

July 62

THE NORTHERN DISTRICT SCHOOL OF NURSING

Lister House,
37 Rowan Street,
Bendigo.

23rd July, 1962

Dear

The Committee of Management of the Northern District School of Nursing is anxious to arrange a Conference between the Presidents, Managers and Matrons of the associated hospitals, the School Committee, representatives of the Hospitals and Charities Commission and the Victorian Nursing Council to discuss the future relationship of the hospitals to the School of Nursing.

In September 1961 the Bendigo Base Hospital advised the School Committee that it wished to withdraw from the circular scheme of training - i.e. the system whereby Bendigo nurses are transferred to the Castlemaine and Echuca hospitals as replacement for the District Hospital nurses who are now required to spend 12 months at a Base Hospital during their second year of training. (Refer attached Nursing Council Regulations)

The Bendigo Hospital Committee was of the opinion that "circular" training had had a "deleterious effect on nurse recruitment" and that the Bendigo students had not derived benefit from this scheme of training. At the same time, the Bendigo Committee expressed its willingness to continue to take students from the District Hospitals for practical experience, and indicated that it did not wish to withdraw from its association with the School.

The School Committee did not consider that circular training was the main cause of falling recruitment, and was most anxious to maintain the regional nature of the training scheme.

Following discussions and correspondence between the School, the hospital and the Nursing Council, the Council suggested that the School Committee should consider varying the plan of training by removing the authority of the Education Committee to draft nurses from the Base Hospitals to other hospitals.

Accordingly, after a meeting with the House Committee of the Bendigo Hospital in February 1962, the School Committee submitted the following recommendations to the Nursing Council, viz:-

- 1) Students commencing training before July 1962 will complete their course of training under the present scheme.
- 2) Students from Group B hospitals (Castlemaine, Echuca, St. Arnaud and Swan Hill) commencing after July 1962 will transfer to a Base Hospital for 12 months as soon as possible after the first year of training.
- 3) Students from Base Hospitals (Bendigo and Mildura) will complete 3 years training without exchange to Group B hospital, except in special cases where it is considered by the School Education Committee to be an advantage to the student to be transferred to a Group B hospital for a minimum period of 3 months and not exceeding a period of 12 months.
- 4) The Dean will direct the Base Hospitals as to the practical experience required, and length of time to be spent in each department by students transferring from Group B hospitals.
- 5) The Dean of the School is to inform herself upon the standard of training within the associated hospitals, inspect all training in progress, the teaching departments, and interview student nurses on educational matters. The Dean shall forward to the Victorian Nursing Council a confidential report following official visits to the associated hospitals.

Alterations to conditions of approval:

- 1) deleted
- 7) add "The Dean shall forward to the Victorian Nursing Council a confidential report following official visits to the associated hospitals"
- 13) delete first sentence "Except discontinued"

The Council's reply hereunder:

"I am directed to inform you that in general the proposals outlined in your letter of the 16th April, together with the suggested amendments to the agreement, appear to be reasonable and provided the participating hospitals are in agreement with the proposed amendments the Council will be willing to consider an application for approval of the new agreement.

I shall therefore be pleased if you will advise me in due course of the decisions of all the participating hospitals in relation to the proposed amendments to the agreement"

(Signed) L. MAVIS AVERY
Chief Nursing Officer.

It was originally intended that a conference between representatives of all the associated hospitals, the School and the Nursing Council be arranged for July, but this has now been postponed to August. Every endeavour will be made to find a date suitable for all concerned, but the final choice will be dependent upon the availability of the Nursing Council representatives.

For information purposes, I am attaching a few personal comments on some of the problems which should be considered as well as a precis of previous history.

Yours faithfully,

NANCY W. LONG
Dean