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ROYAL DARWIN HOSPITAL EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT DISPUTE

On Friday 28th February, nurses in the RDH Emergency Department contacted the ANF with serious concerns.

Nursing services in the Emergency Department were at breaking point with 27 patients waiting for beds and unsafe working conditions with patients being left in corridors because of lack of space.

ANF officials met with management seeking resolution to the issues.

Initially the ANF sought:

1. Improved "bed management strategies",

and "bans" were put on elective surgery in an effort to make more hospital beds available and reduce the overcrowding in the Emergency Department.

2. An Emergency Department member meeting with RDH Management as soon as possible.

The outcomes of the meeting are overleaf.

The ANF has run a very successful media campaign during this dispute and the Emergency Department situation is being closely monitored by ANF officials and members.

ANF NT Branch recruitment road show

At the time of writing Maggie Ormerod, ANF Vic Branch Recruitment Officer, and Angela Wallace, NT Branch Organiser, are conducting a "recruitment road show" around the Northern Territory.

A full report on their activities will be provided in the next newsletter.

The NT Branch wish to thank the Victorian Branch for making Maggie available to work with our small team.

It has been a very positive experience with 27 members recruited in the first week.



Maggie Ormerod

ANF Public Sector EBA forums

NT Branch staff have begun consulting with members in areas outside of Darwin in regard to formulating a "log of claims" for the NTPS EBA. This process will cover all public sector areas in the Territory, with workplace job delegates assisting.

NTPS on call

An update will be provided in the next newsletter.

NT Career Structure Exemplary Practice 1

Assessment of the first batch of applications for EP 1 has been completed with 12 EN's and RN's gaining EP 1 status.

Congratulations to those 12 nurses on their achievement.

With EP 1 status:

RN's receive an allowance of \$2495 per annum EN's \$2120 per annum.

Aged care

The CEO responsible for the Masonic Aged Care Facility in Darwin has approached the ANF in regard to entering into an EBA with the ANF to cover nursing staff who will be employed in their facility.

The facility will open in June 2003.

There has been a commitment that conditions for nurses will include:

1. Salary parity with Northern Territory Public Sector nurses.
2. Salary Sacrifice options.
3. An air-conditioned working environment.

Royal Darwin Hospital

Outcomes of ANF Emergency Department Meeting with RDH Medical Superintendent and General Manager - 4 March 2003

1. Bed management meetings to be held in the Emergency Department at 8am daily with senior hospital staff.
2. Agreed by General Manager and Medical Superintendent to hold fortnightly meetings with members in the Emergency Department. These meetings would provide progress on members concerns tabled at today's meeting.
3. A draft bed management policy to be presented to members at the fortnightly meeting on the 18th March 2003. The policy to contain trigger points to address excess demand in the Emergency Department. Input into them from nursing staff will be sought.
4. Three-hour discharge round by consultants to be implemented on Saturday and Sunday mornings.
5. Agreed that the Clinical Nurse Manager of the Emergency Department could put in a submission to increase the number of FTE nursing staff working in the Emergency Department.
6. Concerns with nurses being unable to attend fire safety in-services due to workloads. The situation needing to be addressed as a matter of urgency.
7. OH&S audit of the Emergency Department.
8. Members endorsed lifting the "bans" on elective surgery from 5pm 7th March 2003.

News from Darwin Private Hospital

- > Two enrolled nurses have been awarded scholarships by Healthscope to assist them in obtaining their degree in nursing.
- > Registered nurse employed by DPH has also been awarded a scholarship to complete her midwifery course in 2003, with an incentive bonus of \$5,000 if after completing her degree the nurse works at DPH for two years.
- > Nurses working at DPH can now receive a 5% increase in salary, for holding a postgraduate certificate if they are working in the area of specialty.
- > DPH nurses have salary parity with their public sector counterparts.
- > A Clinical Nurse Educator has been employed to support new graduates and new nursing staff.
- > Darwin Private Hospital has also put in place:
Employee of the Month - nominated by staff and,
Employee of the Year - also nominated by staff.

Darwin Private Hospital Employee of the Year

Congratulations to Angie Williams our DPH Job Delegate who was nominated employee of the year for 2002. Her prize being a \$1500 travel voucher, flowers and her photo placed in the entrance foyer of Darwin Private Hospital.

Election results

Congratulations to Denis Blackford who has been elected as an executive of the ANF NT Branch council. Thank you to all those who voted.

Moving interstate?

If you are a financial member of the ANF, QNU or NSWNA you can transfer your membership by phoning your union branch.

Don't take risks with your ANF membership - transfer to the appropriate branch for total union cover.

It is important for members to consider that nurses who do not transfer their membership are probably not covered by professional indemnity insurance.

