

NURSING PROFESSION, KENNEDY REPORT

**627. Mr BOARD to the Minister for Health:**

Mr Speaker, I ask you to give me, as the local member, the liberty of placing on the record my support and congratulations to Rossmoyne Senior High School. This is a special day in support of public education in Western Australia, not only for the students and the administration of the school but also for the State. It is an outstanding school, which has had strong management for a long time. It also has an exceptional parent body, which works in conjunction with the management of the school and which supports and typifies in many ways quality public education in this State.

I refer now to the report released by Her Honour Judge Antoinette Kennedy. I fully support that report and its recommendations. As the minister is aware, one of the critical issues facing the nursing profession is the drop-off rate of nurses in training, and particularly after training when they enter hospitals. Specific strategies are required to deal with that drop-off rate. Is the minister in a position to indicate to the House whether at an early stage next year he will consider specific strategies to address the drop-off rate during training, and particularly immediately after training?

**Mr KUCERA replied:**

I thank the member for that question.

The simple answer is yes. The report outlined a way forward and I am particularly pleased that it addressed the issue of the career path of nurses. More importantly, the key issue in the report is that we must value our nurses and the work they do in the health system. This brings me to look across the Chamber, at the National Party in particular, and reminds me of the level of denigration of our system overall that has been evident in the past three months. It is about time that members moved on and realised that the basic underpinning of our health system is good and that people like those in the nursing profession are great people. We have some great nurses and some great systems in this State that must be supported. It is time that members looked forward to using the kinds of pathways that have been laid down in this report and started to support our nurses absolutely in ensuring that we have the very best health system in this country.