



> Assist at Gallipoli for Anzac Day 2012

Volunteers with medical and nursing expertise are sought to assist with Visitor Services at Anzac Day commemorations in Gallipoli in 2012.

Conservation Volunteers under the supervision of the Department of Veterans' Affairs manages the Visitor Services team at the commemorative services, particularly the care of people with 'Special Needs'. Volunteers with a medical background can offer valuable skills for this very important task within the Visitor Services team.

Join this amazing 11-day experience as we explore the Gallipoli Peninsula and Istanbul and assist with these vital duties on Anzac Day. This all inclusive tour costs \$5,200. For more information or to apply for this unique volunteer opportunity, go to www.conservationvolunteers.com.au. Applications are open until 15 November 2011.

> Nurses Memorial Centre AGM

A member of the Federal Office Professional Team attended the Annual General Meeting of the Nurses Memorial Centre, Melbourne, on 27 September 2011. The Centre was originally established after the Second World War as a living memorial to those nurses who had spent years in Japanese prisoner-of-war camps, and especially to those who had died there. Two surviving nurses, Betty Jeffrey and Vivian Bullwinkel, travelled the length and breadth of Victoria to raise funds needed to purchase a property in St Kilda Road. The Centre played an important part in providing accommodation for returned nurses; and, in housing professional nursing organisations during their early life, including the then Royal Australian Nursing Federation, Nurses Board of Victoria and College of Nursing, Australia. Today the Centre is a charitable not-for-profit organisation that receives no government funding or grants and maintains its activities primarily through investment income, donations and bequests. Continuing its role as a living memorial, the focus of the Centre is "the advancement of the health of the community through the provision of education grants". Three of the recipients of scholarship funding provided an update on the progress of their post graduate studies and clinical research area. For further information on the Nurses Memorial Centre (including membership details) go to: <http://nursesmemorialcentre.org.au/about.php>

> ANMAC Working Group – Review of the Registered Nurse Accreditation Standards

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC) are conducting a review of the Registered Nurse Accreditation Standards. A working group has been established to oversee the 9 month project. This group met in Canberra on 29 August 2011 to develop the work plan. Over the course of the Project there will be two consultation forums for key stakeholders and opportunity for the nursing profession to provide written submission to a discussion paper. The ANF is represented on the Project working group and will be attending the consultation forums in October 2011 and April 2012 as a key stakeholder.

> NEHTA Four Cornered Roundtable

The National E-Health Transition Authority (NEHTA) held another four cornered roundtable to discuss the development and launch of the person controlled electronic health record (PCEHR) on 7 September 2011 in Sydney. Consumers, clinicians, industry and policy makers were provided with an update on the progress made since the last roundtable held in March this year. The ANF represented nursing and midwifery at this event. Presentations were provided on: the current content of the PCEHR: lessons learned by the eHealth sites; consultancy partners working with NEHTA on national infrastructure (Accenture), change and adoption (McKinsey and Company) and benefits and evaluation (PricewaterhouseCoopers); the details of the public consultation process and legal framework; engaging with communities on the eHealth; and a real world consumer perspective on the PCEHR. There were also panel discussions on what the PCEHR will mean for consumers and clinicians and how it is currently working in the first wave of eHealth sites. For further information on the PCEHR and the work of NEHTA go to: www.nehta.gov.au.

> HWA review of the potential role of physician assistants in the Australian health environment

Health Workforce Australia (HWA) has engaged consultancy group Siggins Miller to undertake a review and analysis of the potential role of Physician's Assistants within Australia's health workforce. As part of this process, interviews have been conducted with stakeholders, who have an interest in the role, in order to obtain their views about the key issues surrounding implementation, including barriers and facilitating factors for this health workforce reform process, the impact on current practice, and views on the potential uptake of the PA position. The ANF participated in a telephone interview with the consultants for the Project on 1 September 2011. The ANF has grave concerns about the introduction of this unregulated role. In particular there are issues concerning the educational preparation, framework for practice and potential risk to the public. The detailed scope of practice for a Physician's Assistant is that of a nurse practitioner. ANF Federal Office will keep a watching brief on this project.

