

NURSE-LINK RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN

721. Dr E. Constable to the Minister for Health

I refer to the State Government's Nurse-Link recruitment campaign and ask: -

- (a) how many nurses are currently participating in refresher programs as part of the Nurse-Link recruitment campaign;
- (b) how much is the salary paid to nurses participating in refresher programs as part of the Nurse-Link recruitment campaign;
- (c) how many nurses have renewed their registration as part of the Nurse-Link recruitment campaign;
- (d) how much financial assistance is given to each nurse renewing his or her registration as part of the Nurse-Link recruitment campaign;
- (e) what is the current budget for the financial assistance given to nurses as part of the Nurse-Link recruitment campaign;
- (f) what is the form of the financial assistance given to the nurses renewing their registration as part of the Nurse-Link recruitment campaign; and
- (g) how many nurses are there across each of the following age groups for nurses re-entering the public sector under the Nurse Link recruitment campaign -
 - (i) 20-29 years of age;
 - (ii) 30-39 years of age;
 - (iii) 40-49 years of age;
 - (iv) 50-59 years of age; and
 - (v) over 60 years of age?

Mr R.C. KUCERA replied:

- (a) Refresher courses are for current registered and enrolled nurses who require up skilling to return to practice. As at March 2003:
178 nurses have completed refresher programs, and
24 enrolments were confirmed until May 2003.
In addition to refresher courses, renewal of registration courses have been established and:
110 nurses have completed this program, and
93 are currently enrolled for 2003 courses.
- (b) Enrolled Nurse (EN) \$589 per week as per the current Enterprise Agreement
Registered Nurse (RN) \$685 per week as per the current Enterprise Agreement
- (c) As part of the sponsorship conditions the 110 nurses who have completed the renewal of registration course are required to register with the Nurses Board of Western Australia. The Nurses Board of Western Australia records registration details as at December of each calendar year. Registration numbers for the last three years are as follows:
December 2000: 25 636;
December 2001: 26 678; and
December 2002: 28 945 (provisional).
- (d) External studies cost of course fees through a tertiary institution plus EN \$500 per week for clinical practice and RN \$650 per week for clinical practice. ENs & RNs undertaking a renewal of registration program cannot be paid a registered/enrolled nurse salary as they are not registered with the Nurses Board of Western Australia.
Hospital based EN \$500 per week for the course duration and RN \$650 per week for the course duration. (EN \$1,030 and RN \$2,830 per semester).
The cost of the renewal course is paid for each nurse. The cost of the public health industry access fees are paid as a block instead of for individual nurses.
- (e) \$2.1 million

- (f) Payments in the form of personal cheques to the individual nurse whereby half is paid at the commencement of the course and half is paid halfway through the course.
- (g) This information is not collected as it is not mandatory to be eligible to enter the program.