



Australian  
Nursing &  
Midwifery  
Federation  
NORTHERN TERRITORY

March -  
June 2026

# 'NT Chatter'

The Newsletter by  
Australian Nursing & Midwifery Federation  
NT Branch



Heidi Crisp

NT Branch Secretary

[secretary@anmfnt.org.au](mailto:secretary@anmfnt.org.au)

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## Secretary Report

Welcome to the March–June edition of NT Chatter.

I would like to begin by expressing my deep respect and appreciation for all members who have gone above and beyond during the recent extreme weather events. Communities across **Alice Springs** and **Katherine** have experienced flooding not seen in years, resulting in evacuations and significant disruption. At the time of writing, we are also preparing for Cyclone Narelle, once again with evacuations and flooding expected.

Many of you have worked tirelessly under challenging and unpredictable conditions to ensure care is being provided to our sickest and most vulnerable Territorians. I know this has come at a personal cost, and that many of you are exhausted. I sincerely hope some reprieve is on the horizon. It was inspiring to see images from around the Territory and to hear the stories emerging that reflect the professionalism, resilience, and compassion that define our workforce here in the Territory.

## Worksite Visits

In response to your feedback, we have increased our presence and engagement across worksites. This has included:

- Increased organiser visits to workplaces
- Launching our first webinar in the information series
- Hosting a pop-up stand in the RDH foyer each Friday throughout March

We will also be expanding **virtual worksite visits** to better connect with members in remote locations. Your feedback continues to shape how we engage, and we encourage you to keep sharing your ideas on how we can better support and connect with you. So far, these initiatives have been well received and have led to valuable and robust discussions.

## EA

Our **Enterprise Agreement negotiations** for the NT Public Sector commenced on **23 March 2026**. This is a significant year for our members, and I will be providing regular updates as negotiations progress. We have also launched a [blog](#) on our member portal where you can follow developments, access information, and have your questions answered.

## Staff Movements

We recently said a sad farewell to **Liza Licera**, who has resigned from ANMF NT after four years of dedicated service. Liza's energy, commitment, and positivity will be greatly missed, and we thank her for her contribution.

At the same time, we are pleased to welcome **Lisa Tompsett**, who has already hit the ground running and brings strong momentum into what will be a very busy year ahead.

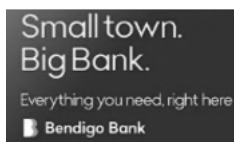
## Have Your Photo Featured

We are looking for a standout image to feature on our website—something that captures the spirit of ANMF NT or Nursing and Midwifery in the Territory. If you have a photo you're proud of, send it in for your chance to win a **\$50 gift card**.

## This Quarter's Features

In this edition, you'll find:

- Enterprise Agreement updates
- Scholarship recipient letters
- Job Delegate (JD) profile – learn more about the vital role JDs play in our union and how you can get involved



## from the branch office

### International Nurses and (belated) Midwives Day Celebrations

We look forward to celebrating **International Nurses and (belated) Midwives Day** with you.

**Darwin:** Trailer Boat Club | 🕒 3:00pm – 6:00pm, 12 May 2026 | Light refreshments provided

**Central Australia:** Telegraph Station | 🕒 4:00pm – 6:00pm, 12 May 2026 | Nibbles and drinks provided – please bring a chair.

All members are warmly invited to attend. Please RSVP to let us know if you'll be joining us—we would love to see you there.



### Assistant Branch Secretary Report

Angela Phillips | [organiser1@anmfnt.org.au](mailto:organiser1@anmfnt.org.au)

#### What Does the Union Do for Me?

It's a fair question—and one we're proud to answer.

Behind the scenes, your ANMF NT team is working every day to support, represent, and advocate for members across the Northern Territory.

#### Supporting Members When It Matters Most

On average, our three organisers assist with around **15 individual member matters each week**. Right now, we are managing **170 cases**, with **129 ongoing**.

These cases are often complex and high-stakes, including:

Nursing & Midwifery Board matters | Workers compensation claims | Coroner's cases  
Disciplinary processes | Workplace disputes

This work is about more than advice—it's about standing beside members during some of the most challenging moments of their careers.

#### Being Visible and Accessible

Our organisers are regularly out in workplaces, meeting members face-to-face. At present, there is a strong focus on providing updates and information about the **NTPS Nurses & Midwives Enterprise Agreement bargaining**.

We are also committed to regional and remote engagement, with visits to:

Alice Springs | Tennant Creek | Nhulunbuy | Katherine | Mataranka

In addition, organisers are actively liaising with remote management to ensure meetings are set up with members working in remote communities—because every member deserves access to support and representation, no matter where they are.

