

From: Grimwade Tim
Sent: Wednesday, 2 January 2002 8:34 AM
To: Jones Gavin; Palisi Paul
Cc: Gilbert Jewel
Subject: FW: Agency Nurses
For your attention

TG



-----Original Message-----

From: rebecca bell [mailto:beckybell30@hotmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, 29 December 2001 4:30
To: adjudication@accc.gov.au
Subject: Agency Nurses

The General Manager

Ajudication Branch

Australian Competition and Consumer Commision

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you to express my concerns over the recent collusion by the state government and public hospitals to secretly tender out Agency services in Victoria.

Nursing in Victoria is in a disgraceful state due to pathetic wages and poor job satisfaction.. Those of us who choose to supplement our wages with that of Agency do so to pay our debts and have improved daily living. If Agency wages are reduced or capped not only will this force more nurses out of the industry and into other occupations that pay more, it will also directly contravene with the Trade Pratices Act.

I was under the impression that the trade practices Act was implemented to ensure competitive trade and prevent price fixing. If the agreed proposals go ahead you can be assured that nursing numbers will continue to fall as nurses will not be enticed into permanent postions that pay poorly.

If the government wanted a solution they could look at the money spent on Agency over the last 12 months and give nurses a pay increase that is appropriate to all in the workforce, hence enticing nurses back to full time position. It is evident however that this is unlikely to happen. Agency is always going to be required, and until the government fix the big problem those of us who are senior in our departments will subsidize our existing wages in whatever way possible. If Agency rates decrease then be assured that nurses will look elsewhere for money.

Why are the public unaware of the current crisis? It is painfully evident that most believe nurses are underpaid. We are a profession and study for many years to become senior nurses in a specialised area, this should be acknowledged by an improvement in our wages. I ask that this proposed collusion be stopped and that the general public be made aware of our situation.

Yours sincerely

2/01/02

Rebecca Bell RN

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