



Denis Blackford
NT Branch Secretary

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MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

Hello Colleagues,

Welcome to the December/January issue of the ANF NT newsletter.

This is last the NT newsletter I will be contributing to as Branch Secretary. The results of the Branch Secretary election saw Yvonne Falckh elected to a four year term (see election results page 2). I will be taking something called a holiday by the time you are reading this newsletter.

I have enjoyed my two and half years in the position. It has been the pinnacle of my long association with the ANF NT. The experience has enhanced my awareness of the challenges confronting nurses in the NT and nationally. The road ahead for the ANF NT will be very challenging. The new industrial relations legislation will insidiously infiltrate all aspects of the national work environment over the months and years ahead. I believe nursing will become less attractive as a profession as the erosion of conditions take effect in our sector.

Nurses, currently under pressure from the increasing demand for health services, insufficient resources to meet the demand and a lack education and training opportunities, will be unable to meet future demands without immediate effective intervention. The recently released Productivity Commission position paper into the Australian Health Workforce provides a glimmer of hope that there will be a national response to the problems that the ANF has highlighted for many years.

The Federal Government's *WorkChoices* Bill has been rushed through the House of Representatives with only a glimpse of a Senate Inquiry before being passed into

law prior to Christmas. I attended the national day of community action in Alice Springs, protesting the introduction of these new industrial relations laws. The high turn out of community and union members in Alice, was reflected across the country, sending a clear message to the Federal government that the community is now watching closely and will respond accordingly at the next election.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the ANF NT Branch Council and Executive and to the ANF NT Branch office staff. There have been significant challenges and changes facing the Branch during my time as Secretary. The support and insightful collaboration that the Council has provided to me during this time has enabled the Branch to reflect a much stronger and stable position than at any time in its history. It is my hope that that this stability will continue and that the new Secretary will also benefit. It has also been my privilege to work with two individuals, whom I believe to be amongst the hardest working and committed ANF staff members in the Federation; Angela Phillips (Branch Organiser) and Carol Hobson (Membership / Finance Officer). The realities of working in the smallest Branch in the ANF providing coverage to the largest geographical area, proportionally is totally daunting. Without the 150%+ commitment that is provided by everybody in the ANF NT team, the Branch would not be as connected to its membership as it is today. I sincerely thank Angela and Carol and wish them all the very best for the future.

So long...

Be well, be safe, Denis



MembersEquity
The Super Funds Bank

from the branch office



Organiser's Desk

Angela Phillips
angela.ntanf@octa4.net.au

Well Christmas is nearly upon us. It's hard to believe 2005 is almost over. It has been a busy year for the active ANF NT Job Delegates (JDs).

The JDs at Alice Spring Hospital have been exceptionally busy, dealing with decreased staffing levels and increased patients admissions. They have taken an active role in meeting with management to monitor and proactively find solutions to the daily issues facing members at the hospital.

Similarly, all other regional hospitals have experienced staff shortages with ANF members undertaking extra overtime shifts. This is not news to members who work in these areas. The same issues are affecting our colleagues around Australia.

It is time for members to act on workplace issues. ANF NT is always looking for Job Delegates in work areas to assist the Branch to defend and improve the conditions of our members.

Our Job Delegates will be pivotal to supporting the work of the ANF in the new industrial relations environment. The new laws seek to severely curb the activities of unions - in some cases preventing unions from entering workplaces. If you would like to consider becoming a Job Delegate please ring the ANF Organiser.

Remember the ANF Office or your JD can assist you with up-to-date pay and workplace conditions, Award or Certified Agreement enquiries, professional or industrial issues or in fact any query about nursing or we will point you in the right direction.

The ANF NT Branch office would like to extend a big thank you to the Job Delegates who have assisted the in the office and at the orientations throughout the year. Your assistance and continued support is greatly appreciated.

I wish you all a Happy Christmas and New Year

Dates to put in your diary 2005

- Darwin Job Delegate meeting and Christmas drinks
7 December 2005
- Alice Springs Monthly visit 13-15 December 2005
- Alice Springs Job Delegate meeting and Christmas drinks
4 December 2005

Dates to put in your diary 2006

Location	Date	Visiting Official
Alice Springs	Tues 17 January 2006	Organiser
	Weds 18 January 2006	
	Thur 19 January 2006	
	Thur 16 February 2006	Branch Secretary
	Weds 17 February 2006	
Central Australian Roadshow	Mon 13 March 2006 -	Organiser
	Friday 17 March 2006	
	Mon 3 April 2006	Organiser
	Friday 7 April 2006	
Alice Springs JD Training	Tues 4 April 2006 -	Organiser
	Thurs 6 April 2006	
	Thurs 11 May 2006	Branch Secretary
	Friday 12 May 2006	
	Tues 20 June 2006	Organiser
	Weds 21 June 2006	
	Thurs 22 June 2006	
	Tues 18 July 2006	Branch Secretary
	Weds 19 July 2006	
	Thurs 20 July 2006	
All other areas worksite visits will continue as per normal		

