



From the editor ● Van die redakteur

NASIONALE GEMEENSKAPSDIENS ● NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE

Op Maandag 17 April 1989 is 'n groot beginselbesluit deur die Suid-Afrikaanse Geneeskundige en Tandheelkundige Raad geneem, nl:

“die beginsel van verpligte Nasionale Gemeenskapsdiens deur persone wat by die Raad kan registreer, indien uitvoerbaar, aanvaar word.”

Die MVSA het al in Desember so 'n voorstel aan die Department van Nasionale Gesondheid en Bevolkingsontwikkeling gemaak. Die Departement het dit in beginsel ondersteun maar aangesien dit nie die bevoegdheid het om so 'n besluit te neem nie, is die saak in August 1988 deur die MVSA voor die Geneeskundige Raad se deur gelê.

The Medical Council has rapidly investigated and come out in favour of the principle of Compulsory Community Service for all doctors before full registration. This kind of speed can only achieved if there is a large amount of agreement within the Council. The idea has

the backing of MASA, the Department of National Health and Population Development and the Medical Schools.

Implementation is awaiting a practicability study. It is hoped that this ruling by Council will provide doctors in underserved areas of the country. It should stem the tide of those leaving the country and reverse the small net loss of doctors the RSA is now experiencing, into positive growth.

The SA Academy of Family Practice/ Primary Care has supported this concept and is particularly interested to have this Community Service linked up with the Vocational Training opportunities it is creating in underserved areas. May the full implementation of two concepts, now both accepted in principle by the SA Medical and Dental Council, namely Community Service and Vocational Training for the generalist clinician, be upon us soon! In this way the presently much publicized priority of Primary Health Care may not have to wait till after the Year 2000 to become accessible to all in our country!

Sam Fehsen