



Yvonne Falckh
NT Branch Secretary

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MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

The time has come for you to elect the Branch Secretary to take you through the next four years. I have put my hand up to be elected for another term to further consolidate and build on what I have achieved over the last four years. I am passionate about nurses and midwives being recognised as the best in Australia. I am very pleased that public sector nurses have received wage increases of greater than 24% over my four year period, some increases have been as high as 32% over the same period. A number of Non Government Organisations employing nurses and midwives have or will be considering wages with parity to the public sector nurses. This is a great win for those nurses and midwives.

A 60% membership increase over the past four years has allowed the branch to employ a part time organiser in Alice Springs as well as offer scholarships to members.

Reviews

A number of reviews have been conducted by the Department of Health and Families and relevant consultants. The following is a brief summation of where things are at, at the time this insert was being written. ANF NT is concerned about the waste in employing consultants to perform reviews, if the outcomes are not seriously considered and implemented.

Fringe Benefits

Consultants have been reviewing the possibility of non acute nurses and midwives accessing the same fringe benefits as their colleagues working in hospital settings, as per Clause 42 of the NTPS Nurses' 2008-2011 Union Collective Agreement. At this time the ANF believe the review by the consultants has been completed and is with the executive of DHF. The ANF NT has made requests for the report to be made available to advise our members of the outcomes of the review. As of this moment this report has not surfaced. The Minister has also been made aware of this.

Isolated Nursing Incentive Packages

Clause 52 of the NTPS Nurses' 2008-2011 Union Collective Agreement, discusses that the parties will hold further discussions on implementation of incentive packages for remote nurses. ANFNT believe that a preliminary package has been drafted by DHF and sent to the Commissioner for Public Employment (OCPE). The ANF nor RANs at this stage have sighted the preliminary package nor have they had any input into the development of the package.



MembersEquity
The Super Funds Bank



from the branch office

Message From The Secretary (continued)

Nursing Resource Consultant Review

As per Clause 30 of the NTPS Nurses' 2008-2011 Union Collective Agreement, reviews in the two major hospitals have been completed with ASH implementing some of the suggested changes. RDH have stalled at implementing the recommended outcomes of the review due to cost implications. The other smaller hospitals are about to undergo NRC reviews in their relevant hospitals.

The ANF NT will need to closely monitor the progress of these reviews and if the DHF is not forthcoming with the appropriate communication and action, the ANF NT will do what ever is required to further the progress of these reviews.



Senior Organiser Report

Angela Phillips | Organiser1@anfnt.org.au

Fair Work Act

ANF NT Branch will be running a series of workshops in regards to the new Fairwork Act. Dates and time are yet to be decided but Branch Secretary Yvonne Falckh would like to run them over the next five months. So keep an eye out for the workshops. We will send out information through your Job Delegate. You can access fact sheets from the ANF office, ANF Job Delegates and you can visit the official Fair Work Australia website at www.fwa.gov.au.

Pay office

ANF is aware that some nurses are still experiencing delays when ringing the pay office help line. What Yvonne Falckh has discovered when investigating the delays is that there is a high volume of calls received from pay day Thursday to the following Monday. The pay office has stated the following:

“These wait times have improved significantly over the last few weeks as we have made some technical and resource changes, and will continue to improve as the service matures. Please reassure your members that they certainly have the right and accessibility to talk to a Payroll employee whenever they want to. The Payroll management group is committed to continuously improving the services offered to payees and we are reviewing our processes during the pilot period of the Service Centre.”

Job Delegates

If your work area does not have a Job Delegate nominate yourself or a colleague nomination forms are available from the ANF office. This is a great opportunity for you to learn about advocacy on behalf of your colleagues, human resources, and industrial relations.



Right: ANF NT Branch Job Delegates in Training

| Dates to Remember | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Event | Date | Visiting Official |
| ROADSHOWS | | |
| Central Australia | October 6th - 8th | Secretary/Organiser |
| Fair Work Australia Workshops | 2009-2010 : Dates to be decided | Secretary/Organiser |

from the branch office



Industrial Organiser's Report

Wendy Coleman | organiser2@anfnt.org.au

Hi I would like to introduce myself, my name is Wendy Coleman and I commenced employment with the ANF NT Branch as an Industrial Organiser at the beginning of August. Some of my background - I am married with three grown up children and five grandchildren. I previously worked for the Community and Public Sector Union from January 2007 to July 2009 as a Field Organiser. Before that I worked in several different jobs for the NT Education department for 18 and a half years, with the last nine and a half years in a primary school in the rural area of Bees Creek where I was the workplace delegate.