Australian Nursing Federation Northern Territory Job Delegates





ANF Biennial National Delegates Conference NT Delegates, 20-21 October 2005

The ANF Biennial National Delegates Conference (BNDC) Darwin 2005

Delegates from around Australia representing over 145,000 members met in Darwin on the 20th and 21st of October. While the conference heard presentations covering a range of contemporary nursing issues, the background theme for all delegates was the imminent changes to federal industrial relations legislation. The conference unanimously passed a resolution condemning the proposed changes and highlighting the negative impacts on nurses and nursing of the changes as they begin to take effect over the next few months and years. Delegates reflected to the ANF NT Branch that they enjoyed their Top End conference experience and the hospitality of the local environment. The next BNDC will be held in Melbourne in 2007.

ANF NT gains win on Zero Tolerance to Violence - 'no excuse for abuse' campaign

The ANF NT and the Department of Health and Community Services (DH&CS) have joined forces to launch a zero tolerance to violence against nurses campaign. The public awareness campaign highlights the DH&CS 'Zero Tolerance to Violence' policy and uses posters and badges to promote the message that violence against nurses is unacceptable.

The ANF NT views this as good start to raising community awareness on the issue and would like to see the campaign extended into the mainstream media. The campaign will be rolled out across all DH&CS service areas in the months ahead.

NTPS Certified Agreement Taskforce (NCAT)

Details of steering committee minutes and related information can be accessed through the Taskforce Newsletter circulated monthly and the NTG 'Intranet' website.

The ANF NT project Officer on the Taskforce, Kirstie Hawkins can be contacted at kirstie.hawkins@nt.gov.au or by phone on 8922 7025.

NTPS Nursing Career Structure Review (NCSR)

Attendance at recent NCSR steering committee meetings has been low. The Chair of the committee has circulated a memo seeking a recommitment from members. There is a requirement to have the work of the NCSR completed before the next NTPS EBA processes begin.



NT Branch Office Opening, NT Branch Secretary, Denis Blackford, with ANF Federal Secretary, Jill Iliffe

ANF NT Branch Secretary Election 2005

The ballot for the election closed on the 7th November. The results saw Yvonne Falchk elected.

1360 ballot papers were sent to eligible members to participate in the voluntary ballot Yvonne will begin her four year term in December.

Candidate	Votes
Yvonne Falchk	330
Denis Blackford	282

news briefs



National Enrolled Nurse Association (NENA) meeting October 2005
L-R, Lynda Maidens, Maryanne Craker (NENA) and Angela Phillips (ANF NT)

When contacting the Branch

When contacting the Branch for assistance or an enquiry, it assists us greatly if you can provide us with your ANF NT membership no. This can be found on your membership card provided at the time joining the Branch and it is also on the ANJ front address sheet that you receive each month as part of your membership.

We will get back to you!!

The ANF NT is the smallest and least resourced Branch in the Federation. Our small team, based in Darwin is responsible for the whole of the Territory. Consequently we get many contacts from nurses everywhere with a variety of requests for information and support. If we are not there to take your call at the time, do not hesitate to leave a message. We will respond and acknowledge your message within a reasonable time frame. Our goal is to get back to you within 24 hours. If it is a work conditions related matter, your employer is obligated to provide this to you in the first instance. You never know they could have the answer? Nevertheless we will always respond if you contact us...



National Industrial Relations changes

For more information consult the ANF website www.anf.org.au, and the ACTU website www.actu.asn.au. Look out for and be a part of the national campaign in the months ahead.

Exit letter copy to the ANF

Leaving your job or thinking of leaving your job, because of issues with your employer and/or workplace? Why not send a copy of your resignation letter describing your concerns and reasons for leaving. This will allow us to develop a data base of evidence informing the debate about the reasons why nurses are not staying in the NT. Great information to put before employers - particularly at EBA times. Our fax no. is (08) 89454 171, email angela.ntanf@octa4.net.au

Professional Indemnity Insurance (PII) - Registration Requirements

Recent changes to NT legislation pertaining to nurses means that it is now a requirement of registration with the Health Professionals Licensing Authority (new version of the NT Nurse Board) to indicate that nurses have adequate professional indemnity insurance. ANF membership covers most nurses in employment with its PII cover. Nurses who work in some private contract arrangements earning more than \$20,000pa are not covered.

Disclaimer

The ANF NT bears no responsibility for particular outcomes for members through contacting any service advertised in this newsletter.

Australian Nursing Federation Northern Territory Job Delegates

