

NURSES REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1985

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Explanatory Note relates to this Bill as introduced into Parliament)

The objects of this Bill are—

- (a) to amend the Nurses Registration Act, 1953 (“the Act”), so as—
- (i) to reduce the present 7 categories of registered nurses (comprising general nurses, mental retardation nurses, psychiatric nurses, geriatric nurses, infants’ nurses, midwifery nurses and mothercraft nurses) to 2 categories, the effect being that in future registered nurses will (with the exception mentioned in subparagraph (v) below) be able to practise generally and will not be restricted to the areas in which they are now specifically registered (Schedule 2 (3)—proposed section 15);
 - (ii) to provide for the reconstitution of the Register of Nurses (now divided into Register of General Nurses, Mental Retardation Nurses, Psychiatric Nurses, Geriatric Nurses, Infants’ Nurses, Midwifery Nurses and Mothercraft Nurses) into just 2 divisions (List “A” and List “B”), with the names of currently registered general nurses, mental retardation nurses and psychiatric nurses entered in List “A” and the names of all other currently registered nurses being entered in List “B” (Schedule 2 (3)—proposed section 16);
 - (iii) to extend the functions of the Nurses Registration Board (“the Board”) by enabling it to grant recognition to courses of nurse training at institutions of advanced education so that the successful completion of such courses will become the principal qualification for nurse registration in New South Wales (Schedule 2 (2)—proposed section 14);
 - (iv) to provide for persons who successfully complete a course of the kind referred to in subparagraph (iii) to be registered in List “A” of the Register of Nurses (Schedule 2 (3));
 - (v) to prevent registered nurses and others from practising midwifery unless they have obtained appropriate midwifery qualifications and are, by virtue of those qualifications, authorised by the Board to practise midwifery (Schedules 2 (3), 3 (1)—proposed section 24);

- (vi) to alter the membership of the Board in consequence of the restructuring of the Register of Nurses (Schedule 1 (2));
 - (vii) to confer on the Board a power to delegate the exercise of its functions (other than the power of delegation) (Schedule 1 (5)—proposed section 13A);
 - (viii) to relax the requirements for obtaining temporary registration as a nurse (Schedule 2 (4)—proposed section 16A); and
 - (ix) to increase the maximum penalties which may be imposed for offences under the Act and regulations under the Act (Schedule 3);
- (b) to amend the Act by way of statute law revision (Schedule 4);
- (c) to provide for the saving of certain existing provisions and for matters of a transitional nature (Schedule 5); and
- (d) to make other amendments to the Act of a minor, consequential or ancillary nature.
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