

## The Nurses Return to Work in Hospitals Project

Injured or ill nurses and midwives who want to return to their profession are often prevented from doing this due to poor rehabilitation and return to work practices.

Victorian nurses suffered over 8,000 compensated work injuries/illnesses between 2000 and 2007, of which there were over 1,000 work injuries/illnesses to nurses in 2006.

In 2007 the Victorian WorkCover Authority approved the ANF (Vic Branch) application for funding under its Return to Work Fund Initiative for a three year project to identify barriers to and factors for successful return to work of nurses and midwives who were injured or ill through work in hospitals.

This Project was conducted by the ANF in partnership with the Victorian Hospitals' Industrial Association (VHIA), and the support of the Injured Nurses Support Group (INSG) and Dr Helen Sutcliffe. Five hospitals (three metropolitan and two regional/rural) also participated in a pilot program and case studies as a part of the project.

Disclaimer: ANF (Vic Branch) will endeavour to ensure that the speakers and content for this seminar proceed as advertised. However, unexpected circumstances may necessitate the utilisation of a replacement speaker(s). ANF (Vic Branch) disclaims any liability for any errors/omissions in terms of information provided at this educational event.

## Conference Aims

These conferences will provide practical resources and tools which will assist the healthcare sector to:

- improve rehabilitation and return to work outcomes for injured/ill nurses and midwives
- reduce the human and financial costs of injury and illness through the loss of skilled nurses and midwives, and the associated costs of staff shortages, staff replacement and training
- promote awareness of and provide strategies to encourage change in policy and practice and attitudes relating to return to work of injured/ill nurses and midwives

## Who Should Attend?

These conferences will be of particular relevance to

- Nurses and Midwives
- RTW Co-ordinators
- Managers
- Healthcare employers
- Medical & allied health professionals

## Accommodation

Discounted rates for ANF members are available at the Hotel Ibis and Central Sky Lounge Apartment Hotels. Inform the reservations clerk that you are an ANF member.

Hotel Ibis:  
15-21 Therry Street, Melbourne. Ph: 03 9639 2399

Central Sky Lounge Apartment Hotel:  
43 Therry Street, Melbourne. Ph: 1300 759 568

The Mercure Ballarat Hotel and Convention Centre:  
613 Main Street, Ballarat. Ph: 03 5327 1200

# Return to Work - Let's Talk about it!

## Keeping Injured Nurses in Nursing

### Melbourne:

Monday 16 November 2009  
ANF Conference Centre  
540 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne

### Ballarat:

Monday 23 November 2009  
The Mercure Ballarat Hotel and Convention Centre  
613 Main Road, Ballarat

These **free** conferences are open to anyone who is involved in, or affected by, return to work of injured/ill nurses



## Nurses Return to Work in Hospitals Project Conference and Launch

Monday 16 November 2009 – Melbourne CBD

Monday 23 November 2009 – Ballarat

### Program

8.45 am	Registration	11.30 am	So, tell me, how can we improve RTW for injured/ill nurses? Julia Suban, <i>RTW Project Officer, ANF (Vic Branch)</i>
9.00 am	Welcome and Introduction Lisa Fitzpatrick, <i>Secretary, ANF (Vic Branch)</i>	12.15 pm	Lunch
9.10 am	Why hospitals should support the return to work of injured / ill nurses Alec Djoneff, <i>CEO, Victorian Hospitals' Industrial Association (major project partner)</i>	1.00 pm	Why we need guidelines for medical practitioners Dr Helen Sutcliffe
9.15 am	WorkSafe Return to Work Fund - How it works for you Dorothy Frost, <i>Director, RTW Fund</i> Marcia Barker, <i>Manager, Workplace Engagement Branch, WorkSafe Victoria</i>	1.05 pm	A sense of self - case study - Internal Vocational Rehabilitation Julia Suban, <i>RTW Project Officer, ANF (Vic Branch)</i>
9.45 am	Return to work? Let's talk about it! - ANF (Vic Branch) Nurses Return to Work in Hospitals Project Kathy Chrisfield, <i>Senior Project Manager/OHS Unit Co-ordinator, ANF (Vic Branch)</i>		How it works in a large regional public hospital Linda Newby, <i>RN, Injury Management Co-ordinator, Ballarat Health</i>
10.05 am	It's about real jobs – Practical guidance & resources to assist hospitals to identify return to work duties for injured/ill nurses Fiona Begg, <i>OT, Ergonomist and OHS Consultant</i>	1.50 pm	To educate or not? – Training for RTW co-ordinators, managers and nurses on workers compensation, rehabilitation and return to work Deirdre Chance, <i>Principal Consultant, Core Conflict Solutions</i>
	Applying the process in a private acute health setting Glenda Wharton, <i>RTW Co-ordinator, Health Care</i>	2.20 pm	A significant step forward - Evaluation Report: Nurses Return to Work in Hospitals Pilot Program Robyn Dale, <i>Director, URCOT</i>
10.45 am	Morning Tea	2.50 pm	Afternoon Tea
11.05 am	It's my career: I'm taking charge – A Resource Guide to Nursing Roles and Employment Opportunities for Injured / Ill Nurses Bronwyn Carter, <i>RN</i>	3.15pm	Are we there yet? Jeanette Sdrinis, <i>Project Manager/OHS Consultant</i>
11.25 am	Why the Nurses RTW in Hospitals Project is important for Injured Nurses Karen Zappulla, <i>President, Injured Nurses Support Group</i>	3.45 pm	Conference close Kathy Chrisfield, <i>Senior Project Manager/OHS Unit Co-ordinator, ANF (Vic Branch)</i>

## Return to Work – Let's Talk about It!

Please return the registration form early to secure your place.

These conferences are free of charge, however you MUST register for catering and other purposes.

A letter of confirmation will be sent to the address provided on the registration form.

For all enquiries please contact Carole de Greenlaw at [cdegreenlaw@anfvic.asn.au](mailto:cdegreenlaw@anfvic.asn.au) or on (03) 9275 9333.

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

First name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position/Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Workplace name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (Home) \_\_\_\_\_

(Work) \_\_\_\_\_

(Mobile) \_\_\_\_\_

ANF Member: Yes  No

Preferred Conference Location: (please nominate)

Please tick **Melbourne CBD**  **Ballarat**

Return registration form to:

Carole de Greenlaw

ANF (Vic Branch) OHS Unit

Box 12600 A'Beckett Street PO

MELBOURNE VIC 8006 or via fax: (03) 9275 9344

Register online at [www.anfvic.asn.au/calendar](http://www.anfvic.asn.au/calendar)