

# VOORWOORD

# FOREWORD

Die verpleegberoep lewer 'n groot bydrae tot die samelewing en het 'n plig om die gemeenskap hieroor in te lig om die nodige ondersteuning te verkry. *The time has come to proclaim it loud and clear* sê prof C Searle in die artikel *Nursing is the concern of all citizens* in hierdie uitgawe. Verpleging vertolk 'n onmisbare rol in enige moderne samelewing. Verswakking van die verpleegberoep kan tot algemene ineenstorting van gesondheidsdienste lei, met rampspoedige gevolge.

Vandag staan die verpleegberoep in Suid-Afrika voor groter uitdagings as ooit tevore. 'n Mens hoef net te kyk na die implikasies van die grondwetlike veranderings met devolusie van mag na die plaaslike vlak en na die bevolkingsontwikkelingsprogram wat voortgespruit het uit die Verslag van die Wetenskapskomitee van die Presidentsraad oor Demografiese Tendense in Suid-Afrika.

Op talle vlakke sal die geslaagde uitvoering van die bogenoemde swaar op die skouers van die verpleegkundiges van die land rus. Stappe soos die instelling van die omvattende verpleegkursus is deur die verpleegberoep geneem om aan toekomstige eise te voldoen.

Daar is egter baie probleemareas wat uitgeskakel moet word om die beroep in staat te stel om sy taak te verrig. Om hulle te kan oplos het ons die volle ondersteuning van die gemeenskap nodig — en dit berus by ons om hierdie steun te verkry.

Gemeenskapsleiers moet ingelig word oor die volle omvang van ons bydrae en hulle moet vertel word wat ons van hulle nodig het om in die lig van veranderinge in die samelewing 'n bekwame en doeltreffende verpleegdiens in stand te hou.

The nursing profession has a duty to tell the community what its contribution to society is in order to gain its support. *The time has come to proclaim it loud and clear* says Prof C Searle in the article *Nursing is the concern of all citizens* in this issue.

Nursing plays an indispensable role in any modern community. A weakening of the nursing profession could lead to total collapse of health services with disasterous consequences.

In South Africa today the nursing profession faces even greater challenges than ever before. One only needs to think of the implications of the constitutional changes with devolution of power to local level and of the population development program which followed on the Report of the Scientific Committee of the President's Council on Demographic Trends in South Africa.

In many spheres successful implementation of the above will lean heavily on the shoulders of the nurses of this country. We have taken steps, such as the introduction of the new comprehensive nursing course, to meet future demands.

However, there are many problem areas which must be eliminated to enable the profession to fulfil its task. To solve these we need the full support of the community and it is up to us to gain this backing.

Community leaders must be informed of the full extent of our contribution and be told what we need from them to sustain an effective and efficient service in the face of societal changes.