

From: Frank Grainer [frankgrainer@hotmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, 2 January 2002 12:24 AM

To: adjudication@accc.gov.au

Subject: Re: Capping nursing agency wages.



To whom it may concern,

As has been brought to my attention the government is planning to cap nursing agency wages for those nurses who plan to work in the public system as agency nurses. I am well aware of the current crisis that faces the health industry not only in Victoria but Australia wide. As a nurse who currently works part time and agency I am not entirely against the notion and believe it is more likely to bring nurses back to the permanent work force. However I do not agree with the government's underhanded idea of pushing this legislation through without bringing it to the attention of the majority population it will be affecting.

For some crazy idea as is proven by the last industrial action, by nurses, the government has this notion that nurses want to work purely for the love of the job. I find it funny that the pay rise which nurses were initially asking for from the government, which was consequently bargained well lower, was the bargained pay rise awarded to the police. Is this Mr Bracks' idea of putting health care behind crime. I'm not saying that the police did not deserve their pay rise, but it can be a good comparison as both health care and crime are placed of equal importance come election time.

As stated before I'm not against the notion of bringing the pay scheme of agencies on line with the award wages. However, every other profession that the government subcontracts should also be place along these lines. If we look at the subcontract fees payed to computer programmers, engineers, electricians, carpenters, painters, plumbers, environmental consultants... they are no where near the award wages they are paying to public servants in these areas. In other words it would appear that nurses are being bent over the proverbial barrel by the government one more time. After all agency nurses are just subcontracted nurses. All I am asking is what all other nurses have been asking for the last two and a half decades, to be given the same respect as other professions. Please stop putting us in the moral dilemma of accepting more money or care for the sick and the dying. Nurses heart strings are beginning to break and remember we are caring for your family at one point or another.

Yours sincerely

Frank Grainer (Critical Care Registered Nurse)

c/- Western Hospital Footscray

ICU

and

Code Blue Nursing Agency.

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