

NURSES, TRAINING COURSES

1653. Dr Constable to the Minister for Health

- (1) What training courses are in place to encourage nurses to return to their profession?
- (2) Where are these training courses conducted?
- (3) What is the cost of attending a training course to the individual participant -
  - (a) either a direct financial cost; or
  - (b) future obligations imposed on the individual?
- (4) Are there any part-time retraining courses available to nurses desiring to re-enter the workforce?

Mr KUCERA replied:

1. Renew of registration courses are available for registered nurses (RN) and enrolled nurses (EN).  
Re-fresher courses are available for nurses currently registered with the Nurses Board of Western Australia who wish to update their clinical skills prior to re-entry to the workforce.
2. Renewal of registration courses for nurses are conducted through the following:
  - for RNs through the Metropolitan Directors of Nursing Council program at Fremantle Hospital; Curtin University (Bentley Campus); Hollywood Private Hospital
  - Renewal of registration for midwives is offered through King Edward Memorial Hospital
  - for ENs through Royal Perth Hospital; Curtin University (Kalgoorlie Campus); Nursing Resources Australia with focus on aged care.Refresher courses for nurses at present are conducted through Royal Perth, Sir Charles Gairdner, Fremantle, Princess Margaret, Osborne Park (aged care), and Bunbury Hospitals
3.
  - (a) The cost to the individual participant of renewal of registration course fees.
    - The Metropolitan Directors of Nursing Council program at Fremantle Hospital – course fees covered by DOH
    - EN course at RPH - course fees covered by DOH
    - RN Curtin University course \$2,800. Scholarships are available from the DOH
    - RN Hollywood course \$800. Sponsorship from private sector available, or scholarships available from DOH
    - EN Curtin University course \$1,010. Scholarships available from DOH
    - EN Nursing Resources Australia course \$1,500. Sponsorship from aged care sector available.
    - Refresher courses are currently offered to nurses free of course fees.
  - (b) Since February 2001, nurses who undertake the RN Metropolitan Directors of Nursing Council program at Fremantle Hospital renewal of registration course are required to notify the course coordinator of where they are employed on completion of the course.  
Conditions for applicants accepting a DOH renewal of registration nursing scholarship are:
    - To submit evidence of completion of the course and of subsequent employment
    - If the course is not completed through withdrawal or failure the applicant may be liable to repay part or all of the scholarship.
4. The Curtin University renewal of registration programs are offered on a part time and full time basis. The clinical practice component of these courses can be negotiated to be undertaken part time.