

*Lectures and courses in all facets of health care will be a feature of IFP health policy in the rural areas.*



## Need to upgrade nursing education

**T**he IFP believes that special attention must be given to the upgrading of nursing education. The nursing profession is understaffed and short of funding. This is reflected in poor facilities in many instances.

The challenge facing future health care services is to increase the number of new registered nurses from the present 55 to 200 a year, using presently available student nurse posts.

While the IFP acknowledges the loyalty and commitment of the nursing profession, it cannot condone strike action in this essential service. The recent strikes at Edendale and Prince Mshiveni hospitals in Natal have tarnished the image of nurses, because patients' health was put at risk.

The IFP will work towards improving channels of communication between staff

and administrative bodies and to streamline grievance procedures.

In KwaZulu, the KwaZulu Government Service Regulations provide for the recognition of Staff Associations, which elect members to represent them on the Public Service Joint Advisory Councils, a body which has direct contact with the KwaZulu Public Service Commission. In addition, the Department has made provision for a grievance procedure, complemented by the proposed appointment of a departmental ombudsman. He would be assisted by two personnel practitioners and would deal with grievances on a full-time basis.

The IFP believes that the KwaZulu model could set an example for the efficient handling of staff grievances in essential health care services.