



The Royal Newcastle Hospital

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AUSTRALIA.

Pacific Street,
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Our Ref: 17th June, 1986

Your Ref:

Miss M. Illuko1
C/- Royal Newcastle Hospital

Dear Miss Illuko1,

As you requested I have detailed events which contributed to you undertaking your nurse training at Gosford District Hospital and my part in those events.

In 1975, I was Acting Head of School at Gosford District Hospital during Miss Carter-Brown's leave of absence undertaking full-time study in Sydney for her Diploma in Nursing Administration.

Mrs. Smeal, then employed, as she is now as a Supervisor at Royal Newcastle Hospital, had read the article in the Newcastle press of Margaret Illuko1 finishing her schooling and that her ambition was to train as a nurse.

Sister Smeal told me that there were no positions available for Margaret to train in Newcastle; I am not aware whether Margaret was ever interviewed at any Newcastle Hospitals.

I informed Sr. Smeal I would be very happy to interview Margaret and assess her ability to cope with the education and role demands of nurse training; just as I did for every applicant.

An interview was arranged and I asked Miss Lowndes, the Director of Nursing, to participate, as student nurses are also hospital employees and as part of the 'workforce' have significant physical and emotional demands made on them. In Margaret's case, the unique factor to be taken account of in regard to her being a paid employee and not just a student undertaking an education programme, was the limitation of her oral communication.

Miss Lowndes was very supportive and indicated that if I, as Head of School (acting) considered Margaret could cope academically, she was happy to employ her as a student nurse.

I was fully aware that Margaret's educational preparation may not have prepared her as well as most other students, however, I believed her motivation would more than compensate for that.

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Furthermore, even if Margaret was only successful to the end of her first year, she would have gained much.

In view of her stated intentions to return to use her nursing skills to assist her people, I believed even one year of training would equip her to function effectively as a health-care worker.

The rest is history - Margaret not only completed her training at Gosford District Hospital, but has since been employed as a registered nurse at Royal Newcastle Hospital and has contributed as a valued member of staff.

Yours sincerely,

MISS D.J.ANDERSON,
DIRECTOR OF NURSING

per V.K.