

The following are my thoughts on the terms of reference regarding future Nursing education.

- The effectiveness of current educational preparation of and articulation between enrolled and registered nurses and nurse practitioners in meeting the needs of health service delivery.
  1. I began my nursing career as an enrolled nurse, completing my hospital based training in 1981.
  2. I commenced my registered nurse training in 1984 in a short lived program based in the Illawarra (Illawarra School Of Nursing). I was employed by the local health service throughout the 3 years, working in various hospitals in the region. The schooling component was based at the Wollongong Teacher's College / Wollongong University campuses. Educators were from both entities.
  3. The current University trained registered nurses receive some hospital based placements throughout their course, however compared to the ratio of my training or previous 100% hospital based trained registered nurses, the university training has a lot less "clinical component in an actual hospital".
  4. I have worked as a registered nurse for 32 years, and during this time I have provided student nurse preceptorship in various settings.
  5. The students are often lacking the incentive to participate, as they are only there as an observer.
  6. These students are often tired, because they are working full or part-time jobs to cover their economic costs whilst training.
  7. I have undertaken post graduate studies in Intensive Care and Aged Care and have a Master of Science Degree in Dementia Care from Wollongong University.
  8. I considered furthering my education to become a nurse practitioner in Aged Care, however the time required to achieve this level is considerable. It would involve travelling long distances to a University offering this course.
  9. It would be helpful if the local health service could offer a transition to nurse practitioner based program, incorporating time to attend the face to face education and working in the hospital alongside an experienced practitioner and medical specialists for the specialty being studied.
- Factors that affect the choice of nursing as an occupation, including for men.
  1. In retrospect, although I have worked in a variety of hospitals and areas within the health system and gathered a lot of experience, the shift work was a major issue, with regard to limiting socialisation with family and friends.
  2. A young person considering a future career may be more inclined to choose other disciplines such as Physiotherapy, social work, occupational therapy or speech therapy. These would have more desirable working conditions and hours.
  3. Nursing is a predominately female occupation and it is likely that a lot of men would be hesitant to work in such an environment.
  4. In my experience the female nursing staff are often negative towards their male counterparts.
- The role and appropriateness of transition to practice programs however named.
  1. I have very occasionally seen advertisements for these programs, and they have been based in city hospitals.
- The competitiveness and attractiveness of Australian nursing qualifications across international contexts.
  1. I have not participated in any international nursing during my career.
  2. A Colleague was involved in working in Saudi Arabia and her experience was relayed as interesting, but challenging due to the cultural restraints.

Kathy Livissianos