**Future Archives Transcript:
‘Care Protest’ by Lisa Rae Bartolomei**

**Audio Info:**

(4:48mins)
Care Protest is an archival recording of Palliative Care Nurse and Nurses Union Member Jennifer Chase at a large and noisy protest against worsening workplace conditions which leads to the Care Strike of 2025. The recording is distorted and recorded with some kind of handheld device, but the context under which the recording was made is unknown and is presented as a raw sound file documenting the protest, by researcher Anna Jones administrator of the archival web resource The Care Revolution.

**START OF AUDIO**

**[FUTURE ARCHIVE I.D.]**

[English]:

Future Archive File 273

[Chinese]:

Future Archive File 273

[Arabic]:

Future Archive File 273

**[Distorted recording at a large and noisy protest]**

**Jennifer Chase:**

Wow there are so many people here…. I can’t even see where the crowd ends

Say my name and what I do?

Okay…

Hi, my name is Jennifer Chase and I work as an RN at the Alfred Hospital in the palliative care ward.

They say we shouldn’t be striking, that we are endangering people’s lives for speaking out but people’s lives were already in danger because of the under resourcing and overwork that have become a part of our everyday lives.

Patients die every day unnecessarily, and it breaks my heart. We are stretched thin. Sometimes there is only one nurse looking after 8 patients. People fall, people scream, wallowing in pain for the medication they need just to make their last few days comfortable

When you’re tired you make mistakes. I’ve seen a patient given the wrong medication and end up in ICU with a heart attack because of a simple mistake that could have been avoided but that type of mistake is easy to make when you’re exhausted and your nerves are shot.

Our job is to care, but who cares for us? Two of my colleagues have had to take leave for stress, unpaid as we are all casual and on individual contracts now.

We work 16 hour days, sometimes without a break. Sometimes you can’t even go to the bathroom. I’ve had accidents.

I’ve had to take on more and more admin because to the extra reporting *Responsible Health Act* and the cost cutting blitz after Medicare was abolished. Not that I get paid more. My family barely survives. At the end of the month all we can afford to eat is watered down soup once the bills and rent have been paid.

The Frydenberg government took away our penalty rates saying it would lead to more jobs but if anything we are more understaffed than ever and no new nurses are coming through anymore.

I barely see my kids, and all of our money goes on child care as both my partner and I have to work insane hours just to stay afloat and most of that seems to go to paying for childcare, not that the workers see any of that money either. That’s part of why we are here in solidarity with the ASU and our fellow nurses in Aged Care to say enough is enough!

It wasn’t an easy decision to walk out. At first the union wasn’t on board but at the meetings we decided enough was enough, people are dying and we have to take a stand!

Everyone deserves a decent quality of life, but Australia is no longer the lucky country, we are all struggling, things have to change, people need to matter again more than money.

We looked to the past the 1986 Nurses Strike was a watershed moment for gender equality and got results. I know it’s an extreme measure, and  I’m worried about my patients bitterly .

Hopefully the government listens , we’ve been threatened with fines, even jail but maybe this is what it will take for them to listen.

We too.

Its time to band together for a more caring world. I want my patients to get the care they deserve. I love my job but I’m so stressed out and somethings got to give.

Looks like we are about to move, so I might need to wrap it up, thanks

**[Continuous distorted sounds of protests and chants]**

**[FILE END]**

[English]:

End of file

[Chinese]:

End of file

[Arabic]:

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