



May / June 2010

## THE INJURED NURSES SUPPORT GROUP

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PATRON: JUDITH DURHAM, OAM

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### Farewell and Best Wishes

I am resigning from the ANF Committee in July 2010. I will remain busy with my family.

It has been an honor for me to have been the INSG President since 2008 after a number of years on the Committee.

My thanks go to the INSG Committee and to other INSG Members for your co-operation in our work while I have been President of our Group.

We have together provided valuable help for nurses and midwives who have been injured or ill as a result of their work.

The INSG has also spoken up for injured and ill nurses.

We have maintained valuable links with other organisations which help injured and ill nurses.

My thanks to the ANF (Vic Branch) and our other supporters for their assistance.

I was fortunate to represent the INSG on 23 March when the Governor-General, Ms Quentin Bryce, opened the ANF Carson Conference Centre at ANF House. The INSG appreciates the use of the facilities at ANF House for our meetings and workshops.

Our meetings will now be held in the new Boardroom on the third floor of ANF House.

The Committee in June will discuss the selection of the new President.

### INSG May 2010 Meeting

**Date:** Tuesday, 18 May 2010

**Time:** 11.00am

**Location:** 3rd Floor Boardroom, ANF House, 540 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne

**Speaker:** Marcia Gleeson, Professional Officer, ANF (Vic Branch), will discuss the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for Nurses and Midwives, which come into effect from 1 July 2010

### INSG June 2010 Meeting

**Date:** Tuesday, 15 June 2010

**Time:** 11.00am

**Location:** 3rd Floor Boardroom, ANF House, 540 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne

**Speaker:** Glenn Taylor, CEO, Nursing and Midwifery Health Program (previously the VNHP), will discuss the Program

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

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

### INSG 2010 Meeting Dates

Our other 2010 meetings will be held on:

Tuesday, 20 July  
Tuesday, 17 August  
Tuesday, 21 September  
Tuesday, 16 November  
Tuesday, 21 December

Our 2010 Workshop will be from 10.00am – 2.00pm on:

Tuesday, 19 October

### National Registration And Accreditation Scheme

Marcia Gleeson, Professional Officer, ANF (Vic Branch) will at our May meeting outline changes for Nurses and Midwives under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme which come into effect from 1 July 2010.

Further information is available on [www.anfvic.asn.au](http://www.anfvic.asn.au)

### Nursing and Midwifery Health Program, Victoria

Glenn Taylor, CEO, will discuss the Program at our 15 June meeting.

The name of the Program has been changed from the Victorian Nurses Health Program (VNHP) to reflect the National Registration and Accreditation scheme.

Attached is a copy of the April 2010 VNHP Newsletter.

Further information is available on [www.vnhp.org.au](http://www.vnhp.org.au) or on 9415 7551.

### Nursing and Midwifery Wellness Conference

The VNHP is holding the inaugural VNHP Nursing and Midwifery *Wellness Conference* on 10 September 2010 at the ANF House Carson Conference Centre.

A brochure is enclosed.

Registration is available by registering:

- On-line at [www.vnhp.org.au](http://www.vnhp.org.au)
- By completing the enclosed registration form and sending it, with payment, to the VNHP

### Nurses Return To Work In Hospitals Project

Julia Suban, RTW Project Officer, ANF (Vic Branch), discussed 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.

Materials from the Project available at [www.nursesrtw.com.au](http://www.nursesrtw.com.au) include information for injured or ill nurses on rehabilitation and return to work.

## Accident Compensation Act (ACA) Amendments

Leah Hickey from Ryan Carlisle Thomas in April discussed the changes to Workers Compensation.

The key implementation dates for the new arrangements are:

- 5 April 2010 – Benefits, including stress
- 1 July 2010 – Return to Work (RTW) and on anti-discrimination

The amendments include a number of improved benefits outlined by Leah, including:

- 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)

WorkSafe's booklet *Changes to the Accident Compensation Act 1985 Explained* is available from [www.worksafe.vic.gov.au](http://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au)

WorkSafe is revising its guidance material to reflect the legislative changes.

By 1 July 2010 Tim Holding, WorkCover Minister, will have issued Ministerial Directions on RTW and WorkSafe will have issued new guidance on RTW. Codes on RTW are expected to be ready by 31 March 2011.

## Buried But Not Dead

Many INSG members assisted with the 2007 INSG / ANF (Vic Branch) Buried But Not Dead 2 (BBND2) Survey of Injured and Ill Nurses.

Elizabeth Langford had hoped to prepare a Report on the Survey, following up from her 1996 *Buried But Not Dead* Report. However, Elizabeth is disappointed that due to health issues she was not able to prepare the second Report.

Elizabeth is very grateful for the willingness of INSG members to co-operate with the extensive Survey. Elizabeth outlined the Survey results at the ANF's 10th Anniversary No Lifting Conference and Expo in June 2008.

The valuable information from the Survey has been used also by:

- the INSG and the ANF (Vic Branch) in our 2008 Submissions on the Review of the Accident Compensation Act
- the ANF (Vic Branch) in the Nurses Return to Work in Hospitals Project

ANF OHS Officer Peter Moylan now will be drafting a Report based on the Surveys.

## National OHS Arrangements

The new arrangements to replace the Victorian and the State OHS Acts and regulations by 1 January 2012 are:

### 1. Model Work Health and Safety Act

April 2010 – SafeWork Australia endorsed the amended draft of the Model Act

### 2. Model Work Health and Safety Regulations

October 2010 – SafeWork Australia and the Workplace Relations Minister Council are to be provided with an Exposure Draft on the OHS Regulations for approval – eg on manual tasks and amenities

November 2010–February 2011 – Public comment period on the draft Regulations

### Multiple Sensitivity Review

Annie Rutter, INSG Vice President, in March made a submission to the Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS) Review of the National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS).

Annie asked the Review to acknowledge that chemical sensitivity is a reality for many people.

### 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](http://www.anfvic.asn.au)

Jocelyn Saunders, ANF (Vic Branch) OHS Co-ordinator, has offered 2 free places to INSG Members through the INSG Committee.

### 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. Daniel Andrews, Health Minister, will speak.

### ANF (Vic Branch) SOS – Stop Occupational Stress Seminar

The ANF (Vic Branch) *SOS – Stop Occupational Stress* seminar will be held on Tuesday, 22 June 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](http://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