



Yvonne Falckh
NT Branch Secretary

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MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

The current Care and Protection of Children Act requires the reporting of all sexual activity for young people under 16 years of age. ANF NT fully supports the reporting, investigation and referral of any young people if there is any suspicion of sexual abuse. However the legislation as it stands is causing harm to young sexually active 14 and 15 year old teenagers. Teenagers are having consensual sex with their peers at a younger age and these teenagers are being put at risk, as they will be deterred from seeking assistance or medical attention should they require it. Confidential advice, support or treatment for sexually transmitted diseases, contraception or ante-natal care will not occur.

These teenagers will no longer trust health professionals, for fear of being reported. This has a huge impact on the teenagers' physical, social, mental and emotional wellbeing, and can affect the rest of their lives. It is understandable that nurses and midwives are concerned with the impact of such legislation on their relationships with their clients/patients and the communities in which they work.

ANF NT is actively working towards ways to address the problem. ANF NT is a member of the 'Really Caring for Kids' coalition. It is this coalition that has been lobbying and working with government to identify ways to amend the legislation to protect those sexually active young people having consensual sex with their peers. A representation from the coalition has met with government and police to collaboratively address the existing problems with the legislation. There is a need to better define child sexual abuse more clearly within the legislation to capture a wider range of harms from sexual activity. It is hoped that outcomes from the working party may be introduced into Parliament in the August sittings.

Nurses voted as most honest and ethical

Once again nurses and midwives have been voted the most honest and ethical profession in the annual Roy Morgan Professions Survey for 2009. Congratulations to all nurses and midwives for keeping this ranking for 15 straight years.

HESTA Australian Nursing Awards

Congratulations to Kay Stevens, an Enrolled Nurse working in the Rehabilitation Unit at Royal Darwin Hospital, who was the Northern Territory finalist in the HESTA National Nursing Awards. Kay was presented with her award at a gala dinner held at the Crown Casino in Melbourne in May 2009. Well done Kay.

Achievements

We are now into a new financial year and public sector nurses will be receiving another pay rise on the 9th August 2009. Enrolled nurses remain the best paid in Australia with CNM's doing very well. Nurse two's fluctuate between, but still remain in the higher levels of pay compared to their interstate colleagues.

Enrolled nurses are able to apply for both Advanced Practice and Exemplary Practice provide they meet the relevant criteria. Check the DHF website for more details.

NT has seen the introduction of our first nurse practitioner commencing at RDH. We expect that GDH will also have their first NP either already or shortly.

Payroll and payslip issues should be reduced with provision of the supplementary sheets expected to address the lack of information noted on payslips.

National Accreditation and Registration

Please refer to reports in the main body of the ANJ for updates on what is happening.



MembersEquity
The Super Funds Bank



from the branch office

Aged Care Campaign (Because we Care, Quality care for older Australians)

The charters have been a great success with over 10,000 charters being signed. Over 1,000 friends have joined Facebook and hundreds of emails have been sent to the Minister for Ageing. If you haven't sent an email to the Minister, please do so to support our colleagues working in Aged Care. Postcards are available from the Branch, Federal Office, on the website and in the ANJ. Please participate. Go to the *because we care* website at www.becausewecare.org.au to view ANF delegates talking about their experiences.



Organiser's Report

Angela Phillips | Organiser1@anfnt.org.au

Top End Job Delegates Training

Job Delegate Training will be held in Darwin 22 -24 September 2009. Registration forms will be sent to JD's in July and will also be available to download from

the ANF NT Branch website at www.anfnt.org.au.

If you do not have a JD in your worksite and you would like to nominate a colleague or yourself please contact the ANF office ASAP so you can attend the training. Helena Dalton Bridges will be delivering the training and is one of the most dynamic ANF trainers in Australia. Delegates who have attend the training session with Helena have found her to be an exceptional motivator and teacher.



