RANF NEWS

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SECRETARY'S REPORT

NURSES STAND FIRM....

June has been an extremely tumultuous month for our profession - but we can be sure of one thing... the Government, hospital administrators and the general public are now fully aware of our message of deep concern over the appalling conditions under which nurses have worked for so long.

June 1 saw more than 2000 nurses attend a mass rally at the Dallas Brooks Hall, where they passed 28 firm resolutions... the most applauded being the resolution to 'work to rule' regarding non-nursing duties.



A series of negotiations were held with the Government and the Health Commission after the rally regarding the resolutions.

On June 22 a meeting between the RANF (Vic. Branch), H.E.F. (No.1 Branch) and the Government was held.

At that meeting we again re-stated most emphatically that the 'work to rule' regarding non-nursing duties was a permament situation and was NOT NEGOTIABLE.

At the meeting the Government, represented by Mr Jolly and Mr Keenan, put forward a five point proposal aimed at long-term resolution of the 'hospitals' crisis'.

Immediately after this meeting of RANF (Vic.Branch) Key Members discussed the five-point plan. Unfortunately at the same time the Government had called a press conference and the media were given the mistaken information that nurses were 'softening their stance regarding non-nursing duties'. Not so. Again we briefed the media on the RANF (Vic.Branch) stand - to set the record straight.



NEVER AGAIN WILL WE PERFORM NON-NURSING DUTIES

While we recognise that the 'work to rule' has placed many hospitals in an inconvenient situation - it is minimal compared with the inconvenience nurses have faced over the years.

The Government - after discussions with the RANF (Vic. Branch) and the H.E.F. - have provided funds for 60 people to be employed to fill the need in the most critically effected hospitals.

Working parties have been established to ascertain the areas of critical need in hospitals. The Government has promised to reply to the recommendations of the working parties within 7 days of receipt of the recommendations.

It is up to all of us to assist the working parties in identifying areas of need.
It is up to the Government to act upon the recommendations of the working parties.

OPEN LETTER TO THE PUBLIC

To ensure that our actions are fully understood by the general public, we placed an "Open Letter to the Public" in major Melbourne newspapers.

We again stressed that it is in the public's own good that we have taken the action we have.

WE WILL NOT BACK DOWN ON NON-NURSING DUTIES... THE VERY SURVIVAL OF OUR PROFESSION IS AT STAKE - AS IS THE SURVIVAL OF THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM IN THIS STATE.

Barbara Carson

Barbara Carson, Secretary

The voice of the Victorian Nursing Profession