



# SIGNificance

Volume 1, Issue 1

October 2009

## Message from Editor

Welcome to **SIGNificance** the first ever issue of the Aged Care Nurses Special Interest Group.

As the executive of the group we are keen to keep members informed of events taking place as they occur and also to invite you to participate by taking advantage of the new grants we have launched, contributing to the Newsletter, sharing your news or experiences and by supporting the **BECAUSE WE CARE CAMPAIGN**.

The title of the Newsletter refers to the significant role we play in the

lives of the people we care for. Whatever our job descriptions and wherever we practice, our work makes all the difference to the frail, elderly members of our community. As a group, we can make an invaluable contribution towards building a better Aged Care system, where working conditions are improved and the quality of care we deliver can be assured.

We envisage publishing 4 issues a year and look forward to your feedback.

## **A**GED CARE NURSES

Special Interest Group ANF (Vic Branch)

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## Membership Memo

This year we have introduced an annual renewal date for membership of the Group. This is to ensure membership is current in order to be eligible for grant applications. The annual renewal date is 30<sup>th</sup> November. Cost of membership remains at \$30.00

We have also introduced **FREE MEMBERSHIPS** to ACNSIG of one year to those who join the ANF. Please feel free to invite your work colleagues to apply if they are not already members.

Membership entitles you to the Newsletter, grant applications including \$100.00 towards the

cost of transport, accommodation and conference fees for members from the country, discounted fees for seminars/workshops/conferences and the chance to network with colleagues in the industry to share experiences and concerns.

General meetings are held several times a year, usually after a conference or seminar to reduce the need for extra time and travel. We know how busy life can be for our members whose jobs are so demanding and often exhausting. Notification of these will appear in the newsletter and website/email. Otherwise meetings are held in cafes/pubs and lunch is on us.

For further information, please contact ACN SIG Committee on:

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## Activities: Exciting and New

Because we are proud of being Aged Care workers who are members of the Aged Care Nurses Special Interest Group, we would like to produce a badge that lets everybody know. But what should the badge say? To get as many ideas as possible, we are asking you to send in your suggestions. Suggestions so far are “Honouring Our Elders”, “Our

Work is Caring” “Proud to Care”.

The winner of the most catchy and suitable suggestion will receive a prize on selection. So crank up the creative corner of your brain and send in your thoughts. We will publish all entries and you will be asked to vote on your preference.

## Industry Visits

We are planning a list of visits in the New Year to broaden our experience of industries related to our work. These include visiting John Allison Monkhouse for education/training in Grief and Loss, the role of a Funeral Director, and Embalming.

Wound care product manufacturers such as Smith and Nephew.

It has also been suggested that we arrange visits to each others workplaces which may be a wonderful way of encouraging comradeship.

Visiting the Coroner’s Court, and

**Four new grants of \$500.00 are available to successful applicants undertaking Medication Endorsement Study**

## Aged Care Nurses SIG Grants

Four new grants of \$500.00 are available to successful applicants undertaking Medication Endorsement or further study related to medication in the Aged Care setting.

Up to 10 grants of \$100.00 are on offer to defray the cost of travel, accommodation and fees for country members attending conferences relating to Aged Care issues in Melbourne. Please note. All applicants must be current financial members.

## News—Alzheimer Study

Australians are leading the world in a new study that will test whether physical activity can improve the memory and wellbeing of Alzheimer’s disease sufferers. The three year study started in August and participants are still needed in

Melbourne. If you know of anyone who would like to participate in this research project please call 8387232.

## News—Dementia Education Online

is a new specialized information and training website targeted at any undergraduate student who wants to learn about dementia. Its modular structure allows users to work through the modules on their own or in a supportive environment under guide of and

academic or teacher. Visit the website on <http://dementia.uow.edu.au/>

## News—Australian Government Scholarship Scheme

Under the Aged Care Nursing Scholarship Scheme, applicants can receive funding to support them in undertaking continuing education at undergraduate or postgraduate level. The scheme is administered by the Royal College

of Nursing Australia (RCNA) and aims to address workforce shortages. Those interested should contact RCNA on 1800 116 696 or visit [www.rcna.org.au](http://www.rcna.org.au)

## Because We Care Campaign

On Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September Ged Kearney, Federal Secretary of the Australian Nursing Federation addressed the National Press Club. In this speech she gave an overview of the state of Aged Care in Australia today emphasizing the conditions under which staff are providing care to our frail elderly residents who deserve a better system. The purpose of this address was to introduce the campaign the ANF has launched to bring about these necessary reforms “BECAUSE WE CARE”. The main points of the Campaign are

1. The right balance of skills and nursing hours so that nursing and care staff can provide quality care for every resident.
2. Fair pay for aged care nurses and care staff who are paid up to \$300 less per week than nurses in other sectors.

3. Recognition of the professional skills of Assistants in Nursing and care staff through a national licensing system.

A guarantee that taxpayer funding is used for nursing and personal care for each resident.

For more information about the Address and the BECAUSE WE CARE Campaign, log on to ANF (Vic Branch)

The Campaign has now entered its 2<sup>nd</sup> stage which involves an “**Around the Block**” postcard drop to inform those in our neighborhoods of our concerns.

At our next general meeting, we shall be discussing this and how we as a group can assist.

**For more information about the Because we Care Campaign, log onto [www.becausewe care.org.au](http://www.becausewe care.org.au)**





## **CARE NURSES**

Special Interest Group  
ANF (Vic Branch)

### **Aged Care Nurses Special Interest Group ANF (Vic Branch)**

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## **SIG Bits**

At present Victoria has 7,663 residential places available. Grant Thorntons 2008 Aged Care Survey found that Aged care facilities built before 2000 had an average pre-tax profit of \$1,036.00 whilst newer facilities averaged a loss of \$584.00 per bed. One fifth of the loss making facilities reported deficits of \$1million or more.

## **Up and Coming Events at ANF Conference Centre, 540 Elizabeth St, Melbourne**

**Fairwork Seminars**  
30 October and 20 November 2009

**2009 Aged Care Conference**  
27 November

**Aged Care Nurses Special Interest Group Annual General Meeting**  
30 October at 5pm after Fair Work Seminar. All Welcome!

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**We're on the web:**

**[www.anfvic.asn.au](http://www.anfvic.asn.au)**