#### Advocating at Every Level

ANMF NT is currently negotiating **six enterprise agreements**, including the critical NTPS Nurses & Midwives Agreement. Your Branch Secretary and Assistant Branch Secretary are also advocating for members at the highest levels, including:

- Monthly meetings with NT Health and the Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer (CNMO) Consultative Committee on workforce and operational issues
- Regular engagement with Regional Nurse and Midwife Leaders across all NT regions to share information and address workplace concerns
- Quarterly meetings with the Health Minister and NT Health Chief Executive (where scheduling allows), ensuring member issues are raised, tracked, and followed through

#### Fighting for Better Outcomes

As we move further into bargaining for the NTPS Nurses & Midwives Agreement, our focus is clear: **achieving the best possible outcomes for our members**.

We are taking forward the claims that members have told us matter most—claims that are widely and deeply felt across the workforce. These reflect the reality of working in an increasingly **overburdened and under-resourced environment**, and the urgent need for proper recognition of the vital work nurses and midwives do every single day.

## Your Union—Your Voice

Every conversation, every case, every meeting, and every negotiation is driven by one purpose: **to improve the working lives of nurses and midwives in the Northern Territory.**

Your union is strongest when members are informed, involved, and united.

**Do you want to be involved with your Union?** Become a **Job Delegate** for your workarea. Contact the office for a nomination form 8920 0700 or email [info@anmfnt.org.au](mailto:info@anmfnt.org.au)



## Lisa Tompsett Introduction

Hello everyone, I'm Lisa Tompsett, the newest member of the ANMF NT team, and I'm thrilled to be here. I've called the Territory home for 35 years, which means I've survived enough build-ups and wet-season dramas to officially qualify as a seasoned Territorian. I'm married with three wonderful daughters — two 15 year olds and one 25 year old — and last year I proudly stepped into my favourite new role: of Nanna and Mother-in-Law.

Some of you may already know me from my 18 years at RDH, where I worked my way from PCA to EN and eventually completed my Bachelor of Nursing in 2023. I've spent most of the last 14 years in Outpatients at Royal Darwin and Palmerston Hospitals and have worked in all areas, so have heard and seen it all.

I'm genuinely excited to now be supporting our incredible nurses, midwives, PCAs, and RUSON/Ms across the NT. I love connecting with people, smoothing out the bumps, and keeping the behind the scenes magic running so our members feel supported, valued, and heard.

Fun fact: I love camping and fishing with my husband — a man who has, impressively, survived two unintentional swims in the Adelaide River. (Yes, that river and yes, I still let him come fishing.)

I'm looking forward to meeting more of you and contributing to the important work we do for our NT health community.



## Membership Report

**Christina McDougall** | [membership@anmfnt.org.au](mailto:membership@anmfnt.org.au) | P: 08 8920 0702

Hello members!

### Professional Indemnity Insurance (PII) cover 2025 - 2026

The policy covers eligible financial members of the ANMF (Northern Territory Branch) up to 30 June 2026 at 4pm This confirmation is in force whilst the individual remains an eligible financial member of the ANMF (Northern Territory Branch). The limit of Professional Indemnity for any one claim is \$10 million and \$50 million in the aggregate, and for Public Liability, \$10 million any one occurrence. Issued for the purposes of Section 129 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law that requires nurses and midwives to have appropriate professional indemnity cover in place for their practice.

### Exclusions

*The policy does not cover independent and/or privately practising midwives providing intrapartum care, non-practicing members or student members who are not working and higher education members other than when employed in a tertiary institution. Further, exclusions apply with respect to Botox and cosmetic Injectables; ear syringing, laser therapy; osteopathy; chiropractic and manipulative therapy; services rendered under the influence of intoxicants or drugs; and dishonest, fraudulent, criminal and/or malicious conduct. The full terms, conditions and exclusions can be found in the policy wording. Nurses or midwives in independent practice will not be covered unless they meet specific criteria upon application. The policy has been arranged by Edgewise Insurance Brokers Pty Ltd (ACN 120 673 261, AFSL 307654) and issued by Berkley Insurance Company (trading as Berkley Insurance Australia) (ABN 53 126 559 706, AFSL 463129) of Level 7, 321 Kent Street, Sydney NSW 2000 Australia.*

You can download a copy of your PII Certificate on the ANMF NT Member Portal.

For any enquiries regarding your PII, please contact Membership;

email [membership@anmfnt.org.au](mailto:membership@anmfnt.org.au) or call: 08 8920 0702 8am-4pm weekdays.

