

## Anger over further cut in nursing places

**N**URSES are angry the already limited number of degree nursing places may have to be cut, despite the profession's continuous demand for more degree courses.

The 9,000-strong Hongkong Nursing Staff Association believes the provision of more nursing degree courses is a most effective way to solve recruitment problems and manpower shortages.

Legislator Michael Ho, the association chairman, said they would press the Government to adopt a policy of enhancing nursing education to degree status.

Hongkong nurses mainly come from apprentice training at hospitals.

Limited degree places introduced a few years ago are provided for serving nurses.

The Hongkong Polytechnic is the only institute offering full-time nursing degree courses for matriculation graduates.

But it plans to surrender 10 of its 40 places to cope with the Government's decision to cut 500 tertiary places to provide resources for basic education.

Plans by each tertiary institute on which kind of degree places to reduce is yet to be approved by the University and Polytechnic Grants Committee.