

*It is simply unacceptable that the situation is most residents in Aged Care and their families are rarely seen by a Registered Nurse (RN) and even less fully assessed. This is because Aged Care providers do not want to pay decent wages that are necessary to recruit RN's specialising in Gerontology. Residents often have a myriad of health problems which need to be managed on a 24/7 basis by those qualified nurses. Assistants in Nursing (AIN's) attend to valuable work that must be, if we are to improve care, decrease complications and hospital admissions, articulated by the RN. Aged persons are important and we must not substitute professional care by replacing Enrolled and Registered Nurses with those, as the name suggests, only assist (AIN's).*

*These AIN's should be regulated to ensure they abide by Code of Ethics and boundaries that RN's and EN's do and this regulation would assist promoting professional care throughout the Aged care Sector.*

*Nurses are not earning enough in Aged Care and unless this is rectified workforce [problems will continue to be encountered. Many nurses, I for one, love nursing in Aged Care but with children and a mortgage the wage and entitlement of the Public sector is more alluring.*

*If accountability of funding was reintroduced where Aged Care providers had to show where the federal monies was going then it might show there is adequate funding to increase nurses wages, or it might not, but the transparency and accountability is a must for any government, whatever political persuasion, is going to have credibility with the people of Australia.*