

**Regarding the Application for Authorisation Nos A90811 and A90812  
Lodged by Health Purchasing Victoria**

**Submission by The Alfred**

**13 May 2002**

The Alfred, Melbourne, writes in support of the continuation of the action by Health Purchasing Victoria to establish a panel of nursing agencies to supply agency nurses to public hospitals in Victoria.

Although the Direction issued by the Secretary of the Department of Human Services regulated the maximum price which can be paid by hospitals for agency nurses and the conditions under which they can be utilised, the establishment of a panel of agencies could address broader issues of quality and safety.

Through a tendering process we could ensure that agencies comply with a range of criteria including ensuring appropriate and up to date registration, on-going training and education of their staff and the timely provision of nurses. This process would allow healthcare organisations to contract with nursing agencies which demonstrate a commitment to providing a high quality service by taking the responsibility for employing registered, well trained, qualified staff and supplying them in a timely and reliable manner.

As nurses work in an environment where they are involved in making critical decisions and undertake actions that impact the health and life of patients and families, we must make safe practice a top priority.

If you have any questions and or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

A/Prof Janet A Secatore  
Director of Nursing  
The Alfred  
Commercial Road  
Prahran, Vic  
3181  
Ph: (03) 9276-2826  
email: [j.secatore@alfred.org.au](mailto:j.secatore@alfred.org.au)