

I am retiring after 43 years of nursing, in that time I have seen the training system change from a hospital based to a university based level of training. Whilst both systems worked there was never a consideration of marrying the two systems together. If Students had the opportunity to work 6 months in uni and six months on the floor working for the minimal wage it would alleviate the financial pressures many students struggle with especially with the rising cost of living. This would also allow those that find the trails of shift work and patient care the opportunity to leave the occupation earlier rather than waiting 3 years and then leaving. The other would also be making nursing a four year course there by making it unnecessary to have to find a GNP position which are limited in number. In the old system of hospital based training we as a third year would run the wards, carry the DDA keys and manage junior staff, sadly I see many third years these days who are barely ready to take on patient care let alone run a ward. Academically the students are well versed, but practical skills, communication and understanding of how the ward works is far better learned at the coal face.

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