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PRIME MINISTER

E. & O.E. - PROOF ONLY

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JOURNALIST: Prime Minister, is it Federal Government policy that the responsibility for nurses education be transferred from universities to colleges of advanced education by 1990?

PM: It's not from universities.

JOURNALIST: Sorry, put in control ...

PM: As it exists now, nurses training is hospital based essentially. We have responded to requests from the Nurses Federations themselves and a number of State Governments, that the system of nurse education should be shifted from a hospital based approach to the colleges of advanced education. This has been pressed upon us by the nurses organisations of Australia and, as I say, by some States, and we have responded to it. And the decision that was taken to it as a Cabinet is that this transformation would take place with the last change-over taking place in 1990, so that by 1993 it will be completely based on CAEs. Now this has met with the approval, as I say, of the nurses organisations and all other States. Here, apparently, there has been a suggestion by this State Government or State Minister that you should have something different, that you should go into the universities. You can't possibly have a differential situation like that where the rest of Australia is willingly through their governments, the Territories and the Ministers organisations, basing it on the CAE system and here in this State have a two stream situation of the CAE and the university. I assume that good sense will prevail here and that the CAEs will be able to negotiate with the State Government as will happen in every other State.