
*Setting up at UC*

The day wasn't without incident, Neil Skipper receives treatment for a minor burn while cooking the BBQ. Luckily there were nurses available for treatment. A large number of students signed up on the day, especially those that received sage advice from Branch Councillor and Workplace Delegate Nancy Smith who volunteered her time to help on the day. At the students seemed to be on a bit of a Lenten diet all of the leftovers from the sizzle were donated to OzHarvest. The ACT ANF looks forward to holding more student based events at UC, CIT and other Nursing and Midwifery educational institutions as the occasions arise.

On the day the ACT ANF was joined by Neil Skipper from ME Bank and Elaine Lawler from HESTA who sponsored the costs of the event.

A special thank you to Nancy Smith, Neil Skipper, Elaine Lawler and the staff from the Nursing faculty at UC.

Tuesday 13 March saw ACTANF hosting a BBQ for students at the Canberra Institute of Technology.

Students at both sessions were keen to sign the Because We Care Aged Care petitions on the day.

ACTANF would like to thank staff & students @ Canberra Institute of Technology.

NOTICE BOARD
Are you interested in taking part in a research project through UC.
“Mental Health Nursing Care with people of diverse sexuality and/or gender.”
Trish Kench RN
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Discipline of Nursing and Midwifery
Faculty of Health
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The Collective Perspective

The ACT ANF Branch Council & staff are proud to announce that the ACTANF has well and truly exceeded its 2000th member goal! The 2000th member is Jennifer Mossard (right) who works in Medical Imaging at the Canberra Hospital. She was recruited by Trudy Jamieson (left). A ceremony to welcome Jennifer Mossard and congratulate Trudy Jamieson was held on Friday 9 March. Like the Federal ANF, the ACT ANF is a vibrant and growing union, but it is only as strong as its committed members. On behalf of the ACT ANF Branch, the Branch Council, ACT ANF members and staff, CONGRATULATIONS! The ACTANF thanks all members for their ongoing commitment to their profession and to the ACT ANF Branch.

ACTANF WELCOMES 2000th MEMBER

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From the Branch Secretary

It seems that no sooner are Christmas and New Year celebrations over, it is time to commence planning for Easter. These times of year also often coincide with school holidays. Often members experience difficulty in securing approval for leave at these peak times and this year, for nurses and midwives working at the Canberra Hospital, it would appear that this difficulty has been exacerbated by the ACT Government’s Capital Infrastructure building program.

Annual leave provisions are a basic workplace right which have been long fought for by unions over time. Annual leave ensures that a degree of work life balance can be met, fatigue management assured and rest and relaxation guaranteed. Members are encouraged to participate in equitable leave planning with management in the first instance. However, if members experience difficulty in securing leave approval and consider that they may have suffered unfair discrimination, or not had the merits of their application equitably considered, they are encouraged to contact the ACT ANF for assistance in advocating on their behalf.

Workplace Delegate (WPD) training will be held on 12 and 13 April 2012. WPDs will have an opportunity to increase their knowledge and understanding of the ACT ANF, their role and function, and update their knowledge and skills, particularly in respect of changes to Occupational Health and Safety legislation. WPDs are an important part of the ACT ANF and remain the first contact point for members within the workplace.

The ACT ANF Organiser, Liam Fuller, will continue to visit workplaces as requested throughout 2012. If you consider that your workplace would benefit from a visit from the ACT ANF, please contact the office on 62829455 and speak with Liam to arrange a site visit. The ACT ANF continues to be represented at a number of orientation programs held in ACT workplaces and conducted an information opportunity and sausage sizzle for nursing students at the University of Canberra and the Canberra Institute of Technology.

Public Sector Workplace Consultative Committees (WCs) will again be convened under clause 156 in the new Enterprise Agreement. WCs are collaborative forums and focus on local issues. Issues likely to have agency wide implications or unable to be resolved at WCC level are referred to the Agency Consultative Committee. Interested members who would like to have a say in the decisions which have a direct impact on your workplace and the issues faced by you and your colleagues are encouraged to contact the ACT ANF at: actanf@actanf.org.au or on: 62829455.

As the News in Brief summary confirms, the industrial program of the branch continues. A number of Collective Agreements are currently under negotiation or nearing completion. Although the ACT Public Sector Nursing and Midwifery Agreement was approved by Fair Work Australia in February this year and the pay increases associated with the agreement paid in March, due to the short duration of this Agreement, preparations are well underway to gain survey members to determine their priorities in any future replacement agreement. Although the ACT Public Sector generally sets the benchmark for nursing and midwifery pay and conditions within the ACT, all members will be asked to participate in this consultation so that individual workplace issues can also be identified.

There are no guarantees when it comes to bargaining for fair and equitable pay and conditions. Sometimes members do need to be prepared to stand and fight, not just for themselves but also for their patients. The recent disputes in NSW and Victoria, although settled, have strengthened the resolve of ACT ANF members and have been instrumental in maintaining a safe workplace environment for staff and a safe clinical environment for patients. Nurses: Patient ratios ensure that there are sufficient skilled staff available to deliver the care required by patients.

With the introduction of Nursing Hours per Patient Day within the ACT Public Sector, it is hoped that safe working and clinical environments will also be achieved.

Members need to be vigilant in ensuring that their legitimate workplace rights are maintained: be that sufficient skilled staff to meet the workload; the ability to take legitimate tea, meal and rest breaks; work within rosters that are published on time, not changed without notice and consent, comply with rostering guidelines that provide a fair and equitable distribution of shifts and which do not promote fatigue; and access accrued leave when and where it is required. These are your legitimate entitlements. Exercise them!

Yours in solidarity

Jenny Miragaya
Secretary

“THE COLLECTIVE MUCH STRONGER THAN THE INDIVIDUAL.”

News In Brief

Because We Care — About Aged Care

The Because We Care campaign continues. Members are again encouraged to access the website and add their voice to the BWC campaign: http://www.becausewecare.org.au/index.html

Members are also encouraged to contact your local member, either Gai Brodtmann in the Electorate of Canberra, or Andrew Leigh in the Electorate of Fraser, and remind them that Aged Care Can’t Wait. A petition addressed to Mr Leigh indicating that the 2012 Federal budget needs to be the Aged Care budget is available through the ACT ANF office.

ENTERPRISE BARGAINING UPDATE

Public Sector Agreement

Approved by FWA on 7 February with effect from 14 February 2012 and date of effect from 1 July 2011. Pay increases and associated back pay adjustment applied from 1 March 2012.

Uniting Care

Endorsed by members on 16 January 2012 and is currently out for consideration by employees.

Salvation Army

The ACT ANF has provided comments on the proposed draft Agreement to Aged Care Services and is awaiting a response from ACS.

QEII

Management aware of the approval of the Public Sector Agreement and the impact this will have on negotiations.

Calvary Private

Negotiations continue. Last meeting held 16 February 2012.

CJH

A draft agreement was provided to the ACT ANF for consideration on 26 February 2012. The next negotiation meeting is scheduled for 2 March 2012.

Baptist Care Services

The Agreement has been approved by Fair Work Australia.

The Aged Care Multi-Enterprise Agreement (Adria, St Nicholas, St Andrews, Freemasons, Villaggio St Antonio)

The Draft agreement was responded to by the ACT ANF on 1 February 2012.

Morshead Home

The ACT ANF has provided comments on the proposed draft Agreement to Aged Care Services and is awaiting a response from ACS. A meeting with members was held 15 March 2012.