



Amanda Rishworth MP Federal Member for Kingston

MEDIA RELEASE

PROGRAM EXPANDED TO WELCOME NURSES BACK TO WORK

The Member for Kingston, Amanda Rishworth MP today encouraged nurses who have left the nursing workforce to take advantage of the Rudd Government's cash payments of up to \$6,000 for qualified nurses and midwives who choose to return to work.

There are an estimated 30,000 qualified nurses throughout Australia currently working or engaged outside the nursing and aged care professions nationally.

Amanda Rishworth MP said *Bringing Nurses Back into the Workforce* aims to attract 8,750 nurses back to work, with a particular emphasis on nurses returning to work in hospitals.

Ms Rishworth said, "If we can encourage even a small proportion of this large talent pool back into the nursing profession, our local, regional and state/territory hospital and aged care services will benefit."

The Government recently extended the program to include nurses working in community settings, including community-based aged care and day surgery hospitals.

Employers of nurses returning to work will receive a guaranteed full bonus payment of \$1,000 to help re-skill nurses, expanding on the program's previous pro-rata training contribution of an amount up to \$1,000.

"Nurses are the backbone of the health and aged care systems, both locally and right throughout Australia," Ms Rishworth said.

"Without nurses, our hospitals would not function, our aged care services would suffer and our health, in general, would be poorer.

“Expanding this Rudd Government initiative to make it easier to get more qualified nurses back working in the profession and working in local communities such as Southern Adelaide is very welcome.”

Amanda Rishworth MP said the changes allow qualified nurses returning to work in community health settings such as the provision of palliative care, mental health, school based health services, maternal and child health home visiting services, to also access the bonus.

This also includes eligible nurses returning to work in community based aged care and delivering Commonwealth funded packaged aged care, such as Community Aged Care Packages and Extended Aged Care at Home (EACH) and Extended Aged Care at Home – Dementia (EACH-D).

Qualified nurses and midwives seeking more information about the Bringing Nurses Back into the Workforce program can find detailed information at:
www.health.gov.au/backtonursing or email backtonursing@health.gov.au

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