

*IRT highlights value of nursing staff*

IRT is highlighting the wonderful work of its nursing and care staff with a number of functions and a mini exhibition of nursing memorabilia to commemorate tomorrow's International Nurses Day.

International Nurses Day is celebrated around the world every May 12, the anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth.

IRT's local events of nursing and care staff will include a morning tea at the Northern Illawarra community services base at Featherwood Cottage Woonona, a barbecue at Links Seaside Village and a lunch at its Woonona site - where the celebrations will include the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Flametree Lodge resident Ellen Plant.

Featherwood Cottage staff are also bringing in their nursing memorabilia including a nursing cape, old uniforms, education manuals, watches, photos and graduation certificates.

Community Services Coordinator Jan Rosen laughed that none of the staff were prepared to wear old uniforms but they were happy to celebrate the personal rewards of nursing, a profession she has supported for more than 35 years, predominantly in the aged care sector.

"There have been great changes to the profession since I first started as a cadet nurse in a public hospital and my first years in aged care which were in a nursing home," Jan said.

"Now our clients want to stay home for as long as possible and be supported to Age in Place – it's a philosophy we share as long as the ageing person is safe."

Jan said the perceptions of the profession, particularly for aged care nursing staff, was an ongoing challenge as the ageing population began to increase and the number of working people to support them decreased.

"The Baby Boomers generation will have high expectations so we need to attract and retain the best staff to meet the changing aspirations of senior Australians".

"We hope people considering a career in nursing will look at aged care and the great personal reward from supporting older people, particularly when you get the privilege of caring for them one-on-one so they can stay at home. You get to know them and their

families – it makes it very personal.”

IRT Chief Executive Nieves Murray said the company was proud of the nursing and care workers who support the 5000 ageing Australians receiving care and support from IRT throughout NSW and the ACT.

“We are very fortunate to have a large committed staff and many fine nurses and care staff who are the core of IRT’s work and the essence of our reputation,” Ms Murray said.

“I am humbled and grateful by the power of caring across IRT and grateful for their dedication within our communities.”

### ***Ends***

**Note to Editors:** We request you refer to IRT as “IRT” not “Illawarra Retirement Trust” – thank you.

### **For further information please contact:**

Amanda Kunkler  
Media & Community Relations Officer  
IRT  
Phone: 4221 6692 or 0414 836417

---

### **About IRT:**

IRT is Australia’s largest not-for-profit, community based aged care and retirement living provider\*. It has been providing care, services and accommodation to older Australians for 40 years. IRT manages villages more than 30 locations across the Illawarra, South Coast of NSW, Sydney and Canberra. It serves the needs of more than 5000 residents and clients.

(\*BRW Nov 2008)