



SiGnificance

Issue 2

April 2010



Message from the Editor

Welcome to the first issue of our Newsletter for 2010.

Significance was launched in October of last year and hopes to become an instrument of communication for members of the AGED CARE NURSES SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP. We look forward to your feedback and for articles, news items, jokes anything that helps us in our important work.

Our first General Meeting of the year took place at the ANF on March 11 at 2pm.

Notices were sent out by hard mail and by email. Sadly, attendance by members was disappointing especially as our new executive is really keen to revive the group given that pressure on Aged Care workers has never been as great with changes

occurring in training, registration, practice and of course work load. Of enormous importance is national campaign run by the ANF "BECAUSE WE CARE" as it provides an opportunity for Aged Care workers of all levels to voice their concerns about the quality of care expected and conditions under which we try to deliver that care. The executive realizes the difficulty of getting away to attend a meeting and it's hard enough to set a date where members are free. However, with only 4 meetings planned for the year, we ask that you avail yourself of this opportunity to meet with members to discuss issues concerning our work.

Our next meeting is scheduled for May 26th at 2pm, ANF House.

AGED CARE NURSES

Special Interest Group ANF (Vic Branch)

Inside this issue:

Membership Memo	1
Activities	1
Because we Care Campaign	2
Alzheimers Australia	2
Link IT	3
Forthcoming Events	3
International Nurses Day	3
Upcoming Education Session	4

Membership Memo

Remember that to access any of the benefits of the ACNSIG, you have to hold current membership the cost of which is still \$30.00 and has an annual renewal date of 30th November.

Membership entitles you to the newsletter, grant applications in-

cluding \$100.00 towards the cost of transport, accommodation and conference fees for members from the country, discounted fees for seminars/workshops and the chance to network with colleagues in the industry to share experiences and concerns.

Activities

We have had some excellent responses to our BADGE COMPETITION and there is still time for more suggestions. So get your thinking caps on and send in your

thoughts. Ideally the words or image needs to be very brief but powerful, reflecting Aged care in general.

For further information, please contact ACN SIG Committee on:

Erica Kurec (Chairperson)
kurec@optusnet.com.au

Swarupa Sridharan (Secretary)
swarupa.sridharan@gmail.com

Lilian Rivero (Treasurer)
lilian.rivero@hotmail.com

Because We Care Campaign—Action

These next few months are critical if we are to make an impact on the Government to address funding issues in the May Budget. With this in mind, at our first general meeting we were to consider how we as a group can contribute to the campaign. The discussion was stalled due to lack of numbers, however three members of the executive accompanied ANF (Vic) staff, Mark Staaf and Yvonne Chaperon to deliver two giant postcards filled with signatures to the office of the Minister for Health and Ageing Nicola Roxon in Maribyrnong.

On March 18th the executive attended Carex2010 at Caulfield RaceCourse and handed out Campaign material to attendants at the Expo. The ANF stall had many visitors who took away ACN-SIG Membership Brochures as well as Campaign PostCards.

On Feb.3rd, a delegation of Aged Care Nurses and ANF executive members traveled to Parliament House Canberra to lobby Federal MPs and senators to make this year's Budget one which addresses the serious issues facing our ageing population, both current and prospective.

As president of the ACNSIG I was invited to represent Victoria and with Yvonne Chaperon flew to Canberra for the day. I took with me an album I had put together featuring photographs with short biographies of some of the residents at my facility as a gift for

the Hon Justine Elliott Minister For Ageing, wanting to show something of nature of our work and the people we care for. I also included photos of staff dressed in national costume during our Annual Multicultural week and other events staff had organized to create interest within our care community. Fortunately, we were able to meet with Minister Elliott and she accepted the album. Another highlight for me was meeting the Member for Deakin, Mike Symon, Anna Burke, Member for Chisholm and Mark Dreyfus QC, Member for Isaacs. All were keenly interested in talking about Aged Care issues and invited me to remain in contact with them for support.

Since returning, articles in local papers have appeared because of the CAMPAIGN which we hope will further our cause.

In a letter following my presentation of the Album and enclosed letter, Justine Elliot stated that 'The Rudd Government is strongly committed to supporting affordable access to aged services for all Australians (and) funding to aged care has increased by nearly 20%. Over the next 4 years the Government will provide a record \$44 billion in direct financial support for aged and community care providers who care for older Australians.'

She also states the Productivity Commission will be conducting a public inquiry into the needs of older Australians over the next 20 years.

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

Alzheimers Australia

Alzheimers Australia is running a few free workshops covering some of the following topics:

- Introduction to dementia and Services
- Managing Change

- Mild Cognitive Impairment
- The caring role—A compassionate approach

Contact details:
edu@alzvic.asn.au

Link—it

Here are some useful links for your information.

Mike.Symon.MP@aph.gov.au

Federal Labor Member for Deakin

Mark.dreyfus.mp@aph.gov.au

Federal Labor Member for Isaacs

<http://npcsu.comuniogroup.com/>

For information about the National Palliative Care Strategy (NPCS) which was founded to support people at all stages of life and at end of life to die well with appropriate care and support. The Strategy will undergo a review between March and May 2010, occurring in 2 phases which can be accessed via the above link.

www.agedcareinsite.com.au

Industry site to access the latest information in Aged Care News.

www.culturaldiversity.com.au

Deals with matters pertaining to cultural and linguistic aspects of Aged Care.

Dept. Health and Ageing: Post-graduate community Aged Care Nursing Scholarship Scheme (Additional Scholarship Rounds open for Aged Care Nurses.Pdf)

“A Good Death in Residential Aged Care” by Diana Cooper and Melanie Rayner . A 36 page document detailing the End of Life pathway and delivery of best care.

Residential Aged Care Services: Aged Care in Victoria.

Victorian Government site for Health Information.

Forthcoming Events

The Inaugural International Advance Care Planning Conference 22-24 April 2010 Melbourne.

“Advance Care Planning Working Towards Success and Sustainability” Presented in partnership with Austin Health.

International Nurses Day

International Nurses Day is on 12th May this year. Let’s celebrate our honourable and esteemed profession with pride. Some ideas include bringing in student uniforms, photos of early days of our career, throwing a

lunch at the workplace or an evening get together exchanging nursing tales

**International
Nurses Day
Wednesday
12 May
2010**

AGED

CARE NURSES

Special Interest Group
ANF (Vic Branch)

Aged Care Nurses Special Interest Group ANF (Vic Branch)

C/- The Australian Nursing Federation
540 Elizabeth Street
Melbourne Vic 3000

Phone: 9275 9333
Fax: 9275 9344
E-mail: records@anfvic.asn.au

Upcoming Education Session for ACNSIG Members

At John Allison/Monkhouse - Training for professional carers.
Date - Wednesday 23 June 2010.
Session is Free and runs from 9.15am to 3.30pm at 124 Carpenter Street, Brighton.

The topic covered are as follows;

- care of the deceased
- transfer needs
- embalmer's role
- care of the family
- some religious and cultural needs
- Information on loss and grief.

**This will be a very interesting and educational program.
I encourage you to book your place ASAP.**



Pictured at the Aged Care Meeting from left to right:
Lilian Rivero (Treasurer) Swarupa Sridharan (Secretary)
Alan Jennings (member).

We're on the web:

www.anfvic.asn.au