

NURSES WAGES, AGED CARE AND NURSING HOME INDUSTRY

807. Hon P G Pental to the Minister for Health

- (1) Why is there a disparity between public and private sector Industrial Awards pertaining to nurses wages in the Aged Care/Nursing Home Industry?
- (2) Do pay rises granted to Public Sector Aged Care nurses flow on to award rates in the private sector?
- (3) If not, why not?
- (4) If a flow on effect is anticipated how long does the Minister generally expect this flow on to take?
- (5) Is there a difference between State and Federal nurses awards?
- (6) If so, why?

Mr KUCERA replied:

- (1) There is a difference between Government Health Industry pay and conditions for nurses and the pay and conditions for nurses in the Aged Care/Nursing Home Industry. This is due to several reasons, I am advised that the main reason is the inability of the Aged Care and Nursing Home Industry to fund the same pay and conditions enjoyed by Government Health Industry Nurses. Funding for the Aged Care and Nursing Home Industry is a Federal Government responsibility
- (2)-(4) There is no automatic flow-on.
- (5)-(6) Registered nurses employed in the Government Health system are employed under a Federal Award and the associated Enterprise Agreements. Enrolled Nurses are employed under a State Award and the associated Enterprise Agreements. Individuals may also be employed under an Australian Workplace Agreement or State Workplace Agreement, albeit this option is no longer on offer in the Government system. There can be differences in pay and conditions between Awards and Agreements.