

# The Social Contact Received by the Residents of Rural Nursing Homes

Visiting in the New England Area  
of New South Wales

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# Visiting is Important

- Maintains family ties
- Provides contact with the outside world
- Provides staff with an insight into the residents' personality and life history

# Previous Research

- Social Networks
- Relationship
- Gender
- Age
- Size
- Connectedness
- Reason for visiting
- Transport
- Distance
- Nursing home policy and attributes

# Method

- Quantitative, exploratory, descriptive
- Telephone survey with next of kin - proxy
- Visitors' Diary
- Telephone survey with Directors of Nursing

# Participants

- Telephone survey
  - 13 nursing homes
  - 268 residents' proxies (638)
- Visitors' diary
  - 876 family & friends
  - 3408 visits
- 120 volunteers (236 visits)

# Nursing Homes

- Size
  - 23 - 80 beds (mean 50.9, sd 17.07)
- Profit status
  - FP 6(46.2%), NFP 7(53.8%)
- Location
  - rural 7(53.8%), urban 6(46.2%)
- Privacy
  - 7(53.8%) 6(46.2%)
- Community Integration

# Nursing Staff

- Nursing staff no. -11.74 - 53.7(mean,sd)
- Nursing staff skill mix - AIN, EN, RN, SRN
- Nursing staff to resident ratio - 0.33 - 0.93(mean 0.50, sd 0.15)
- Nursing staff turnover rate - 1-17(mean13,sd5.2)

# Nursing Home Policy

- Policy on visiting 10(76.9%) 3(23.1%)
- Support group 11(84.6%) 2(15.4%)
- Information 12(92.3%) 1(7.7%)
- Roles 9(69.2%) 4(30.8%)
- Education 7(53.8%) 6(46.2%)



# Predictors of Frequency of Visit

- Distance travelled to the nursing home
- Relationship to the resident
- Duration of visit

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- Distance travelled to the nursing home
- Relationship to the resident
- Method of transport
- Integration of the nursing home into the local community

# Implications

- Residents placed in facilities which are within 15 kilometres of members of their primary family group
- Transport to the nursing home be shared
- Nursing homes become more integrated into their local communities