

IRT highlights value of nursing staff

IRT is highlighting the wonderful work of its nursing and care staff with a number of functions 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 morning teas at Culburra and Sarah Claydon (Milton) villages and breakfast or dinner celebrations at Dalmeny Village, with many of the longtime nurses bringing in old pieces of uniform.

Regional Manager South Christine Williams laughed that none of the staff were prepared to wear their old uniforms, apart from a nurse's cape, but they were happy to celebrate the personal rewards of nursing, a profession she has supported for 38 years.

"There have been great changes to the profession since I first started as a cadet nurse in a public hospital," Chris said.

"The systems within the profession are now much more regulated by accreditation and funding requirements.

"Our residents and clients always received good care but the standards now have definitely lifted, with the emphasis now being on meeting the individual's requirements."

Chris said this meant providing care for an older person either in their home or in residential care where they receive the level of support they require individually.

"It's always rewarding seeing a smile on a resident or client's face when you assist them to maintain their independence and dignity," Chris said.

"We hope people considering a career in nursing will look at aged care and the great personal reward from supporting older people. 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.

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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)