



**Australian
Nursing &
Midwifery
Federation**
VICTORIAN BRANCH

Newsflash

Friday 19 June 2020

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) Update #13

Aged care members should ask their employer to confirm retention bonus application; elective surgery guidance; PPE resource for mental health services; extra funding for nurses' and midwives' wellbeing; ANMF Education Centre Zoom seminars

Members are encouraged to read our newsflashes and the COVID-19 information for health workers provided on the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Commonwealth Department of Health websites.

Information is updated regularly. ANMF has collated the important links all in one place, so you don't have to go looking. Please bookmark and check this page regularly – anmfvic.asn.au/COVID-19

Members with COVID-19-related employment questions can ask via the Member Assistance online inquiry form via anmfvic.asn.au/covid-19. Please read the information on our website before submitting a question. Member Assistance is not taking phone inquiries as ANMF staff are working remotely. Members with complex inquiries will still have phone contact with staff.

The DHHS Coronavirus Guidance Note on Employment-Related Matters (bit.ly/2UhDSU2) was last updated 5 June.

Latest coronavirus statistics in Victoria

As of 18 June 2020, the Victorian Chief Health Officer reported:

- the state's number of COVID-19 cases was 1,780 – there were 18 new cases since the day before.
- 4 people are in Victorian hospitals with COVID-19, including 2 in intensive care. 19 people have died.
- 192 cases have an unknown source of infection, no change since the day before.
- 1,678 people have recovered. More than 621,000 tests have been completed. Victoria has the highest testing per capita in Australia.

View the latest Victorian statistics via bit.ly/34Et8Ug and the latest national statistics via bit.ly/2RyEXX1

Authorised by Lisa Fitzpatrick ANMF (Vic Branch) Secretary

Guidance on elective surgery and reducing and preventing COVID-19 infection

As reported in COVID-19 newsflash #12 the Victorian Government expects elective surgery to be at 75 per cent capacity by the end of June, and increasingly to 100% during July.

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care has released guidance on elective surgery and preventing and reducing COVID-19 infection.

Read the ACSQHC's *COVID-19: Elective surgery and infection prevention and control precautions* via bit.ly/2YdCQvr

Aged care nurses and carers should ask their employer to confirm retention bonus application

Aged care nurses, personal care workers and other eligible aged care workers will only receive the aged care workforce COVID-19 retention bonus if their employer makes an application.

ANMF is encouraging eligible members to use this template letter (bit.ly/agedcareletter) to write to their employer asking for written confirmation that they have made an application for the bonus on their behalf.

Aged care workforce retention bonus applications opened Monday 15 June and close 2pm, Monday 20 July. Employers must make the application via the Federal Government's GrantConnect website.

Private-for-profit, not-for profit and public sector aged care nurses and personal care workers and other aged care employees are eligible for the retention bonus.

Full-time, part-time and casual workers are all eligible. Nurses and carers employed less than four weeks before the application date are still eligible.

The two-part payment, which will be taxed, includes:

- full-time 'direct care' workers will receive \$800 in July and September.
- in-home care workers will receive \$600 per quarter in July and September.

Payment will be based on hours worked in the four weeks before the application date.

Template letter

Download ANMF's template letter to write to your employer via bit.ly/agedcareletter

Further information

- The Department of Health *Workforce retention bonus grant – residential care and home care* fact sheet (5 June 2020) includes pro-rata information and eligibility information bit.ly/2zjXSPj
- *Federal ANMF information sheet: retention bonus* via bit.ly/anmfinfo-aged-care-support

Personal protection equipment update

ANMF continues to raise members' concerns about personal protective equipment at the Safer Care Victoria PPE committee. These weekly meetings will now become fortnightly.

DHHS is advising health services to discard any stored used PPE. The PPE Taskforce says the need to keep used PPE is no longer a priority. The taskforce continues to investigate ways to safely reuse PPE if there are supply issues in the future.

Discussions have started examining national PPE co-ordination that could simplify some of the access, storage and stock level issues experienced by public, private and community health services.

Personal protective equipment webinar – 23 June

Safer Care Victoria will hold a PPE webinar from 12noon to 1pm, Tuesday 23 June. The webinar includes an update on what is new with emphasis on Q&As.

You can submit your PPE question before the webinar via bit.ly/3edKYlg using the code #Y062.

Places are limited. Register via bit.ly/3fum5Sq

New personal protective equipment resource for mental health services

The Department of Health and Human Services has released further PPE guidance for mental health services.

It is relevant to mental health clinical and support service settings, and to care provided by individual healthcare workers, as well as multidisciplinary teams.

Read the DHHS *Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the provision of mental health care* (PDF) (4 June) via bit.ly/2ALJgch

Important PPE guidance and information links

Members are encouraged to read and access the following PPE guidance:

1. *Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) Infection Prevention and Control guideline* (25 May) via bit.ly/3deTBLE
2. *COVID-19 – PPE and levels of protection* (20 May) via bit.ly/2X7pBM7
3. *DHHS COVID-19 – a guide to the conventional use of PPE* (updated 20 May) via bit.ly/2yBnmaa
4. *DHHS Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the provision of mental health care* (PDF) (4 June) via bit.ly/2ALJgch
5. *Respiratory support for children during the COVID-19 emergency* (updated 27 May) via bit.ly/3dcA2DL
6. *WorkSafe Victoria Managing coronavirus (COVID-19) risks: Healthcare and social assistance industry – Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE)* via bit.ly/3ddwqRT

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More funding to support nurses' and midwives' health and wellbeing

On 6 June Health Minister Jenny Mikakos announced an additional \$350,000 to support the health and wellbeing of Victorian nurses and midwives and nursing and midwifery students.

