



## RN 24/7 UPDATE

### The NSW Upper House Inquiry has tabled its report into Registered Nurses in NSW nursing homes – IT'S A WIN FOR RN 24/7!

#### GREAT WORK SO FAR EVERYONE. HOWEVER, IT'S NOT OVER YET...

The NSW Minister for Health, Jillian Skinner, has the final say on whether or not the NSW legislation is kept. Her decision is due at anytime.

Here is a summary of what the Inquiry's Committee recommended:

#### THE NSW GOVERNMENT SHOULD...

- Keep RNs in all Residential Aged Care Facilities (RACF) where people have high care needs and put a system in place to enforce this.
- Monitor inappropriate admissions to hospitals and make sure peoples' end of life choices are documented and respected. For example, if people say they want to stay at home/ RACF when they get ill, they do not get transferred to hospital against their wishes.
- Require Working with Older People and/or Vulnerable Adults checks on all staff, including AiNs, similar to the Working with Children Check.
- Introduce an improved complaints system for people to utilise.

- Explore ways to support RNs working in regional, rural and remote services and explore whether Telehealth is a viable option.
- Explore housing options that would offer people alternatives to RACFs.

#### THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD...

- Introduce minimum staffing ratios into aged care and licence AiNs.
- Ensure providers disclose their staff skill mix before people enter a home or choose to utilise a community service.
- Improve service regulation using more unannounced inspections, enforce the same standards of care across residential and community services, and improve the complaints system.
- Investigate ways to attract RNs to regional, rural and remote services and provide equal pay to RNs in both the public and private health systems.

However, the Committee also recommended aged care providers could seek exemptions on a case-by-case basis not to have RNs in a RACF if people living there don't require them, as long as the facility can maintain high quality care.

We are unsure of how this could work since we know 80% of all people in RACFs have high care needs.

We are also concerned how this would be monitored and who would monitor it.

*We know the Australian Aged Care Quality Agency does not conduct site visits often and their visits are often pre-announced. Who would ensure this situation is reviewed?*

*We know residents can deteriorate overnight. Who will make sure an RN is available then?*

**PLEASE MAKE THESE POINTS TO MINISTER SKINNER**

**WRITE A LETTER TO: The Hon. Jillian Skinner, MP | GPO Box 5341 SYDNEY NSW 2001**

**OR EMAIL: [office@skinner.minister.nsw.gov.au](mailto:office@skinner.minister.nsw.gov.au)**