



australian nursing federation

media release

8 April 2010

ANF welcomes government support for aged care nurses

Ged Kearney, Federal Secretary of the Australian Nursing Federation (ANF) has welcomed the decision by Deputy Prime Minister, Julia Gillard to write to aged care providers reminding them of their responsibilities under the award modernisation process.

Ms Kearney said the decision to write to the aged care sector showed the government understood the complex issues surrounding the care of vulnerable elderly nursing home residents.

“Minister Gillard has contacted aged care employers and warned them that the award modernisation process should not be an excuse to cut the wages of hard working nurses in NSW and Queensland.

“We welcome this support - it shows the government understands any pay cuts would lead to a worsening of the aged care staffing crisis. We cannot risk losing any more nurses in this sector.

“We would hope all political parties support the Deputy Prime Minister’s actions to protect low paid aged care staff,” Ms Kearney said.

Media inquiries:

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Ged Kearney, Federal Secretary | 0417 053 322 |
| Eleni Hale, ANF Media Advisor | 0458 892 999 |

The ANF, with 170,000 members, is the professional and industrial voice for nurses and midwives in Australia

The industrial and professional organisation for nurses and midwives in Australia

Canberra Office

Unit 3, 28 Eyre Street Kingston ACT 2604 Australia
PO Box 4239 Kingston ACT 2604 Australia
+ 61 2 6232 6533 (T) + 61 2 6232 6610 (F)
anfcanberra@anf.org.au

Melbourne Office

Level 1, 365 Queen Street Melbourne VIC 3000 Australia
+ 61 3 9602 8500 (T) + 61 3 9602 8567 (F)
industrial@anf.org.au
anfmelbourne@anf.org.au

ANF Journals

Australian Nursing Journal
Australian Journal of Advanced Nursing
anj@anf.org.au ajan@anf.org.au
ABN 41 816 898 298

www.anf.org.au

Background

The [Because We Care campaign](#) is aimed at raising awareness and recognition of Australia's highly skilled and dedicated aged care nursing and care workforce.

Throughout 2009 the ANF has been asking community members, nursing home staff, friends and relatives of residents to sign the "Charter for Quality Aged Care".

The Charter calls on the Federal Government to properly fund aged care and support the campaign's four key objectives;

- 1) The right balance of skills and nursing hours so that nursing and care staff can provide quality care for every resident.
- 2) Fair pay for aged care nurses and care staff who are paid up to \$300 per week less than nurses in other sectors.
- 3) Recognition of the professional skills of Assistants in Nursing and care staff through a national licensing system.
- 4) A guarantee that taxpayer funding is used for nursing and care staff for each resident.

Media inquiries:

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Ged Kearney, Federal Secretary | 0417 053 322 |
| Lee Thomas, Assistant Federal Secretary | 0419 576 590 |

The ANF, with 170,000 members, is the professional and industrial voice for nurses and midwives in Australia