

3801. 11a Feb 1966

Copy for information.

7th February, 1966

Chief Nursing Officer,
Victorian Nursing Council,
431 St. Kilda Road,
MELBOURNE.

Dear Miss Long,

Proposed Basic Curriculum for General Nurse
Training in Victoria.

The Working Committee Report of February, 1965, on this Curriculum which it is proposed to implement by 1970, was considered at the December '65 meeting of this Subdivision. Subsequently a copy of this Report was circulated to all members of the Subdivision.

At this month's meeting of the Subdivision, the following motion was agreed to:-

"This Subdivision considers that the aim of the proposed curriculum - which is to provide longer training and in many specialised fields - should be revised. Consideration should be given to a shorter basic training with the availability of post-graduate training for those desirous and capable of doing so."

There are numerous other objections to the proposed curriculum, but the main ones arise from the fact that should the curriculum be implemented, of the 5,840 hours of employment of a trainee nurse during her three years, about 3,600 hours would be consumed in tuition - 1600 hours in the theoretical programme and the rest in demonstrations. Some of the consequences of this would be -

1. Difficulty in recruiting sufficient nursing staff.
2. Cost of hospitalisation would be increased to a degree where the required Hospital Benefit premiums would become beyond the means of the middle income group and threaten the existence of the present National Health Scheme.
3. Many country District Hospitals would have to close as nursing training centres and be staffed by nursing aides.
4. Even Base Hospitals could not provide the "minimum" tuition in some specialised fields, and trainee staffing would be further depleted in favour of large Metropolitan Hospitals.
5. These latter hospitals, and all other training schools, would require large financial grants to provide the additional teaching staff and accommodation and equipment for staff and trainees.

Yours faithfully,

Lloyd Morgan.
Hon. Secretary, Bendigo Subdivision A.M.A.
30 View Street, Bendigo.