



UACHTARÁN NA hÉIREANN  
PRESIDENT OF IRELAND

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT MICHAEL D. HIGGINS

Throughout 2020 we have, as a nation, become increasingly aware of the important contribution that the nursing profession make to our society. Emergency nursing is a vital part of that profession. I am delighted therefore, in this International Year of the Nurse and Midwife, to join in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the recognition of emergency nursing as a specialist area.

Across the five decades since the first post graduate certificate programme took place in the Mater Hospital, emergency nurses have been challenged to work in increasingly complex environments, while continuing to offer the best possible care to those suffering from acute injuries and illnesses. It is a challenge that has been met with unfailing professionalism, compassion and dedication to duty. Today over a million patients each year, with a variety of urgent needs, benefit from the skills and expertise of our emergency nurses. That is a remarkable achievement, for which we, as a nation, can be very grateful. As we mark this milestone anniversary, all those involved in emergency nursing have much to reflect on with great pride. I have no doubt the coming years will bring new challenges and possibilities to all those working in this important field of nursing. I also have no doubt that emergency nursing will continue to evolve and adapt, putting the needs of its patients at the centre of all it does.

I congratulate you on this special occasion and wish you every success as you continue your vital work.

Michael D. Higgins  
Uachtarán na hÉireann  
President of Ireland