

From: John Daly
Sent: Mon 27/08/2007 6:12 PM
To: letters@theaustralian.com.au
Subject: Letter to the Editor – “The Australian”

Dear Editor

A letter regarding the recent article by Dr Khadra which appeared in *The Australian* Magazine on Saturday 25 August 2007 for your consideration.

Caveat Emptor: Dr Khadra on the new breed of nurse

I read with interest the heroic account of the surgeon Dr Khadra and his seemingly singled handed battle against the health system and the new breed of nurse (The Australian, Saturday, 25 August, 2007). It struck me that he may have been unlucky to encounter some mediocre registered nurses educated in the University system. Mediocre graduates exist in every profession including dare I say medicine and even in the exalted ranks of surgeons (It was Dr Patel who left a chain of disasters in Queensland not a registered nurse). Most graduates of the University system of nurse education do very well and the majority are highly regarded in practice. It is very common to encounter complimentary letters from grateful patients extolling the virtues of the registered nurses who have cared for them in the hospital system across the country. Additionally registered nurses have not slipped in any recent polls I have seen regarding which professions have earned the highest trust of the general public.

Also of concern is the good doctor's rush to generalisation from a seemingly limited sample. A basic course in research methods would caution against this. We are after all living in an era of evidence based health care. For the record I work with a number of superb medical practitioners in research projects who fully support higher education for nurses. It is important that when one sided views are presented by the disenchanted that they are challenged in the interests of informing the public.

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