



A snapshot of the Australian Nursing Federation

The Australian Nursing Federation

Established in 1924, the Australian Nursing Federation (ANF) is the only organisation in Australia representing the industrial and professional interests of nurses, midwives and assistants in nursing.

The ANF has over 220,000 members working across Australia in cities, rural, regional and remote locations and in every area of health, health prevention and aged care. There is a total of 283,577¹ nurses in Australia employed in nursing and contributing directly to all areas of Australia's health and aged care.

All Australians must have access to safe, quality health and aged care. To achieve this, it is important that Australia continues to have a robust, well educated and highly experienced nursing and midwifery workforce. Ensuring that every nurse, midwife and assistant in nursing receives pay and conditions reflective of their extensive level of skill and education is a priority for the ANF.

The ANF campaigns to raise political awareness, and political action if necessary, among its members and the community in the pursuit of improved public policy on health, aged care, education, employment, industrial relations and all areas of social justice.

Australia's health and aged care systems and its nursing and midwifery workforce face many challenges. The ANF is working with nurses, midwives and assistants in nursing, governments, community and consumer groups, health and aged care providers and other health care professionals to progress solutions and build a sustainable health workforce for the future good health of Australia.

The ANF Federal Office

The ANF Federal Office has locations in Melbourne and Canberra. The Federal Office develops policy and represents ANF members at a national level in the areas of health, aged care, education, the nursing and midwifery workforce, industrial relations and social justice.

Lee Thomas, Federal Secretary of the ANF and Yvonne Chaperon, Assistant Federal Secretary, coordinate the national activities of the Federation. Branch Secretaries manage the activities of the state and territory branches of the ANF.

The governing bodies of the Federal Office are the Federal Council and Federal Executive. National committees cover industrial and professional issues, occupational health and safety and aged care.

The ANF Federal Office publishes two journals:

- The Australian Nursing Journal (ANJ) published monthly consists of clinical articles, a monthly feature and the latest union, nursing and midwifery news
- The Australian Journal of Advanced Nursing (AJAN), published quarterly, is a peer reviewed research journal, available at <http://www.ajan.com.au>

There is also a range of national policies, guidelines, position statements, reports and submissions about nursing, health and social justice available from the ANF Federal Office website at: <http://www.anf.org.au>

1. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2012). Nursing and Midwifery Labour Force 2011. Canberra: AIHW.

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ANF Membership

ANF membership is the most effective way for nurses, midwives and assistants in nursing to ensure that fair working conditions and rates of pay are negotiated for the entire nursing and midwifery workforce. Fair wages and working conditions help to retain nurses, midwives and assistants in nursing in the workforce, thereby improving Australia's health and aged care system. The ANF provides a range of services to members through its state and territory branches.

Services include:

- information about wages and conditions of employment
- industrial representation
- professional indemnity insurance
- legal representation
- negotiation of awards and agreements
- resolution of workplace disputes
- information and representation on workplace issues such as occupational health and safety
- education services
- library services

Members can become actively involved in ANF campaigns and activities through their Branch, the ANF state and federal websites, and the ANF publications.

Joining the ANF

Nurses join the ANF branch in the state or territory where they work.

- ANF Australian Capital Territory Branch
- NSW Nurses' Association (ANF NSW Branch)
- ANF Northern Territory Branch
- Queensland Nurses' Union (ANF QLD Branch)
- ANMF South Australian Branch
- ANF Tasmanian Branch
- ANF Victorian Branch
- ANF Western Australian Branch

The ANF's International Work

The ANF represents nurses, midwives and assistants in nursing internationally through membership of other national and international nursing organisations and professional associations. The ANF is a member of the Commonwealth Nurses Federation, the South Pacific Nurses Forum and the International Council of Nurses (ICN).

The ANF is affiliated to the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU), International Centre for Trade Union Rights and Union Aid Abroad - APHEDA (Australian People for Health, Education and Development Abroad) which is the overseas aid agency of the trade union movement. Further information about the ANF is available at: <http://www.anf.org.au>