



July / August 2010

THE INJURED NURSES SUPPORT GROUP

PATRON: JUDITH DURHAM, OAM

Karen Zappulla who has made a great contribution to the INSG as a Committee member and since January 2008 as President retired from the Committee from 30 June. We wish Karen all the best and thank her for her marvelous work.

The Group at its June meeting appointed me as our new President, with Joan Smith as the Vice-President. Barbara Brown, Edna Lee and Janet Crogan-Wood are also Committee members. Peter Moylan, OHS Officer ANF (Vic Branch) continues to represent the ANF (Vic Branch) on the Committee.

I look forward to working with the Committee to assist the INSG to continue to meet our aims to:

- (a) Provide information, education and referral advice for injured and ill nurses
- (b) Facilitate sharing of experiences of injured and ill nurses
- (c) Advocate improved rights and benefits for injured and ill nurses
- (d) Advocate improved prevention of injury and illness for nurses

INSG July 2010 Meeting

Date: Tuesday, 20 July 2010
Time: 11.00am – 12.30pm
Location: 3rd Floor Boardroom, ANF House, 540 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne
Speaker: Member meeting, with time to discuss members' issues

INSG August 2010 Meeting

Date: Tuesday, 17 August 2010
Time: 11.00am – 12.30pm
Location: 3rd Floor Boardroom, ANF House, 540 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne
Speaker: Peter Moylan will discuss changes under the Accident Compensation Act from 1 July 2010 on Return to Work and on anti-discrimination

INSG 2010 Meeting Dates

Our other 2010 meetings will be held on:

Tuesday, 21 September
Tuesday, 16 November
Tuesday, 21 December.

Our 2010 Workshop will be from 10.00am – 2.00pm on Tuesday, 19 October with Laurie Lacy – physiotherapist, yoga teacher and ergonomist (cost \$5 per person, includes lunch)

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

National Registration And Accreditation Scheme

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

Attached to this Newsletter are Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia registration standards which Marcia distributed at our meeting for:

- (a) Recency of practice
- (b) Continuing professional development

Further information is available on www.afnvc.asn.au

Nursing and Midwifery Health Program, Victoria

Glenn Taylor, CEO, discussed the Program with members at our 15 June meeting.

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

Funding has been allocated to the Program for a further 3 years.

The inaugural VNHP Nursing and Midwifery *Wellness Conference* to be held on 10 September 2010 at the ANF House is booked out.

Further information is available on the VNHP is available at www.vnhp.org.au or on 9415 7551.

Workers' Compensation Changes

The Victorian Parliament in March 2010 passed amendments to the Accident Compensation Act.

Changes to Workers' Compensation benefits took effect in April 2010. These included changes in:

- weekly payments and impairment benefits
- eligibility for compensation for work-caused mental illness

Changes from 1 July 2010 effect Return to Work (RTW) obligations of employers which will be to:

- Provide pre-injury or suitable employment
- Plan a worker's return to work
- Consult about a workers' return to work
- Appoint a Return to Work Co-ordinator
- Make specific return to work information available
- Co-operate with action by labour hire/agency employers to help injured labour hire workers get back to work

The RTW Inspectorate has expanded powers. Inspectors can now issue Improvement Notices to employers, similar to those issued by Health and Safety Inspectors. Inspector decisions are subject to internal and administrative review.

A nine month transitional period commenced on 1 July 2010 and ends on 31 March 2011. If an employer with an existing claim is compliant with their return to work obligations under the previous legislation and continues to remain compliant they will be deemed to be complying with their new obligations.

WorkSafe has developed guidance on the new RTW arrangements which is available at www.worksafe.vic.gov.au

Also from 1 July 2010 there will be enhanced protection against discrimination for workers making or pursuing compensation claims, with:

- Expanded penalties for discrimination
- A new right for a worker to bring their own action in the Magistrates' Court to address discrimination

ANF (Vic Branch) Industrial Organisers have been advised of the new arrangements.

National OHS Arrangements

SafeWork Australia – the National OHS and Workers' Compensation Agency – in April 2010 approved the Workplace Health and Safety Bill which is to be implemented nationally from 1 January 2012.

Work is proceeding on the development of the draft Regulations and Codes which will be issued under the new Act.

The draft Regulations will be issued for public comment from 1 November 2010 to 28 February 2011.

It is expected that Commonwealth and State Ministers will in June 2011 sign off the new OHS Regulations for the States and Territories to give effect from 1 January 2012.

The ANF (Vic Branch) is giving particular attention to the proposed National Regulations and Codes on Manual Tasks and on Workplace Facilities and Amenities.

The Vic Branch has raised with the ANF Federal Office the need for the National Manual Tasks Regulation to provide at least the same level of protection as currently provided under the Victorian OHS Regulations.

The Branch has provided for the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) comments on the draft Workplace Facilities and Amenities Regulations and Code of Practice.

ANF Policies

The ANF (Vic Branch) council has endorsed a comprehensive Injured and Ill Nurses / Midwives Policy – available at the Members Area of www.anfvic.asn.au

The ANF also now has a Federal Policy on *Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation for Injured and Ill nurses and Midwives* -available at www.anf.org.au

ANF (Vic Branch) No Lifting Conference and Expo

The *ANF (Vic Branch) No Lifting Conference on 20 October* will explore strategies for decreasing musculo-skeletal injuries through the No Lifting approach to patient handling.

An Expo of patient handling equipment will be on display for Conference attendees.

Please let me know if you would like to attend this Conference and Expo without cost.

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 Annie or Joan

1300 760 602 (Monday to Friday 10:00am – 4:00pm)

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

Regards

Annie