



australian nursing federation

Review of the Liquid Fuel Emergency Act 1984

The Australian Nursing Federation (ANF) welcomes the opportunity to comment on this very important review. I apologise for the delay in our response.

The Australian Nursing Federation (ANF) is the national union for nurses in Australia with branches in each state and territory. The ANF is also the largest professional organisation in Australia. The ANF's core business is the industrial and professional representation of nurses and nursing in Australia.

The ANF's 145,000 members are employed in a wide range of enterprises in urban, rural and remote locations in the public, private and aged care sectors, including hospitals, health services, schools, universities, the armed forces, statutory authorities, local government, offshore territories and industries.

The ANF participates in the development of policy in nursing, nursing regulation, health, community services, veterans affairs, education, training, occupational health and safety, industrial relations, immigration and law reform.

The ANF recognises the importance of the review of this piece of legislation and is of the view that the risk management framework that is being used as a framework is sound. Much has been learnt since the original legislation was passed and since then risk management and contingency planning have entered common parlance and knowledge. The much publicised Y2K analysis and review contributed largely to that mainstreaming of thinking with the current global security issues and natural disasters bringing it into sharp relief in 2005.

This Review seems thorough and appears to deal with the high level issues well. The ANF's interest is primarily how the recommendations will be implemented. Several major issues of concern for the ANF, nurses and nursing, include the need for health professionals (particularly nurses) at the point of care to actively participate in:

- the contingency planning for essential services (health services) for a liquid fuel shortage or crisis;
- the planning for access to liquid fuels for essential services; and
- the process of defining what constitutes an essential service and the layers of services that fall below that.

Therefore we would urge that this is reiterated in the Final Report and that these critical steps are not undertaken in the isolation of the bureaucracy.