

Press Release



**South African
Institute of
Race Relations**

South Africa's Leading Research and Policy Organisation

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Private sector to the rescue with training of nurses

Private nurse training institutions today produce more nurses than public nurse training institutions. This is according to the latest *South Africa Survey*, published by the South African Institute of Race Relations in Johannesburg.

Public nurse training institutions produced 62% of all nurses in 2000 and private institutions 38%. By 2009, however, private institutions were producing 68% of all nurses while public institutions produced only 32%.

Some 7 493 nurses were trained in 2009 in both private and public institutions.

Nachi Majoe, a member of the Institute's research department, said, 'This is a small number considering the current dire shortage of medical personnel.'

Majoe continued, 'For example in the Eastern Cape, in 2009 there were 26 000 unfilled nurse vacancies. Mpumalanga followed with 4 137, then Limpopo with 3 829. The Northern Cape and Western Cape had 649 and 465 unfilled nurse vacancies respectively. Figures for the other provinces were not available.'

'This shortage is one of many explanations for the disarray in the public health sector,' Majoe said.

Majoe added that, 'The private sector is often subjected to criticism and is labeled as elitist. However, the data we have published shows that the private sector plays a major role in mainstream health care. For example, it does a far better job than the Government in training nurses,' Majoe said.

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