EXTRA AGED CARE NURSING UNIVERSITY PLACES

An additional 40 aged care specialist university nursing places commenced in January 2005 and $3.3 million will be allocated over the next four years to help boost the capacity of Australia’s aged care workforce. The additional 40 places will increase to 109 by 2008.

In total, the Australian Government will fund 440 new commencing aged care nursing places this year. The total number of new aged care nursing places will grow to 1,203 by 2008 at an approximate cost of $36 million over four years.

“Aged care staff provide the care and support that older Australians in care need and deserve,” Ms Bishop said.

“The ageing of our population will require aged care providers to attract and retain new generations of carers who have the necessary skills and qualifications to provide care either at home, or in residential care services.

“These new places are part of more than $150 million the Australian Government has committed for more education and training opportunities for the aged care workforce.”

The 440 new places were allocated to higher education institutions across Australia in 2005, following the outcome of a competitive bidding process announced last year.

“These places will enable around 1,700 additional students to commence undergraduate nursing with a focus on aged care,” Dr Nelson said.

“By increasing the number of nursing staff available, this measure demonstrates the Australian Government’s commitment to ensuring a strong, well trained nursing and care workforce that can deliver quality aged care now and meet growing needs in the future.”

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