Kindest regards,

ANMF NT Membership Officer, Christina McDougall

## scholarship recipients

### Llorabel Reynolds Scholarship

Our scholarship applications are currently closed. We are reviewing how we can continue to support members in accessing professional development opportunities into the future. As always, we are incredibly impressed by the calibre and commitment of our members. And here are last years scholarship recipients reports.

#### What it has meant to receive the scholarship

##### Elizabeth Bennett

Thank you for the opportunity to receive the ANMF Llorabel Reynolds Scholarship.

The scholarship has enabled me to further my nursing career and expand my knowledge through a postgraduate certificate in Primary Health. As a result of completing this certificate, I have since been able to secure a permanent position in my current role.

The financial support provided by the scholarship allowed me to focus fully on my studies without the added stress of costs, while continuing to work full time.

I am sincerely grateful for the opportunity and support this scholarship has provided, and for the positive impact it has had on both my education and career.

##### Shanti Joshi Bhatta

Receiving this scholarship for the Graduate Certificate in Child and Family Health Nursing has been both an honour and a source of encouragement in my professional journey. As a Child Health Nurse working in an Aboriginal Medical Service, I see every day the importance of providing accessible, culturally safe, and family-centred care. The scholarship has given me the opportunity to further develop my knowledge and skills, ensuring I can provide the highest standard of support to children and families during critical stages of growth and development.

This support has not only eased the financial burden of study but has also affirmed the value of investing in the workforce that serves Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families. It has strengthened my motivation to continue contributing to improved health outcomes, particularly in early childhood, where prevention and support can make a lifelong difference.

The scholarship has also encouraged me to reflect on the importance of lifelong learning, collaboration, and advocacy in nursing practice. I feel deeply grateful, knowing that this opportunity is helping me to grow both professionally and personally, while also strengthening the services I can provide within the community I serve.

##### Emma Chalmers

Receiving the Australian Nurses and Midwifery Federation NT Llorabel Reynolds Scholarship meant a great deal to me, both personally and professionally. The scholarship allowed me to attend the 56th RANZCO Annual Scientific Conference in Melbourne, an opportunity I was very grateful for and one that I wouldn't have been able to do without this support.

While at the RANZCO conference, I attended a range of seminars that provided helpful updates in the ophthalmology field. These sessions gave me a better understanding of current practices, new treatments, and where ophthalmic care is heading. I've come away with practical knowledge that I can take back into my everyday work.

I also had the opportunity to attend the Australian Ophthalmic Nurses Association conference, which was a real highlight. It was great to connect with other ophthalmic nurses who share the same interests and challenges. Seeing two of our own ophthalmic nurses present at the conference was especially inspiring and something I felt proud to be part of.

Overall, the Llorabel Reynolds Scholarship gave me the chance to learn, connect, and grow in my role. I'm very thankful for the opportunity and for the support to continue developing my skills in ophthalmic nursing.

##### Jyothy Jose

I am truly grateful for the scholarship I have received. I am delighted to inform you that I have successfully completed my post-graduate course in the Graduate Certificate in Child and Family Health.

This scholarship means so much to me, especially at this time when my family and I are facing financial difficulties.

## scholarship recipients

My husband is still working as a casual staff member, and I am only able to work part-time to support our family, which includes two young children. The scholarship has alleviated a significant amount of financial pressure, especially since the course fees were a substantial burden. It has also given me the confidence to pursue further studies and expand my nursing career. By enhancing my skills, I will be better equipped to provide high-quality care to my patients, ultimately benefiting the community and our country.

I deeply appreciate this support and the positive impact it will have on my professional development.

### **Morenike Nwakor-Osaji**

Receiving a scholarship to complete my Master of Clinical Nursing in renal nursing has meant more to me than I can easily put into words. It has been a huge relief, but also incredibly validating. Having the ANMFNT believe in me, and in the work I want to do in renal nursing, has given me a real boost of confidence at a time when postgraduate study can feel overwhelming.

The financial support has taken a lot of pressure off, allowing me to focus on learning and growing rather than constantly worrying about how to manage everything at once. More than that, it has reminded me why I chose this path in the first place. Renal nursing is demanding, complex, and emotionally challenging, but it is also deeply meaningful. Supporting people who are living with chronic kidney disease requires trust, patience, and genuine connection, and this study is helping me become a better nurse for those patients.

This scholarship has made me feel supported and encouraged, especially during long days and challenging moments. It has strengthened my motivation to keep going, to keep learning, and to give back through compassionate, skilled care in renal nursing.

