



MEDIA RELEASE

5 March 2009

NZNO Scaremongering Out of Touch

Yesterday the New Zealand Nurses Organisation (NZNO) said the aged care sector was in crisis as a spot audit regime was not in place and the government was not supporting mandated staffing ratios.

“This type of scaremongering is untrue and not based on fact. It shows how out of touch the NZNO has become with the work taking place in the sector and ignores the reality that there is no evidence mandated staffing ratios improve patient outcomes,” said Martin Taylor, CEO of HealthCare Providers NZ

At the moment work is taking place on establishing a spot audit regime and the sector looks forward to the roll out of this initiative.

In regard to the mandated staffing ratios, these were dropped by the Labour government in 2003 as there was no national or international evidence they were of benefit to consumers, providers or funders.

It is also worth noting that despite the NZNO’s best efforts they could not convince any Labour Health Minister over 9 years that staffing ratios were in the best interests of New Zealanders.

“The NZNO want to return to the days where everything is government regulated and one size fits all. The aged care sector and the National government, and even the past Labour government moved on from that place, its time the Unions did as well”, said Martin Taylor.

ENDS

**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND INTERVIEWS CONTACT
Chief Executive Martin Taylor 0274535348**

HealthCare Providers NZ represents 80% of the aged residential care sector on New Zealand.