



March / April 2010

THE INJURED NURSES SUPPORT GROUP

PATRON: JUDITH DURHAM, OAM

INSG March 2010 Meeting

Date: Tuesday, 16 March 2010
Time: 11.00am
Location: 2nd Floor Boardroom, ANF House, 540 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne
Speaker: Julia Suban, RTW Project Officer, ANF (Vic Branch), will discuss outcomes from the ANF (Vic Branch) Nurses Return to Work in Hospitals Project

INSG April 2010 Meeting

Date: Tuesday, 20 April 2010
Time: 11.00am
Location: 2nd Floor Boardroom, ANF House, 540 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne
Speaker: Rebecca Dal Pra, Ryan Carlisle Thomas, will discuss the *2010 Accident Compensation Act* changes

I will be there for those meetings at 10.45am so that members can individually raise matters with me prior to the commencement of the meetings.

INSG 2010 Meeting Dates

Our other 2010 meetings will be held on:

Tuesday, 18 May
Tuesday, 15 June
Tuesday, 20 July
Tuesday, 17 August
Tuesday, 21 September
Tuesday, 19 October
Tuesday, 16 November
Tuesday, 21 December

THE NURSES RETURN TO WORK IN HOSPITALS PROJECT

Julia Suban, RTW Project Officer, ANF (Vic Branch), will discuss the Project outcomes at our March meeting.

The aim of the three year project was to identify barriers to and factors for successful return to work of nurses injured or ill through work in hospitals.

Postal address: ANF (Vic Branch) Box 12600 A'Beckett Street PO, MELBOURNE VIC 8006
SUPPORTING INJURED NURSES ♦ PAIN & INJURY MANAGEMENT
♦ RETURN TO WORK PROGRAMS ♦ WORKCOVER ♦ MEDICO-LEGAL ISSUES
♦ RETRAINING/REHABILITATION ♦ INTERPERSONAL PROBLEMS

This Project was conducted by the ANF in partnership with the Victorian Hospitals' Industry Association (VHIA), and with the support of the INSG and Dr Helen Sutcliffe.

Materials from the Project available at www.nursesrtw.com.au include information for injured or ill nurses on rehabilitation and return to work including:

- Lodging a workers compensation claim
- Entitlements as an injured nurse
- Career planning for injured and / or ill nurses

ACCIDENT COMPENSATION AMENDMENT

Rebecca Dal Pra from Ryan Carlisle Thomas in April will discuss the changes to Workers Compensation legislation under the Government's legislative amendments which are on the Legislative Council's 9 March 2010 Notice Paper.

The key implementation dates for the new arrangements are:

- 5 April 2010 – Benefits, including stress restrictions
- 1 July 2010 – Return to Work

The amendments include a number of improved benefits outlined in the September October 2009 INSG Newsletter, including increased:

- weekly payments after 13 weeks of 80% of pre-injury average weekly earnings (up from 75%)
- maximum compensation weekly payments of \$1,754 (up from \$1,300)

The main problems with the Bill are with:

- a. Stress injury
- b. Return to Work (RTW)

a. STRESS INJURY

Compensation would not be available for workers suffering stress related injuries caused by 'management action' taken on reasonable grounds in a reasonable manner.

The Brumby Government amendments would provide that:

- any one or more management actions would preclude a worker obtaining compensation.
- the scope of management action which excludes compensation entitlements is not limited

b. RETURN TO WORK (RTW)

Employer RTW obligations would be reduced for:

1. Employment
2. RTW Plans
3. Occupational Rehabilitation Programs
4. RTW Co-ordinators

National OHS Arrangements

The schedule for the new arrangements is to replace the Victorian and the State OHS Acts and regulations by the end of 2011 are:

Model Work Health and Safety Act

1. December 2009 – Bill endorsed by Workplace Relations Ministers Council (WRMC) subject to technical and drafting amendments
2. 29 April 2010 – SafeWork Australia to consider amended draft of the Model Act

Model Work Health and Safety Regulations

1. June 2010 – SafeWork Australia's Strategic Issues Group on OHS (SIG – OHS) will have been provided with a first draft of all matters to be subject to regulations
2. September 2010 – SafeWork Australia is to be provided with an Exposure Draft on the OHS Regulations for approval – eg manual tasks, amenities, plant
3. Once approved by SafeWork Australia, the Regulations will be provided to the WRMC for endorsement so the Regulations can be released for four months for public comment

Victorian Nurses Health Program (VNHP)

The VNHP offers:

- information, referral services, individual sessions, support groups and screening for mental health issues
- case management for nurses with substance use concerns

The VNHP Rural and Regional service commenced in October 2009 in Ballarat, Shepparton and Traralgon.

- The VNHP can be contacted Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.00pm on 03 9415 7551 or e-mail can be sent via their website www.vnhp.org.au

ANF (Vic Branch) OHS Conferences

The ANF (Vic Branch) will conduct an extensive range of Conferences and Seminars in 2010.

Details are available at www.anfvic.asn.au

ANF (Vic Branch) Stop the Violence Conference

The ANF (Vic Branch) *Stop the Violence Conference* will be held on Thursday, 20 May 2010 to explore the prevention of violence and aggression in health care.

ANF (Vic Branch) Working Hours, Shifts and Fatigue Seminar

The ANF (Vic Branch) *Working Hours, Shifts and Fatigue* seminar will be held on Thursday, 6 May 2010. This new seminar will cover:

- Impact of nurses' working hours on health
- Prevention of fatigue

ANF (Vic Branch) SOS – Stop Occupational Stress Seminar

The ANF (Vic Branch) *SOS – Stop Occupational Stress* seminar will be held on Tuesday, 22 June May 2010. This seminar will cover the causes, impacts and prevention of workplace stress.

INSG Webpage

The INSG Webpage with details of upcoming meetings, the INSG membership application form and contacts for members is at www.anfvic.asn.au/sigs

Contact Karen or Annie

1300 760 602 (Monday to Friday 10:00am – 5:00pm)

This is the number for INSG members. The landline caller cost is the local call cost. Mobile charges depend on the mobile contract

Regards

Karen