

NURSES, RETRAINING COURSES

1655. Dr Constable to the Minister for Health

- (1) How many nurses have completed retraining courses in each of the past five years?
- (2) How many of the nurses referred to in (1) above actually returned to the nursing profession?

Mr KUCERA replied:

1. Renewal of Registration (retraining) programs for nurses have been monitored since 1998. Initially the number of participants completing renewal of registration courses were recorded. The following numbers are available:

1998/1999

Curtin University - 15
Metro DONs - 23
RPH Ens - 0
TOTAL - 38

1999/2000

Curtin University - 12
Metro DONs - 17
RPH Ens - 0
TOTAL - 29

2000/2001

Curtin University - 15
Metro DONs - 22
RPH ENs - 0
TOTAL - 37

2001/2002 (to date)

Curtin University - 8
Metro DONs - 59
RPH ENs - 17
TOTAL - 84

In addition to renewal of registration courses, free refresher courses were completed by 89 nurses who did not require a renewal of registration (retraining) program. Of these, 2 were enrolled nurses.

- (4) Figures of individual nurses returning to the workforce after completing the re-entry programs were not collected prior to 2001.

Of the 37 nurses that undertook the Metro DON's program in August 2001, 35 were employed in the government health industry. The remaining 2 were employed by privately managed government health facilities.

Of the 17 graduates who completed the Enrolled Nurse Program run by Royal Perth Hospital, 10 are employed in the public system with 7 either working privately or unknown.

Mechanisms were not in place prior to 2001 to collect this data, however it is now a condition of all scholarships participants of a funded program to provide information on where they seek future employment.