The Nursing and Midwifery health Program Victoria (NMHPV) will use the funding to expand its telehealth services and respond to the expected increased demand, as a result of the pandemic, for its screening, assessment, referrals and individual and group support sessions.

The NMHPV is a unique service for nurses and midwives with sensitive mental health, alcohol or substance use or family violence issues. It is run by nurses and provides free, independent and confidential support.

Victorian nurses and midwives originally funded the program, established in 2006, through their nursing and midwifery registration fees to the Nurses Board of Victoria. Funding became uncertain following the move to national registration. In 2017 the Andrews Government announced it would provide the important service with recurring funding.

To access the Nursing and Midwifery Health Program Victoria call Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.00pm on 9415 7551 or email admin@nmhp.org.au

For more information

www.nmhp.org.au/

Read the Victorian Government media release 'More health support for our frontline heroes' via bit.ly/2Z0vHOT

Job Rep resources online

We've collated online resources Job Reps can use in their workplaces during this period of physical distancing. Resources include information about the history of Australian trade unions, ANMF's structure, the role of the Job Rep, a link to the ANMF (Vic Branch) Job Rep Foundations module, and tips on how to recruit members in your workplace.

To access the resources visit anmfvic.asn.au/represources

To become a Job Rep visit anmfvic.asn.au/jobrep

Superannuation and finance live webinars

First State Super's '**Webinar Super Series**' explores all things relating to superannuation and the financial impacts of COVID-19. Free registration via bit.ly/3feYxAY

HESTA is offering '**COVID-19 Money Plan – stocktake your finances to see how you may have been affected**' for ANMF members.

Monday 22 June, 11 am, free registration via bit.ly/3e1orrS

Tuesday 23 June, 7 pm, free registration via bit.ly/3cQVXj7

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ANMF (Vic Branch) Education Centre virtual classroom courses

The ANMF (Vic Branch) Education Centre continues to adapt courses and seminars to a virtual classroom platform via Zoom. You can find these courses and registration links via anmfvic.asn.au/virtualclassroom

Upcoming courses include:

June

- [Promoting mental health in maternal and child health and midwifery practice: addressing individual needs and applying mental health principles](#) – 24 June
bit.ly/2X6bNle
- [Pain and the older person: partnership precedes prescription](#) – 24 June
bit.ly/2M81K8P

July

- [Certificate IV in Training and Assessment](#)
anmfvic.asn.au/tae
- [Recognising and responding to clinical deterioration \(RRCD\)](#) – 3 Jul
bit.ly/37nxuRa
- [Documentation, the principles of best practice](#) – 15 July
bit.ly/2Aqq0AM
- [Wound management: the what, when and why](#) – 22 July
bit.ly/3fh8vle
- [Palliative care for older people: when to begin?](#) – 29 July
bit.ly/3cWhpmP
- [Safe medication administration](#) – 29 July & 5 August
bit.ly/37JGFvx

August

- [Law and ethics for midwives, registered and enrolled nurses](#) – 5 & 6 August
bit.ly/2MRo3jv
- [ECG – cardiac rhythm recognition and 12-lead ECG](#) – 14 August
bit.ly/2UD6tUH
- [Advanced skills for dementia: different responses for different types](#) – 26 August
bit.ly/2MShpcY

September

- [Documentation, the principles of best practice](#) – 9 September
bit.ly/3dWr2mC
- [Older people have families too: how to care for them](#) – 30 September
bit.ly/2zngiyC

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Clinical assessment modules and an extra \$60 CPD online credit for members

The ANMF (Vic Branch) Education Centre's series of clinical assessment online modules support nurses wanting to develop their clinical skills in recognising and responding to acute clinical deterioration, including the COVID-19 patient. The 12 one-hour modules on the CPD Portal are:

ANMF Clinical Assessment Module 1 - Introduction to acute care / recognising and responding to clinical deterioration

anmfvic.asn.au/cam-1

ANMF Clinical Assessment Module 2 - Airway management and unconsciousness

anmfvic.asn.au/cam-2

ANMF Clinical Assessment Module 3 - Respiratory failure

anmfvic.asn.au/cam-3

ANMF Clinical Assessment Module 4 – Oxygen therapy

anmfvic.asn.au/cam-4

ANMF Clinical Assessment Module 5 – Hypotension

anmfvic.asn.au/cam-5

ANMF Clinical Assessment Module 6 - Sepsis

anmfvic.asn.au/cam-6

ANMF Clinical Assessment Module 7 – Non-invasive ventilation

anmfvic.asn.au/cam-7

ANMF Clinical Assessment Module 8 – Mechanical ventilation

anmfvic.asn.au/cam-8

ANMF Clinical Assessment Module 9 – Arterial blood gasses

anmfvic.asn.au/cam-9

ANMF Clinical Assessment Module 10 – Advanced ventilation

anmfvic.asn.au/cam-10

ANMF Clinical Assessment Module 11 – Advanced ventilation (prone)

anmfvic.asn.au/cam-11

ANMF Clinical Assessment Module 12 – CXR interpretation

anmfvic.asn.au/cam-12

All members receive annual credit to use on the ANMF (Vic Branch) CPD Portal. Full and part-time members receive a \$400 annual credit* (or \$120 for members on parental leave and \$80 for student members).

All ANMF members received an additional CPD Portal \$60 credit as a special member benefit during the COVID-19 pandemic. This additional credit will be available until 30 June. Members' annual credit is renewed on 1 July.

To access the online clinical assessment modules and others, visit cpd.anmfvic.asn.au

Let your colleagues know that ANMF has halved the module price to make it easier for any non-members to complete these important modules. Non-members should click 'non-member login' to log in or create an account.

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