### **Rachelle Joyce Reyes**

Receiving the ANMF scholarship has been deeply meaningful to me, both as a nurse and as a person. Working in community nursing in the Northern Territory has shaped who I am. Everyday, I enter people's homes, meet them in vulnerable moments, and walk alongside them as they manage chronic illness in complex and often challenging circumstances. These experiences have shown me how powerful, and how demanding, community nursing truly is.

This scholarship is more than financial support. It feels like recognition of the work community nurses do and a belief in our potential to lead change. It has eased the pressure of balancing study, work, and family, allowing me to fully commit to my Master of Nursing in Chronic Disease while continuing to serve my community.

Through my studies, I am building deeper clinical knowledge, confidence, and leadership skills that I can bring straight back to practice. I want to be a nurse who not only delivers care, but also improves systems, advocates for patients, and supports colleagues in the community setting.

I am sincerely grateful to the ANMF for this opportunity. This scholarship strengthens my capacity to grow, to lead, and to make a meaningful difference in the lives of the people and communities I serve.

### **Rejina Shrestha**

Receiving the ANMF NT scholarship to study a Master of Nursing in Chronic Diseases and Ageing is a significant achievement for me. It recognises my dedication to nursing and my goal of improving my knowledge and skills. This scholarship is not only financial support, but also encouragement to continue my professional development.

In my nursing practice, I have seen the impact that chronic illness and ageing have on individuals and their families. Many people require long-term care, understanding, and consistent support. This course will help me gain deeper knowledge in these areas so that I can provide safe, effective, and compassionate care to those who need it most.

The scholarship has reduced the financial burden of postgraduate study, making it possible for me to pursue further education while managing work and personal responsibilities. It allows me to focus on learning and growing as a nurse.

I am thankful to ANMF NT for this opportunity. I hope to use what I learn to improve patient care, support my colleagues, and contribute positively to the nursing profession. This scholarship is an important step toward achieving my goal of becoming a knowledgeable and caring nurse who can make a meaningful difference in the community.

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## job delegate profiles

### Job Delegate Profiles

If your workplace does not currently have a Job Delegate, we strongly encourage you to consider nominating. JDs are a critical link between members and the union. You can find more information and the nomination form on our website.



#### Flo Morcom

My name is Flo Morcom. I was born on Vanderlin Island off the coast of Borroloola. I spent 10 years of my life on Melville Island and then went to school in Adelaide. I trained as an enrolled nurse in the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corp at Puckapunyal from there got married and moved to Tasmania. I then did my RN training, then Midwifery and from there started working in ICU. Had no idea really what I was doing as I had no one to guide or teach me, and I learnt a lot from mistakes. So did my ICU training at the Royal Hobart Hospital for 12 months, it certainly was an eye opener. Spent 30 years hands on in ICU in various hospitals in Melbourne, mainly St. Vincents Public, then back to Tassie. I worked in ICU in Saudi Arabia for 21 years, 10 years as the Nurse Manager of a 10 bed ICU and the rest as the Assistant Director of Nursing for Critical Care at a large Military hospital in Dhahran. I have been working for Danila Dilba for 8 years. Most importantly I am an avid and longtime Collingwood Supporter and have been a Member for almost 45 years. I am never short of a funny story or a laugh so come and have a chat with me. GO PIES!



#### David O Sullivan

My name is David, and I'm a nurse in the Royal Darwin Hospital Emergency Department. I've worked in healthcare for 12 years, with seven years as a registered nurse. Most of my career has been in ED, but I've also gained experience across wards including ICU, GEM, 7C, and 2A. In the ED, I work in various roles, including Team Leader, and support my practice with postgraduate qualifications, a Graduate Diploma and a Master's degree. I'm proud to serve as an ANMF delegate, advocating for colleagues and promoting safe, high-quality patient care. I value teamwork and the camaraderie of ED and believe in supporting staff whenever needed. I'm approachable and always happy to help, so please say hello if you see me. I look forward to connecting with everyone and working together to strengthen our profession and workplace.



#### Ellen Thomassen

My name is Ellen Thomassen. I relocated from Belgium to Australia in 2019 and have been loving life up here in the Territory ever since.

I am currently employed in the Emergency Department in Royal Darwin Hospital and will be commencing my postgraduate studies next month.

In my role as union delegate, I am committed to being a strong and approachable voice for my colleagues, ensuring concerns are raised early and addressed in a constructive manner.

By supporting nurses through open communication and collective advocacy, I hope to strengthen unity within our team and to contribute to positive, sustainable change.

I encourage all colleagues to feel comfortable approaching me at any time with questions, concerns, or feedback.

### Member Photos

Jackson George



Samson Kiptum



Authorised by Heidi Crisp Branch Secretary | Australian Nursing & Midwifery Federation (NT Branch)

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