



**AIM HIGHER:** LEARNING, TRAINING AND BETTER JOBS FOR MORE AUSTRALIANS

# Thousands more training places for nurses under Labor

**Everyone, young and old, needs nurses. We couldn't live without them. In hospitals, health centres, nursing homes and doctors' surgeries, nurses are there, giving professional care and treatment.**

But John Howard ignores the national shortage of nurses, denying 9,000 students the opportunity to train as nurses between 1997 and 2002.

And nurses who want to specialise will face the prospect of taking out high interest loans to pay for their courses. For example, a nurse who wants to study to become a midwife could incur a student debt of up to \$37,800 including \$4,300 interest over and above the CPI.

Labor will create thousands of new nursing places and make it easier for nurses to specialise in areas of greatest need, including emergency and intensive care, cardiothoracic, neonatal intensive care, midwifery, aged care and mental health.

## **Labor will:**

- Fund an additional 3,125 new full and part-time undergraduate nursing places by 2008. This will start in 2004 with 550 new, (full and part-time) commencing nursing places. From 2005 this will increase to 1,100 new, (full and part-time) commencing nursing places each year. The total cost of these additional places is \$38.3 million over four years.

- Create 500 postgraduate nursing HECS places from 2005 at a total cost of \$17.9 million over four years.
- Provide an additional \$43.4 million for clinical training for undergraduate nurses so that they have a smooth transition from studying at university to working in a modern hospital.

Australia has a critical shortage of nurses. According to the *National Review of Nursing Education 2002*, Australia desperately needs 800 additional nursing places in our universities.

A strong university sector means there will be more highly trained nurses caring for the ill in our hospital wards.

'Thousands more nurses under Labor' is an initiative of ***Aim Higher: Learning, training and better jobs for more Australians***—Labor's plan to re-build, reform and expand Australia's universities and TAFEs.

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