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16 June 2015

The Hon. Jillian Skinner MP
Minister for Health
Email: office@skinner.minister.nsw.gov.au

Dear Minister

POSSIBLE REMOVAL OF REGISTERED NURSES FROM NURSING HOMES

Nambucca Shire Council understands that from 1 July 2014, new Commonwealth arrangements removed the distinction between High and Low Care in Residential Aged Care communities. The changes to the Commonwealth legislation made redundant the provisions under the New South Wales Public Health Act 2010, that requires a Registered Nurse to be on duty at all times where a 'High Care' service is delivered.

Council understands that the current requirements under the New South Wales Public Health Act 2010, for a Registered Nurse to be on duty for residents with High Care needs are being retained in New South Wales for a period of 18 months (beginning 1 July 2014).

Council has been advised by its Local Member, the Hon. Melinda Pavey that from 1 July 2014, New South Wales Health commenced a boarder review of the provision and will consult with key stakeholders including Nursing, Medical Groups, Care Service Providers and Commonwealth Regulators. The review is scheduled to take approximately 12 months at which time your Ministry is to bring recommendations to your office.

At the meeting of the Nambucca Shire Council on 11 June 2015, Council heard a public forum delegation from Ms Samantha Cox objecting to any removal or diminution of the requirement to have a Registered Nurse on duty at all times and seeking Council's support to permanent legislation requiring a Registered Nurse to be on duty at all times and the appointment of a Registered Nurse as the Director of Nursing in all New South Wales Nursing Homes.

After hearing from Ms Cox as well as considering information provided by the Hon. Melinda Pavey MP, Nambucca Shire Council has resolved to support Ms Cox's contentions and specifically that:

- *Council acknowledge that all residents in Nursing Homes should be provided with quality care led by Registered Nurses*
- *Note with concern the potential risk to residents of Nursing Homes across the Nambucca Valley of the removal of the requirement to have a Registered Nurse on duty at all times*
- *Support the New South Wales Nurses and Midwives Association campaign to ensure permanent legislation is in place requiring a Registered Nurse be on duty at all times and the appointment of a Director of Nursing in all New South Wales Nursing Homes.*

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THE HON. JILLIAN SKINNER MP
16 JUNE 2015

Council resolved to seek your support to these propositions, as a minimum, to ensure the best quality care is given to our most vulnerable population, being the elderly.

Yours faithfully



Michael Coulter
GENERAL MANAGER

MAC:me

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