Since commencing with the ANF NT I have spoken to quite a few members as well as non members and met some of the Darwin Job Delegates and look forward to meeting more of you at the Job Delegate Training in late September. I would also like to add that the ANF NT office is a well run machine by the Branch Secretary Yvonne Falckh.

I have found something since I started that is of great concern to me. The number of nurses that call our office with very serious issues and I discover that they are not members. We all need to discuss and remind our colleagues of the importance of membership not only for negotiation but also to get assistance when these serious incidents happen. One way to look at your membership is that it is insurance for your job and I don't know of any insurance company that would insure your house after it burnt down. So I ask that at every opportunity you get to encourage and remind colleagues that membership to the ANF NT is in their best interest. Remember that there is power in numbers, so the more members we have the better bargaining power we have.

I work four days per week and can be contacted via email at organiser2@anfnt.org.au and by phone on (08) 8920 0705 or 0417 834 645.



Campaign Organiser's Report

Steve Buethke | campaignorganiser@anfnt.org.au

Hopefully everyone has now heard about the *Because We Care – Quality Care For Older Australians* campaign that has been running nationally since March this year. The first stage of the campaign has been very successful with community events, media, and interaction with politicians and over 13,000 charters being signed as well as hundreds of e-mails to the minister. The fantastic effort has already produced results with \$43.8M being allocated to skills training in Aged Care.

The second stage of the campaign is well underway now with the ANF launching a national postcard campaign so that you can send a message directly to your MP or Senator. The ANF NT branch has distributed postcards to all the Aged Care facilities throughout the Northern Territory and has received a good amount of support and postcards back. It would be fantastic to have all 1800 of our members sending in postcards or e-mails to show their support for their colleagues in Aged Care. Anyone can obtain postcards directly from the ANF office, the *Because We Care* website at www.becausewecare.org.au or in the ANJ. We have also set up a display at the RSL Services and Social Club located in Cavenagh Street.

news briefs

Campaign Organiser's Report (continued)

Another way to show your support and keep up to date about the campaign and events is to join the *Because We Care* Facebook group, the link is available on the BWC website. The group has nearly 1500 members and is a great way to get information and share stories with other people.

It is important to remember that the quality of care for older Australians heading into the future remains a community concern so I encourage you to ask your family, friends and work mates to also support this campaign in any way they can.

I look forward to driving this campaign forward under the direction of Branch Secretary Yvonne Falckh whose enthusiasm is extremely infectious.



Know Your Job Delegate

Cheryl Kerr, Job Delegate, Nightcliff Renal Unit

I have been a Job Delegate at Nightcliff Renal Unit for five Years. I have lived in Darwin for 22 years and I am married with two children and four grandchildren. I have worked in the Renal unit for 16 years. I have recently applied to do my diploma in Enrolled Nursing.

It has been a fruitful journey of discovery both as a JD and EN into the different aspects the role as JD brings. I look forward to continuing in this role and broadening my knowledge.

Membership Report

Karen Gotts (nee Shepherd) | membership@anfnt.org.au

We are very excited to be implementing a new, more efficient, membership system. Members who currently pay their fees by periodic credit card deduction should have received a letter outlining the changes to processing dates by now, but just in case, the changes are detailed below.

Periodic Credit Card Payments will now be processed on the first business day of the month in which your subscription is due.

If you have any questions please call (08) 8920 0702. Some delays in dealing with your enquiry may be inevitable during the transition period, and your patience is appreciated.

| Collective Agreements | Current Situation |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Frontier Services and Juninga CA | Awaiting agreement changes to correspond with the changes to WorkChoices and nurses Log of Claims. |
| St Johns (Catholic Ed) | Bargaining near completion. |
| Hetti Perkins | Re-establishing a Union Collective Agreement. |
| Congress (CAAC) | Bargaining commenced. |
| Miwatj | Draft agreement has been received and currently being reviewed. |
| ARCBS | Bargaining finalized – ready for vote. |
| Darwin Private Hospital | Awaiting draft agreement from DPH head office. Delays have occurred from Healthscope head office. |
| Urapuntja (Utopia) | A draft agreement has been made available by management to the ANF. |