

Palliative care supplement - Aged Care Productivity report submission 2011

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Dear Sir and Madam,

I am an Enrolled Nurse who has worked in Aged Care for 3 years. I am writing to make a submission that may hopefully improve conditions in Aged care for both consumers and staff in this Industry.

The Palliative care supplement is \$100 per day per resident (who has been declared palliative) in a Nursing home. This money is paid to Aged care providers to assist with the cost of care for people who have become palliative. It has been my experience that **Aged care providers actually pocket this money, and they provide no extra staff** at all to care for people increased care needs. I once worked on a low care wing with 30 residents. On this wing, **9 of our residents were extremely high care, and 3 of these were Palliative**, and there were 21 others who also had needs. (In the afternoons there was only one carer, and one Enrolled Nurse (myself) to care for everyone. **We only had the staffing levels for a low care wing**, but our wing endured a very high acuity for 6 months as we had many Palliative and extremely high care needs people to care for during this period, and the work conditions were terrible). **During this period our management did not increase staffing levels at all, despite receiving an extra \$300 a day Palliative supplement** to help cover care costs. This extra money could have provided an extra carer to work a full shift on both morning and afternoon shifts, but it didn't happen.

I would like to propose that Aged care reforms **make Aged care providers "prove" that they have spent the Palliative supplement on providing extra staff to care for people**, when the government has given them the money to do so, to ensure that consumers receive the care they deserve.

I also propose that **Mandatory staffing levels** are needed in the Aged care sector to keep quality staff in the industry, and to ensure good standards of care in the future.

Thank you for your time in reading my submission.

Amanda London EN (Enrolled Nurse)