

SENATE COMMUNITY AFFAIRS REFERENCES COMMITTEE

INQUIRY INTO NURSING

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Senate referred the following matters to the Senate Community Affairs References Committee for inquiry and report by 25 October 2001. Due to the Federal Election being called this reporting date was not able to be met. The inquiry was re-referred by the Senate on 14 February 2002 requiring the Committee to report by 27 June 2002.

- (a) the shortage of nurses in Australia and the impact that this is having on the delivery of health and aged care services; and
- (b) opportunities to improve current arrangements for the education and training of nurses, encompassing enrolled, registered and postgraduate nurses.

That the Committee specifically make recommendations on:

- (i) nurse education and training to meet future labour force needs,
- (ii) the interface between universities and the health system,
- (iii) strategies to retain nurses in the workforce and to attract nurses back into the profession including the aged care sector and regional areas,
- (iv) options to make a nursing career more family friendly; and
- (v) strategies to improve occupational health and safety.

The Committee will continue the inquiry from the stage reached in the previous Parliament by holding a series of public hearings during February and March 2002.

For further details contact the Committee Secretary, Phone: (02) 6277 3515,
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