



Media Release

Senator Mathias Cormann *Shadow Minister for Employment Participation, Apprenticeships and Training*

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NURSES TO PAY THE PRICE FOR LABOR IR IDEOLOGY

Aged care nurses in NSW and Queensland will be worse off as a direct result of Labor's award 'modernisation' scheme Shadow Employment Participation Minister Mathias Cormann said.

Labor's new scheme will seriously discourage prospective aged care nurses in NSW and Queensland from entering the profession, while undermining the ability for existing aged care nurses to stay in the job they love.

Senator Cormann's statements come after the NSW Nurses Association revealed that under Labor's Award 'Modernisation' 15,000 aged care nurses in Queensland and NSW will face a \$300 dollar a week pay cut.

"Given our ageing population we are facing an ever increasing demand for well qualified aged care nurses who are able and willing to provide their very valuable service to our community," Senator Cormann said.

"The Rudd Governments new Award Modernisation will penalise existing aged care nurses in NSW and Queensland which will no doubt cause some of them to leave," he said.

"We cannot afford to have any aged care nurse decide to leave the profession. Indeed, we need more Australians taking up the necessary training to become an aged care nurse.

"The Rudd government promised that nobody would be worse off as a result of Labor's Award 'Modernisation', yet here we have one of the most valued professions being treated very unfairly under their new scheme.

"This is yet another example of how the ill-thought out provisions brought about by Award Modernisation is impacting on real people doing real jobs," he said.

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