



press clip

Lack of training puts patients at risk

By KYLIE ADORANTI

PATIENTS in community care are at risk because carers do not have the minimum mandatory qualifications needed, according to a local nursing agency.

The Casey Centre in Newcastle trains assistant nurses through its certificate III and IV courses – the minimum qualifications assistant nurses need to care for people in the community.

Certificate III deals with occupational health and safety regulations as well as manual handling, how to transfer a patient, legal and ethical requirements and how to read health care plans.

Casey Centre Newcastle office manager Joanne Grieg said assistant nurses work under registered nurses (who must have certificate III and IV), and in the past, did not need to be highly skilled.

“But the time has passed now where there are situations where assistant nurses need these qualifications,” Ms Grieg said.

“It’s important for qualifications to be set. In aged care they have them but in home care they don’t.”

Ms Grieg said assistant



CONCERNED: The Casey Centre’s Jennie Porter and Joanne Grieg check for nursing compliance.

nurses without certificate III or IV could put the people they care for at risk.

“They don’t have enough training to do their job – if they haven’t done the course, how can they know what to do?”

Hunter New England Health director of nursing Chris Kewley said many assistant nurses employed

by Hunter New England Health were unregulated health providers and would have a certificate III in aged care.

Mr Kewley said nurses provided in home treatment and followed care plans to ensure patients received safe and effective treatment, irrespective of age.