

Submission  
No 127

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially Confidential

Thanks for the opportunity to make a submission on this important issue.

Several years ago, in my role as Clinical Nurse Educator at a Hospice, I went to 98% of nursing homes and hostels in the Area Health Service to deliver education to all the staff on Palliative Care.

The management was very supportive of the staff attending the in-house workshops and despite a busy schedule staff attendance was high over the 1 hour x 6 weeks course at each Aged Care institution. Not a fleeting visit.

During this time I spoke and discussed many issues of care with Registered Nurses (RNs) but my students were predominately Personal Care Assistants (PCAs) and Assistants in Nursing (AINs).

Although the PCAs and the AINs were overwhelmingly kind and caring to the aged care residents, the reality was that they had no understanding or clinical skill in preventing and assessing changes in condition, understanding pain relief and reducing discomfort or distress.

Registered Nurses provide that skilled clinical care of high-needs residents in NSW nursing homes. This clinical acumen is fundamental to the onsite provision of care to nursing home residents with complex, high level needs.

From my hands on experience and in my opinion it is vital for quality of care that the requirements for the roles of Registered Nurses and Director of Nursing are be placed permanently into NSW legislation.

Regards