Above: Central Australia Job Delegate Training (Back L - R) - Rebecca Gilmour, Joy Poortier, Barb Sharp ANF Organiser Cent Aust, Kraut Hauth, Helena Dalton Bridges - QNU Training Officer, Yvonne Falckh - ANF NT Branch Secretary. (Front L - R) - Wendy Corkill, Jane Polkinghorn, Rachael O'Bryan, Maureen York

Job Delegates

I would like to welcome our new JD's Rosemary Copeland - Outpatients RDH, Rosemary Gaston- Theatre KDH, Leslie Gay - Bickerton Island, Amanda Harneiss - Marngarr, Mary Hill - SCN RDH, Helen Mar - Rocky Ridge Nursing Home, Rachael O'Bryan - Paediatrics ASH, Joyleen Poortier - Maternity ASH.

This will be a great opportunity for our newly elected JD's as this will give you a chance to learn about advocacy on behalf of your colleagues, human resources, and industrial relations. JD's can also consolidate their practical experience by working at the ANF office as a trainee Organiser and be part of major campaigns and specific projects. If you are interested please contact the ANF NT Branch Secretary Yvonne Falckh.

NT Whistleblowers website and commencement date

The website of the Commissioner for Public Disclosures can now be accessed at www.blowthewhistle.nt.gov.au. We encourage you to access this site to gain information about the new Public Interest Disclosures Act (NT). The Act will commence 31 July 2009.

Fair Work Act

1 July 2009 saw the death of WorkChoices and the commencement of the Fair Work Australia & Fair Work Act - a new approach to creating balance in the workplace of all aspects of employment laws, workers rights and employer rights. You can access fact sheets from the ANF office, ANF Job Delegates and you can also visit the official Fair Work Australia website at www.fwa.gov.au.

Organiser Central Australia

Barbara Sharp | organiser3@anfnt.org.au | 0437 821 203

Since commencing as organiser in April, I have had the opportunity to meet most of the job delegates in Central Australia at the conference and at the job delegate training. I look forward to working with them all as they have much knowledge and enthusiasm. Any member who is interested in becoming a job delegate is encouraged to contact me or a current job delegate as it would be great to have at least two delegates in each area.

At the present time, agreements are being negotiated for Hettie Perkins (Aboriginal Hostels Limited), Old Timers (Frontier Services), Central Australian Aboriginal Congress and Australian Red Cross Blood Services.

from the branch office

Organiser Central Australia (*continued*)

In the next month, I plan to be at Alice Springs Hospital for two hours every week on a Thursday in order to meet with members and discuss any concerns or issues on an individual basis. Notice will be placed throughout the hospital specifying time and place. In the next few months I am hoping to speak with members in all areas including remote health, public health units and Tennant Creek. Job delegates and members in these areas are encouraged to contact me if there is a time which is suitable or appropriate such as remote health nurses day, staff meetings, teleconferences etc.

A little about my background for those who don't know me:- I have been a registered nurse for nearly 30 years having trained in Victoria in the late 70s. As a student nurse I joined the ANF and have been a member ever since. I have been a job delegate in Victoria, NSW and ACT and also served on Branch Council in ACT. My clinical experience has been within public, private and aboriginal health services at all levels including within hospitals, in the community, mental health and as a remote nurse. I came to the Territory in 2001, left in 2006 and returned in September last year as I missed the red dust and hot weather. Alice Springs is now my home and I work Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at the blood bank. I am available on Thursday and Fridays and my phone number is 0437 821 203.

Know Your Job Delegates



Jane Polkinghorne

I have been a Job Delegate for Special Care Nursery at Alice Springs hospital for years. I've lived in Alice Springs for 30 years, married with two adult children. I have worked in both the rural and hospital environments and I felt that I could make a valuable contribution to the Australian Nursing Federation NT Branch as a Job Delegate by being more active and being involved in federal issues.

