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Employment for Nurses and midwives Reform Policy

Like most South Australians, I am becoming increasingly concerned with the lack of employment opportunities for graduates in both Midwifery and Nursing. A person simply has to visit a State hospital as either a patient or a loved one, to see the shortage in nurses and midwives. Even with the Mainstream Media continuously reporting the issues surrounding the problems, the state's hospital system clearly lacks staff and has made further cut backs to save more money to help offset the rising costs of bringing back the state's budget into line.

Having previously worked in various nursing homes and Hospitals myself, such as the Ashford Private Hospital in the catering department, one of my duties as part of the Kitchen team was to deliver Patient's meals. Other duties included delivering tea and coffee and doing Stores to replenish the pantry for both the staff lounge and Kitchen facilities for staff and Patients. This is just one example where I got to witness firsthand, the very important role that these great community Health Care Workers do and the huge impact they have within our Health Care Services.

A worrying fact that has been brought to my attention is the modeling report that [the Health Workforce Australia](#) has made. This model indicates that there will be a shortage of nurses and midwives by a staggering 109,000 by the year 2025.

Reports also show that the private sector will be affected and there will be fewer employment opportunities.

As time progresses, this shortfall will continue to increase as our current aging workforce settles into retirement, thus creating positions needing to be refilled.

We as a community must ask a very important question. Why are billions of dollars being slashed from public health systems across Australia, directly affecting nurses and midwives, and the patients they care for on a daily basis?

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The responsibility for fixing this lies with both state and federal Governments who have continually passed the buck.

We don't need more buck passing. We need both state and federal Health Ministers to start working towards a real solution.

Australia needs a new model that optimises the employment of new graduates a few suggested solutions that have been put forward from the various National bodies who represent the Nurses and Midwives seem to me to be at least a start to fixing some of the potential problems that may happen.

Part of any reform must seriously take in to consideration these solutions to address the problems:

1. Waive HECS fees for graduates who accept employment in areas of need.
2. Fund 24 hour, 7 day per week clinical supervision and mentoring.
3. Rotate new graduates through non traditional graduate areas such as primary care, aged care and acute settings.
4. Jointly with the State fund for graduate positions.

If elected I will further address this serious issue with whomever gains the Position of the Health Portfolio on a Federal level and will ask questions in the Senate come July next year where if Elected I will take up my seat in the parliament.

I also encourage any Nursing or midwife personal who are looking for employment to use this handy [link](#), Healthcare is a very important issue that we must all stand up for as those that chose to pursue a career in becoming a Nurse or Midwife need all the support they can get in becoming a valid part of a much needed asset to our Hospitals and Aged Care facilities.