

Timeline of events - registered nurses in NSW nursing homes

- **1991:** Section 52 of the Public Health Act 1991 states:
Nursing requirements for nursing homes
 - (1) A person who operates a nursing home must:
 - (a) ensure that a registered nurse is on duty in the nursing home at all times, and
 - (b) ensure that a registered nurse is appointed as a director of nursing of the nursing home, and
 - (c) ensure that any vacancy in the position of director of nursing of the nursing home is filled within 7 days

- **2010:** Section 104 of the Public Health Act 2010 carries over the requirement

- **July 2014:** wording changed in the *Commonwealth Aged Care Act 1997*, affecting the definition of a nursing home in the *NSW Public Health Act 2010*. The changes have the potential to erase the requirement to have a registered nurse on duty at all times in a nursing home in NSW

- **July 2014:** After lobbying from the NSWNMA, the NSW Minister for Health announces Amendment of the Public Health Act 2010, requiring all nursing homes previously covered to continue as usual

- **25 June, 2015:** *Registered nurses in New South Wales nursing homes inquiry* is established

- **August 2015:** NSWNMA launches its RN 24/7 campaign

- **29 October, 2015:** Final inquiry report published with recommendations to retain the requirement for RNs in nursing homes

- **29 April, 2016:** NSW Health publishes its response to the inquiry's recommendations, advising section 104 will not be retained and that nursing homes are to be regulated under Commonwealth legislation. This decision goes against the inquiry's recommendations

- **3 November, 2016:** Brett Holmes recommends to a Senate inquiry into the '*Future of Australia's aged care sector workforce*' that the federal government look at instating the requirement to support RNs in federal legislation

- **6 April, 2017:** Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party introduce a bill '*Public Health Amendment (Registered Nurses in Nursing Homes) Bill 2016*' to stop the planned changes to state legislation in the upper house

- **4 May, 2017:** The bill passes in the upper house

- **11 May, 2017:** Lower house will vote on the Shooters, Fishers, Farmers Party bill