



> **New ANF Immigration Outreach Officer**

After a relatively short time with the Federal Office Amanda Dansie has now returned to DIAC. Amanda's position has been filled by Sean Stewart who will be with the Federal Office on a part-time basis, at least until 1 April 2011. Sean's responsibility will be to assist ANF, its Branches and members on issues relating to the Australian Government's skilled migration programs. Sean can be contacted at the ANF Federal Office Melbourne.

> **Termination decision on federal and state awards**

On 20 December 2010, Fair Work Australia published a decision in relation to instruments replaced by modern awards. The decision was in response to submissions of industrial organisations proposing that specific instruments not be terminated as they may have ongoing applicability. These include submissions by ANF that a number of state and federal awards not be terminated. In general terms the decision was to delay the termination of any instruments subject to further consideration later this year. A copy of the decision is available at <http://www.fwa.gov.au/decisionssigned/html/2010fwafb9916.htm>

> **Long Service Leave**

An application has been made to preserve the existing long service leave award provisions in specified Division 2B state awards. The application is listed for hearing on 17 February 2011.

> **LHMU eligibility rule**

The LHMU have made application to vary their eligibility rule to cover employees employed in immigration detention centres. The application provides in part that such changes shall not include 'nurses'. The Federal Office is now in discussions with the LHMU with a view to making the exclusion of nurses more specific.

> **Australian Health Informatics Education Council Working Meeting**

The Australian Health Informatics Education Council Working Meeting was held in Melbourne on 3 December. The ANF participates in these meetings, representing the considerable interests of nurses and midwives in the development of health informatics more broadly within the health and aged care sectors, and in the formulation of specific competencies and approaches to education programs in this field. Nurses and midwives form the largest cohort of end-users of health informatics processes as well as some within these professions pursuing a career in the emerging discipline of health informaticians.

> **Society of Hospital Pharmacists Editorial Committee Meeting**

The ANF Federal Office is represented on an Editorial Committee established by the Society of Hospital Pharmacists for a new publication. This publication is an Australian Guide to the therapeutic options for medicines administration for people unable to take solid dose oral medicines. The Committee met on Monday 6 December 2010 to review the progress of the publication and the feedback received on the monographs and copy to date. Work is nearing completion and a new title for the document is currently being considered.

#### > Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement – Program Reference Group

Following nomination by the Australian Nursing Federation, Julianne Bryce ANF Senior Federal Professional Officer has been invited to serve as a member of the Programs Reference Group (PRG) under the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement until 30 June 2015. The PRG has been established under the Fifth Agreement to provide advice on the policy dimensions of the pharmacy programs, including their scope and evaluation requirements. The PRG consists of a number of representatives from peak groups and experts, both within and external to the pharmacy sector. The PRG met for the first time on 7 December 2010 in Canberra.

#### > National Rural Health Alliance Council Meeting

The NRHA met on Monday 6 December 2010 via teleconference. Issues for discussion included: new and updated fact sheets now available on the website; latest developments with Medicare Locals and Local Hospital Networks; the Rural and Remote Health Framework; work on oral and dental health with the National Oral Health Alliance; aged care work; Councilfest follow up; and planning for the 11th Conference. The next meeting of Council will be held on 17 February 2011. The 11th National Rural Health Conference Rural and Remote Australia – the Heart of a Healthy Nation will be held in Perth from 13 – 16 March 2011.

#### > National e-Health Conference

On the 30 November and 1 December 2010, the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing hosted the National e-Health Conference: Revolutionising Australia's Health Care, at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. This forum was held for stakeholders to discuss how electronic health and telehealth will shape the future delivery of health care. The Hon Nicola Roxon, Minister for Health and Ageing, gave the opening address for the conference. Presentations and discussions centred around the national personally controlled electronic health record (PCEHR) system which will be available from July 2012. The ANF Federal Office was represented at a nursing e-health roundtable hosted by the Department of Health and Ageing and the National E-Health Transition Authority held in October to inform the conference proceedings and the National e-Health Conference.

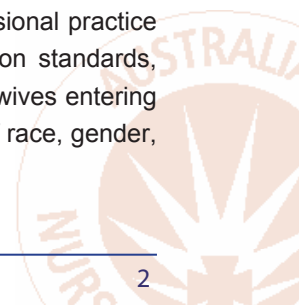
#### > Community Pharmacy Patient Charter Workshop

As a member of the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement – Program Reference Group, Julianne Bryce ANF Senior Federal Professional Officer participated in a consultative forum to guide the development and implementation of a Patient Charter in community pharmacies. The forum, held on 15 December 2010 in Adelaide, was facilitated by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC) and sponsored by the Department of Health and Ageing and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia. It is anticipated that the Charter, once developed, will provide pharmacy customers with consistent information on their rights and the standards of service they can expect to receive. Once finalised, the Charter will also be incorporated into the pharmacy quality assurance programs.

#### > Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care Patient-centred care

The ANF has welcomed the discussion paper from the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare (ACSQHC) on Patient-centred care: improving quality and safety by focusing care on patients and consumers with its aim of to stimulating discussion to focus health and aged care on this essential element in the delivery of safe, quality care.

In its submission the ANF has argued that patient-centred care is embedded in the professional practice framework which underpins nursing and midwifery practice. Codes, guidelines, registration standards, professional standards, and decision making frameworks against which all nurses and midwives entering practice are judged, all clearly identify that the patient be at the centre of care regardless of race, gender, cultural background or socioeconomic status.



Organisations must take responsibility for providing adequate resources to support patient-centred care and ensuring that fiscal imperatives do not become the primary drivers of health service decisions. When the focus is taken off the patient onto the service or health professionals, then the consequences can be dissatisfied health care consumers, or, more seriously, detrimental health care outcomes. The full submission can be found at: [www.anf.org.au](http://www.anf.org.au) under 'Submissions'.

> **Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia: Review of the English language skills registration Standard**

A submission was made by the ANF to the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) on 10 December 2010. The ANF welcomed this review as the issue has been one of national interest and the ANF has voiced concerns about the Standard which was introduced with National Registration on 1 July 2010. The existing Standard doesn't recognise that applicants for registration have been deemed competent by undertaking an Australian Nursing and Midwifery Nursing Council accredited course in Australia. The ANF has made a number of recommendations to the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia to ensure a greater degree of fairness in the process for assessing the English language skills competence of applicants, than currently exists. In addition, the ANF suggests that the English Language Testing System (IELTS) may not be the most appropriate evaluation of a person's English language competence in the practice setting. A recommendation is therefore made that research be undertaken to establish the most appropriate testing tool for applicants of nursing and midwifery registration. The full submission can be found at: [www.anf.org.au](http://www.anf.org.au) under 'Submissions'.



LEE THOMAS  
Federal Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "lee".



YVONNE CHAPERON  
Assistant Federal Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Yvonne".

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).