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From: dougmcnab@hotmail.com [mailto:dougmcnab@hotmail.com]**Sent:** Wednesday, 9 January 2002 2:35**To:** infocentre@accc.gov.au**Subject:** Complaint/inquiry**Name:** MR DOUGLAS MCNAB**Street address:** UNIT 5/30 ABERDEEN ST**Suburb/town:** RESERVOIR**State/country:** VICTORIA**Postcode:** 3073**Email:** dougmcnab@hotmail.com**Daytime phone number:** 94609608**Description**

Dear Sir/Maddam, recently I become aware of the Victorian Governments desire to avoid the trade practices act to allow them to restrict/decrease the agency nursing cost for the public health sector. Please do not support the government in restricting nurses right to earn higher rates of pay through working with private agencies. When doctors were not seeking employment in the country/rural areas the government organised renumeration packages to entise them into the bush; ie more money !!! Agency prices have gone up, especially in my area of critical care nursing because nurses are sick of working weekends/public holidays/ rotating shifts/ and especially night shifts (generally 1/3 of all shifts when you are a permanent staff member) in an extremely stressful often not appreciated profession. Nurses have been leaving the profession in droves thus creating a general shortfall in numbers, contray to popular belief, money and career structure have been the main reason for thi! s exodus. Therefore, like the Dr's in the bush, nurses have been enticed to work more shifts through better pay. I personally have spent 4 years at university one of which was to specialize in critical care nursing, (at personal cost to myself) to earn a max of 49,000 per annum full time. Regardless of further years of experience this amount will not increase and if not for agency money I would be forced out of this profession to seek greater income. I do not believe agencies and the nurses who support them are using high demand to blackmail government to pay more for their services. What you are seeing in fact is appropriate renumeration for highly trained staff that make themselves available to work in a highly stressfull enivronment often on a few hours notice. Nurses have often been the easy target of government cost cutting and I believe this is just another example of this, please do not support their request...yours sincerely D.McNab

9/01/02