

SUBMISSION INTO AGED CARE

As one who cares for an Aged High Care dependent Mother and having searched for an appropriate nursing home my submissions have been based on personal experience and conversations with residents, Directors of Nursing, RNS and AINS in various aged care facilities during her many times in respite over the past six years.

My research has found that there are three major problems with Nursing Homes:

1. INADEQUATE STAFFING LEVELS RATIO TO RESIDENT LEVELS

Insufficient carer numbers – the ratio is often one AIN for as many as 10 or 12 residents at various times during the day with only 2 AINS for up to 60 residents overnight. This results in minimal personal care and Interaction. Also Residents needs for feeding, showering and dressing, toileting, teeth cleaning are being at best marginalised or totally overlooked as overworked carers strive to meet the tasks demanded by nursing home proprietors.

The Government should legislate that there must be one carer assigned For every four nursing home residents.

2. EXTRA SERVICES NURSING HOMES – Minimum standards

Aged Care have advised me that there are no set minimum requirements Pertaining to Extra Services or Private Nursing Homes.

Basic requirements for this additional payment should include

Minimum carer to resident ratio of 1 to every four residents
Diversional therapy at least half a day six days weekly
Fresh fruit daily
Additional time for personal care

3. EXTRA SERVICES/PRIVATE NURSING HOMES

The extra services provided by these should have to be stated in the documentation provided to those wishing to use these facilities. Currently whilst the costs are clearly laid out, there is no explanation of what these extra services entail.

Yours faithfully

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