

Job Creation IS Possible

After one year of operation the Neighbourhood Employment Development Program (NEDP) began its first new training program on December 8, 1980. In conjunction with the Royal District Nursing Service, NEDP will train ten Home Health Aides — five in Box Hill and five in Williamstown.

Home Health Aide is a new occupation involving home health care duties under the supervision of district nurses. The aides' responsibilities include helping patients with shaving, collecting prescriptions, assisting with bathing and showering, help with preparation of special diets, etc.

Training will last for twenty-six weeks, and the trainees will receive award wages funded by the Department of Employment and Youth Affairs, the Royal District Nursing Service, the Brotherhood of St Laurence, the Ministry of Employment and Training, previously known as the Victorian Employment Committee (VEC), and the two local Councils at Box Hill and Williamstown. This type of funding indicates the ability of government and voluntary agencies to work together on a pilot project.



Home health aide trainee Kerry Laub aged 21 years (left) is learning to help Mrs Charlotte Vening, aged 86 years, (centre) by working with Royal District Nursing Sister Pam Braunschweig.

The NEDP is a job creation program jointly managed and funded by the Brotherhood of St Laurence and the new Ministry of Employment and Training. Its main objective is to create new jobs which will fill gaps in the areas of community service, and new small businesses.

The Home Health Aide Program is one of the first of these innovations and we hope it will be followed by many more.

So far, only one small business has been created — the Box Hill Workforce Co-operative Ltd, which employs a manager and three workers. The Co-operative aims to produce socially useful goods, the first of which will be display boards for local educational institutions. Initial funding for the Co-operative was provided by the VEC, and its Directors drawn from the Local Advisory Committee which has worked so hard to get the program started.

NEDP has been operating in Box Hill and Williamstown for one year, and is about to start in Frankston. It is staffed by the Co-ordinator, the Project Officer in each area, and a Training Liaison Officer to cover all three areas. The program will be evaluated by a research worker of the Brotherhood of St Laurence.

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