

General Guidance Note

// BERTON - //

The Commission on Nursing Education has identified the following fourteen key statements about nursing education. The purpose of inviting written evidence is to ascertain the views of a wide range of organisations about any or all of these statements.

To give the Commission as useful a perspective as possible, it is requested that responses be made in two ways:

- (a) by indicating the degree of agreement or disagreement to the statement on the scale immediately beneath the statement; and
- (b) by using the blank space beneath the scale to write narrative comments, to be continued on a separate sheet if necessary, in which the basic response can be elaborated.

It would be very helpful to the analysis of this information if the identity of the organisation, department, etc. completing the document could be indicated at the foot of the final page.

1. "Students of nursing should be students and not employees."

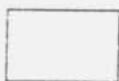
Place an 'X' in the appropriate box:



Strongly  
Agree



Agree



No Strong  
Opinion



Disagree



Strongly  
Disagree

Student rather than employee status has two objectives in mind:

- 1) a a more comprehensive development of a student is likely if complex conflict situations which arise as a result of a labour contract with the employing agency is non-existent
- b that the student can be directed to obtain varied learning experiences which are not necessarily available within the boundary of anyone employing authority .
- c) that teaching and learning can take an undisputed priority over the need to provide labour for the employment agency
- 2) a that the employing agency is prevented from using the student as a source of manpower .
- b that an employment agency be prevented from confusing students' interests with its own
- c that an employment agency be prevented from employing disciplinary measures, those resulting from employment-contract conflicts .

2. "The education of nurses at basic and post-basic levels should be more closely integrated with mainstream further and higher education."

Place an 'X' in the appropriate box:

Strongly  
Agree

Agree

No Strong  
Opinion

Disagree.

Strongly  
Disagree

The aim of such integration must ultimately be the broadening and deepening of the discipline of nursing as well as the knowledge of its practitioners. The question remains, however, as to what constitutes integration. If it refers merely to the placing of basic and post basic courses in institutes of further and higher education where nursing students and personnel teaching nurses and nursing form a separate unit and remain separate, integration takes place only at a formal level. It might take on a more dynamic aspect if nursing students and teaching personnel are themselves integrated into the colleges' various cultural and teaching activities and where the mixing and integrating with other disciplines is the norm, so that joint and co-operative programmes can develop. The sharing of experiences from a wide variety of disciplines, in terms of methods of teaching and learning and in terms of curriculum development is likely to benefit nursing. Additionally, institutes of further and higher education have on the whole large libraries and other facilities often not available in schools of nursing.

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3. "There should be a single basic qualification in nursing leading to registration."

Place an 'X' in the appropriate box:

Strongly  
Agree

Agree

No Strong  
Opinion

Disagree

Strongly  
Disagree

Agreed if it means that one type of qualification equals registration. This should be the case. However, this should not mean that all of nursing is to be encompassed within an SRN qualification and space and encouragement should be provided to develop other courses and if need be other types of qualifications.

6. "All funds for nursing education, including continuing education, should be transferred to the National Boards for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting."

Place an 'X' in the appropriate box:

Strongly  
Agree

Agree

No Strong  
Opinion

Disagree

Strongly  
Disagree

Whilst all funds for nursing education including continuing education should be separated from service funds providing care, it might be transferred to a body of education which is responsible for the training and education of health professionals of which nursing is a most important part. In this way funds can be pooled and nursing alongside other health professionals can make a claim for its needs. This might lead to more co-operative ventures amongst health professionals than is at present the case.

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7. "Colleges of Nursing and Midwifery should have governing bodies that are independent of health authorities."

Place an 'X' in the appropriate box:

Strongly  
Agree

Agree

No Strong  
Opinion

Disagree

Strongly  
Disagree

Colleges of nursing should be independent of health authorities. In this way, their governing bodies can use the funds according to their teaching and learning responsibilities. Additionally, control over nursing students should be the responsibility of Colleges of Nursing and not that of Health Authorities, so that students' interests can be considered first, rather than those of the Area Health Authority.

4. "In the future, manpower planning must take account of the number of students that are taken in to nursing and midwifery education, in order to project more accurately the requirements of the service."

