and services without offsetting the responsibility and cost to the public hospital system.

My Mothers experience in Aged care has given me great heart at the kind, caring , wonderful , dedicated staff who work tirelessly to provide the best care they can.

Aged care is not ' out of sight , out of mind '.

The frail, aged and vulnerable in our community are deserving of the best care we can provide.

Thankyou for the opportunity to enter my submission.