



Nurses • Midwives • Mental Health Nurses
Respect our work.

Public Sector EBA Update No 37 - 3 February 2012

Victorian Public Sector Nurses, Midwives and Mental Health Nurses

Fair Work negotiations

Negotiations recommenced 9.30am Friday 3 February in Fair Work Australia with Commissioner Gooley, but were suspended again shortly afterwards because the Baillieu Government advised that they had no other offer to make.

Government representatives, fresh from failing to comply with the Commissioner's request for a revised position on 23 January, appeared in FWA today with no change in their negotiating position, and still no response to the ANF position.

The ANF is currently in the process of writing to the Government representatives seeking a comprehensive response to ANF's revised position of 23 January 2012.

In these circumstances it is critical that we remain united and every member uses every opportunity available to ensure the Baillieu Government addresses our claims. If you are yet to attend an ANF workplace meeting this year (see below) please ensure you attend at the next opportunity.

Workplace meetings

ANF officials continue meetings in all public sector workplaces to answer members' queries on mass resignations of public sector nurses and midwives. These meetings provide ANF members with an opportunity to find out about the EBA negotiations and raise general workplace grievances on other matters.

ANF members and non-members can attend the meetings at their workplace and members are encouraged to make sure their colleagues are aware of the meetings. There is a meeting schedule available online at www.anfvic.asn.au and this schedule is regularly circulated to members via EBA update emails, Facebook and Twitter.

Doorknocking in Elizabeth Miller's electorate of Bentleigh

ANF needs 200 members to volunteer for doorknocking in Elizabeth Miller's electorate of Bentleigh. Nurses and midwives will be visiting residents living in the marginal electorate of Bentleigh to let them know how they will be directly affected by the Baillieu Government's plan to end nurse/midwife ratios and replace nurses with health assistants.

PTO

The event will be held on Saturday 11 February 2012 between 9.15am and 3.30pm. If you haven't doorknocked before don't worry - you will be paired with a nurse who is experienced in doorknocking.

Elizabeth Miller, the Liberal Member for Bentleigh and a former nurse, is the member for one of Victoria's most marginal electorates, so this is an opportunity for nurses and midwives to send her and the Baillieu Government a strong message about the impact of their plans to end ratios and what this means to people who need to go to hospital.

A poll published on Elizabeth Miller's website found Bentleigh residents thought health and hospitals was the most important local issue. Almost 40 per cent of residents voted for health and hospitals as their top issue.

Let us know if you would like to be part of this important action. ANF (Vic Branch) will provide information and support for those members who volunteer and lunch will also be provided.

To volunteer please fill out the online form at <https://anfvic.wufoo.com/forms/z7p3x9/>
More details will be emailed to volunteers once they have registered.

ANF TV Ads and Respect our Work YouTube Channel

On 24 January ANF (Vic Branch) launched a new TV Ad Campaign which is running across all commercial channels, in regional Victoria through Prime and on Sky TV.

These ads feature real Victorian nurses speaking (unscripted) about how the Baillieu Government's plans to end nurse/midwife patient ratios will affect all Victorians. The ads are compelling and the nurses and midwives who volunteered to be involved in their production gave up their time for what is a lengthy and nerve racking process.

I would like to thank those nurses and midwives, many of whom were not in the final ads, for their significant contribution to the campaign.

You can view the ads on the ANF Respect our work YouTube channel at <http://tiny.cc/4xzn4>

New community flier

Members have letterbox dropped thousands of fliers in their neighbourhoods. This flier has been revised and is at the printers. These new fliers will be available for collection from the ANF office or your Organiser by next Friday 10 February.

12 ways you can support the 2011 EBA campaign

Thanks to all those ANF members, their families and friends supporting the campaign. It is great to get onto Facebook and read about all the creative activities that are being organised by members including stalls at Federation Square, the Queen Victoria Night Market and activities at the Australian Open where members managed to get Pat Cash to wear a T-shirt on the Margaret Court Arena.

The Respect Our Work public sector EBA campaign depends on the involvement of ANF members, their families and friends and there are lots of things you can do that can make a difference.

- 1. Wear the red T-shirt.** Make sure you have a few, so you've always got one on at work and your days off. People notice the T-shirt when you wear it in public, for instance in the supermarket, and they ask questions or offer support. Buy them from ANF reception or online at www.tiny.cc/anfwebshop or download an order form through www.tiny.cc/ebatshirt

2. **Put the Respect Our Work bumper sticker on your car** – you can get them through your Organiser.
3. **Attend workplace members meetings.** Check the hospital meeting schedule at www.tiny.cc/ebameet
4. **Request a meeting with your local state Member of Parliament** and ask them for their help to address your concerns about understaffing and patient safety in Victoria's hospitals.
5. **Send ANF information about the closed beds at your hospital.** Email records@anfvic.asn.au:
 - facility name
 - ward/unit name
 - clinical specialty
 - total number of beds in the ward/unit
 - number of beds usually open in the ward/unit
 - number of beds closed in the ward/unit
 - the period beds were closed, e.g. 1 January to 15 January
 - days of operation, i.e. Monday to Friday ward or Monday to Sunday ward
6. **Tell the public** what you think they should know about what is planned for their hospitals and the impact this will have on their care.
7. **Write a letter to the editor** at The Herald Sun, The Age or your local papers. Details at www.respectourwork.com.au/speak-out/
8. **Call talkback radio** – 3AW 693 and ABC 774 and tell them why you can't work without ratios. For details visit the campaign website www.respectourwork.com.au/speak-out/
9. **Write to Premier Ted Baillieu and tell him why you can't work without ratios.**

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10. **Ask your Organiser for fliers** to letterbox drop your neighbourhood block so your community understands how the dispute will affect their care and the care of their loved ones if they ever need to go to hospital.
11. **Support the campaign and your colleagues** at the www.respectourwork.com.au, join the lively conversation on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/respectourwork and spread the word by following Twitter @ANFvicbranch. Encourage your colleagues, friends and family to show their support by leaving a message of support on the Respect Our Work website or on Facebook, writing to Premier Ted Baillieu or contacting their local state Member of Parliament.
12. **Sign the petition and collect more signatures.** The petition is available at www.anfvic.asn.au