Place an 'X' in the appropriate box:

Strongly  
Agree

Agree

No Strong  
Opinion

Disagree

Strongly  
Disagree

The service needs to work out what it requires in terms of manpower in relation to the health and illness needs of its population, before students are taken into nursing and midwifery education. It is not the case that manpower planning takes on priority, but rather the projected health and illness needs of the population which subsequently should result in an appropriate and adequate manpower planning exercise. This type of projection might also include a re-consideration of the division of labour within the health services, where the role of nursing is likely to change given changing population requirements. Nursing as at present constituted is predominantly a female occupation and therefore, if recruitment continues to focus on the younger generation, there will always be a fairly heavy fall out of women labour power when marriage and childbearing activities are taken into consideration. Whilst manpower planning will have to consider this, another consideration might focus recruitment exercises on an older person.

5. "There are too many auxiliaries/assistants delivering nursing care."

Place an 'X' in the appropriate box:

Strongly  
Agree

Agree

No Strong  
Opinion

Disagree

Strongly  
Disagree

The figure mentioned in the Merrison report (Royal Commission on the National Health Services) suggests that approximately half of those delivering daily nursing care are partial or non-trained. On the surface this seems a very high figure for a profession claiming that only expertise knowledge will produce adequate nursing care. We need to find out what is meant by too many, whether indeed the service would result in a better delivery of care if all the personnel were highly trained and where partially or non-trained personnel have a role to play.

8. "It would be desirable to create a new independent body to advise the Secretaries of State on the supply and education of nurses."

Place an 'X' in the appropriate box:

Strongly  
Agree

Agree

No Strong  
Opinion

Disagree

Strongly  
Disagree

An independent body, one that is not subject to governmental control and intervention should be involved in ~~consultation~~ in the consultation of the supply and education of nurses. But the main question remains as to the nature, composition and organisation of that body and its relationship to those agencies who make the projections as to populations' health needs .

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9. "All teachers of nursing should be graduates."

Place an 'X' in the appropriate box:

Strongly  
Agree

Agree

No Strong  
Opinion

Disagree

Strongly  
Disagree

A university education must be the basic requirement of any teacher. It provides for an in-depth study at disciplinary and interdisciplinary levels and this should provide a suitable background of much of all knowledge for teaching .

10. "There should continue to be specific courses for the preparation of teachers of nursing."

Place an 'X' in the appropriate box:

Strongly  
Agree

Agree

No Strong  
Opinion

Disagree

Strongly  
Disagree

Merely being a graduate is not a sufficient preparation to teach nurses. Nursing should have a nationally accepted teacher training programme so that a reasonable uniform standard of basic nurse training can be achieved .

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11. "Teachers of nursing should carry clinical responsibility."

Place an 'X' in the appropriate box:

Strongly  
Agree

Agree

No Strong  
Opinion

Disagree

Strongly  
Disagree

If this were to come about, the role of the clinical teacher could be phased out, thus eliminating the status difference between that of the clinical teacher and that of a 'theory' teacher. While all should carry clinical responsibility, the definition of what constitutes clinical must be broadly conceptualised, and should if appropriate include research commitments.

12. "There should be an increase in the number of places for undergraduate nursing degrees."

Place an 'X' in the appropriate box:

Strongly  
Agree

Agree

No Strong  
Opinion

Disagree

Strongly  
Disagree

There is a genuine difficulty of working out how many graduates nursing requires in order for its service to function at optimal level . Having considered broadly the health and illness requirements of the population, the division of labour within the health service needs to be looked at to find out where nursing graduates, apart from teaching , can make a major contribution .

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13. "It is possible to specify a common body of knowledge, attitudes and skills which would be appropriate to a basic qualification in nursing."

Place an 'X' in the appropriate box:

Strongly  
Agree

Agree

No Strong  
Opinion

Disagree

Strongly  
Disagree

It should be the responsibility of the nursing university departments to address themselves especially to this highly problematical question.

14. "It would be advantageous to have variability, depending on the curriculum taught, in the nature and type of qualifying examinations in nursing."

Place an 'X' in the appropriate box:

Strongly  
Agree

Agree

No Strong  
Opinion

Disagree

Strongly  
Disagree

But where should this variability occur? If one qualification equals registration it will be difficult to insert much variability at that level. However, at post-basic and at undergraduate and at post-graduate level nursing can only benefit from variability of curricula and further sub-specialisation.

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THIS DOCUMENT WAS COMPLETED BY BEDFORD COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER  
(Name of organisation, department,  
health authority, etc.)

5th Oct. 1984,  
(Date)

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED FORMS BY 30 SEPTEMBER 1984 TO MR. D.H. RYE,  
SECRETARY TO THE COMMISSION ON NURSING EDUCATION, ROYAL COLLEGE OF  
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