Rachael O'Bryan

My name is Rachael O'Bryan. I work as a CNS at Alice Springs Children's Ward. I have enjoyed working there since 2001. I am returning to the Job Delegate role, having completed a post-graduate program in Paediatrics at Perth's Princess Margaret Hospital for Children. I have a passion and an interest in caring for children and their families in the health care setting and also in other positions at Children's Summer Camps.

In returning to the Job Delegate role, I want to be involved in advancing our professional nursing role, protecting and furthering our award conditions, supporting members by communicating ANF activities and actions to them and assisting members as required. I am happy to be contacted by members from outside of my work area on (08) 8951 7640 at the ASH Children's Ward.



Daniel Gleeson

I started my nurses training in 1972 at Grafton in NSW. I worked there for 32 years. Over 10 years I have been actively involved in the union as president and delegate in that State. I went into a management position and it was frowned upon for me to remain involved in the union. I stayed in management for 10 years and then went to England and worked for 18 months in London. I came back to Australia and commenced working in remote nursing with my wife Vicki. Two and a half years on I worked in Cape York as a clinical nurse consultant in two communities then to Central Australia at Papunya for the last two years where I am at the moment as the health centre manager.

Joy Poortier

I commenced nursing in 1974 and graduated in 1977. I first came to the Territory in 1985 and returned in 1988 and yet again in 1990 to the Alice Springs Hospital where I have stayed. I have worked in all areas of the hospital but mainly in the Medical ward. I commenced my midwifery training in 1994 and worked between SCN and Maternity. I have become a Job Delegate so that I can have greater involvement with the ANF and what they stand for.



news briefs

Dates to Remember Event	Date	Visiting Official
ROADSHOWS		
Katherine Region	September 9th - 10th	Secretary/Organiser
RDH	September 14th	Secretary/Organiser
Central Australia	October 4th - 9th	Secretary/Organiser
DPH	September 25th	Secretary/Organiser
Gove	September 30th	Secretary/Organiser
JOB DELEGATES TRAINING		
Top End	September 22nd - 24th	Secretary/Organiser

Membership Report

membership@anfnt.org.au

Please note the new email address. During June/July our membership officer has been on leave and Brenda Polglaise our new Administration Officer has been answering your enquiries. I am pleased to announce that ANF NT is no longer the smallest branch of the ANF. Our membership continues to grow and we are well on the way to 2000 members.

Welcome to Our Administrative Officer

Brenda Polglaise | admin@anfnt.oarg.au

Hi there, I am originally from Taupo, NZ. I moved to the NT almost 21 years ago. I spent 10 years in Alice Springs and the last 11 in Darwin. I am a single mum of five children, two of which have moved out of home.

I started with the Australian Nursing Federation in mid May and am enjoying it immensely. I am dealing also with membership while Karen is on leave so if I can help with any membership issues please feel free to contact me. I look forward to meeting and assisting you in the future.



2010 Nurses Pocket Diaries

New 2010 pocket diaries are about to be printed. They will be sold at \$5.00 per diary. We have only ordered 750 diaries so you will need to be quick to reserve yourself a copy. We no longer have any 2009 diaries for sale. Similar nurses' diaries are being sold at newsagents for \$12.50, so this is a really fantastic offer.

Darwin Hospital Reunion

The reunion was an amazing success. It was a fantastic opportunity to re-establish old friendships from pre-cyclone Tracy days. Nurses and Midwives travelled from all around Australia to be part of this memorable event.

Collective Agreements	Current Situation
Frontier Services and Juninga CA	Awaiting agreement changes to correspond with the changes to WorkChoices.
Kormilda College	Finalised.
St Johns (Catholic Ed)	Bargaining has commenced.
Hetti Perkins	Re-establishing a Union Collective Agreement.
Congress (CAAC)	Draft agreement received, bargaining commencing shortly.
Miwatj	Met with nurses and management in July to advance and negotiated agreement.
ARCBS	Bargaining has commenced, awaiting second draft.
Darwin Private Hospital	Awaiting drafted document from DPH head office.

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