

26 April 2019

Opposition Leader's Office  
Parliament, Canberra

Attention: The Hon Bill Shorten MP  
By email: [bill.shorten.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:bill.shorten.mp@aph.gov.au)

Dear Mr Shorten

We now represent nearly 5,000 Queensland nurses.

We are an apolitical professional association, boldly competing with the QNMU. We do not actively support any political party or financially fund any cause. We do however challenge any issue affecting members.

We would like to call on your support for Queensland nurses by getting behind them and letting the nurses themselves decide who should represent them. The Federal legislation enables us to be on a level playing field with the QNMU. All we ask is that State legislation be revised so that decisions regarding spending of federally budgeted health funds is not monopolised by the Union.

Our view is simple. We believe that if the Federal government wants to be productive for the health system, they should prioritise the training and up-skilling of nurses. Furthermore that Universities be made accountable for providing suitably qualified professionals based on industry needs. These institutions need to have solid data from training hospitals and health facilities detailing the availability of graduating positions. A Registered Nurse student needs assurance that once they complete their initial study, there will be the opportunity to complete their graduating year and accomplish their degree.

This would also prevent thousands of students unable to complete their qualification being left with huge debt and no employment in their chosen field.

So our questions to you are:

*"Are you willing to support the right of Queensland nurses to choose who represents them?"*

And

*"Are you prepared to support our campaign that graduating nurses be guaranteed a position in their graduating year?"*

We await your response and please do not hesitate to contact me if you require additional detail.

Yours faithfully



**Cath Seaver**  
Secretary