> HWA National Rural & Remote Health Workforce Strategy Consultation Workshop

HWA has been commissioned by the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (AHMAC) to develop a National Rural and Remote Health Workforce (NRRHW) Innovation and Reform Strategy for Australia. This strategy aims to provide guidance on future needs, reforms and initiatives to improve health care services for those in rural and remote communities. Consultancy group, Siggins Miller has been contracted by HWA to develop a background paper and conduct the national consultation. ANF Federal Office is represented on the Expert Reference Group established to provide guidance and input into the development of the NRRHW Strategy. The national consultation workshops scheduled during September and October in 19 metropolitan, regional, rural and remote locations will inform the development of the Strategy and the implementation plan. ANF representatives attended the workshop held in Melbourne on 15 September 2011. Topics discussed included: the necessary health workforce reforms for more effective, efficient and accessible service delivery; health workforce capacity and skills development; the leadership required for a sustainable health system; health workforce planning; and health workforce policy, regulation and funding. In addition to the workshops, input into the Strategy can be provided by making a written submission by 28 October 2011. The submission template is available online at: www.hwa.gov.au/wir/ruralandremote. ANF Federal Office will be providing a written submission to HWA.

> Working Safe in Rural and Remote Australia Project

As previously reported the ANF Federal Office is a partner in this project with other health professional organisations, police and teacher organisation representatives. A select tender process has taken place for a consultant who will undertake the project work in conjunction with the project advisory committee. The project is scheduled for completion in 2012 with the development of a national framework for action for whole-of-community responses to working safely in rural and remote Australia.



> National Rural Health Alliance Councilfest

Council of the National Rural Health Alliance (NRHA) held its annual face-to-face meeting in Canberra from 16-20 September 2011. The ANF, as a founding member, is represented on the Council of the NRHA. At the five day meeting, the 32 national bodies in the Alliance agreed on immediate priorities for action to improve the health and wellbeing of people in rural Australia, to move towards the vision of equal health by the year 2020. The three top priorities presented to Parliamentarians were:

- strong support for the new agency in the Department: Rural Health Australia; with recommendations for its early development of a national rural health plan and for reporting processes to ensure public accountability;
- strong support for new investment in oral health, including the workforce to 'make it happen' in rural and remote areas;
- a plan for a clear pathway to enable a greater number of rural students to move through high school and tertiary studies to work as professionals in rural/remote areas.

The full list of nine priorities, and background on each, is available on the NRHA website at www.nrha.ruralhealth.org.au.

At the 20th AGM of the Alliance members elected as the new Chair Lesley Barclay, Professor and Director of Sydney University's Lismore-based University Centre of Rural Health. Lesley has a background in nursing and midwifery. On Council of the Alliance she represents the Australian Rural Health Education Network.

> National Aged Care Medication Management Roadmap Project

The ANF is represented on the Stakeholder Reference Group for a National Aged Care Medication Management Project funded by Health Workforce Australia (HWA) and managed by Aged and Community Services Australia. The three stage project aims to explore medication management issues facing the aged care workforce and propose policy principles and initiatives to address these issues and create a more effective system for older people. The first two stages of the project, the scoping/gap analysis and the national roundtable were completed earlier in the year. Stage three, the Change Roadmap Report has subsequently been developed. The Stakeholder Reference Group met via teleconference on 21 September 2011 to consider the draft final report. The Project is due to be finalised and the report submitted to HWA by the end of October.

> Australian College of Midwives Homebirth Position Statement Consultation

The Australian College of Midwives has developed a position statement on Homebirth. The ANF supports a woman's right to choose homebirthing but recognises and argues that this must be balanced against the requirements of midwives as stipulated under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act (2009). That is, we support homebirthing within the circumstances of national law and agreed eligibility criteria.



LEE THOMAS
Federal Secretary



YVONNE CHAPERON
Assistant Federal Secretary

For more information about any of the above items contact your ANF state or territory Branch, the NSW Nurses Association (ANF NSW Branch) or the Queensland Nurses Union (ANF QLD Branch).

