



MEDIA RELEASE

RUTH FORREST MLC

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NURSE EDUCATION NOT TRAINING

Murchison MLC, Ruth Forrest and hospital based trained nurse, has raised concern that the Federal Government proposal to return some nurse education to hospital-based training, through nursing schools in hospitals, is a move into the past and undermines years of progress in the professionalism of nursing, ignores changes in nursing practice over the last three decades and will do little to address the fundamental problems with workforce shortages.

“Although the proposed ‘training’ is aimed at enrolled nurses, it is clearly a step back into the past and could be seen more a case of seeking cheaper labour to ease the nursing workforce crisis, rather than educating nurses for the future and attracting potential students to the profession” Ms Forrest said.

“The lack of consultation with the nursing profession is of significant concern, as the nursing profession has for many years, worked to be recognised as a profession in its own right, an integral and vital component of health service provision. Nursing as a profession has changed significantly since the 1970’s and 80’s when in-hospital training was phased out” Ms Forrest stated.

“University education, rather than in-hospital ‘training’, as proposed by the Federal Government, is a vital component in the gaining of a Nursing Degree that ensures nurses are recognised as professionals and are equipped to fulfil the professional role that has seen significant change in the acuity of patient care and levels of responsibility nurses are now required to accept” Ms Forrest stated.

“If there is a concern that the current university education does not provide enough clinical practice, then funding should be channelled into supporting increased clinical placement and review of these courses if necessary” Ms Forrest suggested.

“Nurses must be at the forefront of course design, with input from the relevant professions, to avoid a return to past where the nursing profession was subservient to the medical profession, and ensure suitable applicants are attracted to the profession” Ms Forrest stated.

For further comment contact 0419 879 524

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