



## media release

Friday 28 September 2007

### **Mind blowing political hypocrisy from Joe Hockey**

The move yesterday by Joe Hockey to change the WorkChoices regulations to allow the Western Australian Branch of the Australian Nursing Federation to apply for registration to operate in the federal jurisdiction is a clear example of the political hypocrisy of the current Federal Government.

The ANF WA Branch is also a state registered union, the ANF Industrial Union of Workers Perth (ANFIUWP). One of the main objectives of the WorkChoices legislation according to the Howard Government was to get rid of state unions. State unions were to be phased out over 3 years.

"I imagine Joe Hockey couldn't believe his luck when the ANFIUWP wrote to him," Jill Iliffe ANF federal secretary said.

"Because the ANFIUWP chose not to support the ACTU anti-WorkChoices campaign, their approach to Joe Hockey for federal registration was processed with unseemly haste. John Howard and Joe Hockey are so blinded by their hatred of unions they are prepared to undermine one of the central principles of their own legislation," Ms Iliffe said.

"Not that this surprises me," Ms Iliffe added. "I have stopped expecting integrity from the Howard government. Despite that, the political cynicism demonstrated by Joe Hockey is mind blowing."

ANF Branches, including the ANF WA Branch, already operate in the federal sphere under delegated authority from the Federal ANF. Four of the ANF Branches are also state unions: NSW, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia.

"It would be interesting to see how Joe Hockey responded if another of the ANF Branches, which is also a state union, made a similar approach," Jill Iliffe said. "I don't think there is too much doubt about the answer they would receive, it they received an answer at all."

### **Media inquiries**

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#### **ANF Journals**

Australian Nursing Journal  
Australian Journal of Advanced Nursing  
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