

Submission  
No 140

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially Confidential

As a registered nurse having worked in a nursing home, I am explicitly aware of the the importance of having a registered nurse on duty at all times. A normal shift would consist of overseeing the care of 90 residents, many with dementia, complex health conditions, needing feeding apparatus such as nasal gastric tubes and peg feeding, with multiple medication requirements including scheduled drugs for palliative care , pain relief, and life saving conditions ( ie insulin and clexane).

Whilst the activities of daily living such as showering , feeding mobilising and interaction would be attended to by assistant in nursing care workers and enrolled nurses, it is the registered nurses training, skill and ability to care for thy clinical needs of residents, as well as being able to identify a resident who may be deteriorating, suffering from cardiac interruptions, stroke, preventing falls and attending to wound care, as well as providing supervision, direction and mentoring to less experienced nursing staff.

If there is no registered nurse on duty, who would be able to tell the difference as to whether a resident was aspirating, or just breathing strangely? Who would be able to administer life saving medications such as insulin? What would happen if an unskilled care worker gave to ouch insulin? Having a GP on site is not realistic, practical or achievable at all times. Removing registered nurses poses serious life threatening risk to the most vulnerable people in our community.

The increased demand on our already stretched acute sector, emergency departments and ambulance services would be as a direct result of the absence of a registered nurse on site.

I implore the council to seriously consider the impact on patient safety when making a decision, and ensure that legislation is amended to keep registered nurses in nursing homes and anywhere that a high care service is delivered.