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2012 HSC - Human Services

Band 5/6

Sample 3 Question 21

An issue affecting the delivery of care in the health and/or aged care industry would be that of the shortage of nurses.

The shortage of nurses largely affect the way the care is delivered as the ratio of nurse:patient is around 1:7. (approx). This means that patients aren't receiving adequate care time, this makes it hard to provide person centred care. Care is being left to the next shift to be done. The pressure is also being put on the nurses to complete this in one shift.

Injuries can be a result of this as nurses are more rushed to get it done. This could mean more nurses are unable to work. It also must take into consideration the nurses duty of care to provide care in a safe manner.

Nurses have gone on strike to petition for better working conditions, 1:4 ratio of nurse to patients and better wages. This would allow for less injuries, more time to focus on person centred care and enable a stronger health care system.

Another issue is workplace injuries. Almost all of these can be preventable. Risk Management and the Hierarchy of control are important to minimise the risk of workplace injuries not only for the workers but for patients, visitors and other health professionals.

The risk management consists of four key elements

1. Identify the hazard
2. Eliminate the object or remove it from the facility
3. If it can't be eliminated, substitute or minimise the hazard from causing more hazards
4. Report and Evaluate the effectiveness of removing hazard.

WHS Act helps to ensure that issues are kept ^{under} ~~un~~control to allow for effective delivery of care.

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