

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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# **NURSES ENCOURAGED TO RETURN TO WORK**

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Echuca Regional Health has been successful in attracting funding from the Department of Human Services to conduct “Returning to Practice” Programs. We currently have two nurses who are returning to practice after four years absence from the acute ward areas.

The programs enable nurses who have been out of the nursing profession for periods up to five years to return to nursing in a supervised and fully funded capacity. The Department Of Human Services recognises that there are many nurses who, for a range of reasons, take a break from nursing practice and in some cases even allow their registration to lapse. These programs are designed to provide support to regain the confidence and competence to work in a particular area of nursing practice.

The Return to Nursing Grants, up to \$4000, are paid to health services to assist nurses to complete programs leading to the competence required for re-registration and the confidence to return to work in the public health system. The funding ensures that there are no training costs incurred by the individuals and that the participating nurses are paid for the time they spend on the wards.

There are also programs available for nurses who have been out of the nursing profession for more than five years.

Nurses seeking re-registration should first contact the Nurses Board of Victoria for advice.