ACMHN Northern Territory Branch
Business Meeting minutes
8th December 2013.
Wanguri Electoral Office, Leanyer.

MEETING COMMENCED: 17:05 hrs.

1. **PRESENT:** Sharleen Mulherin, Ali Thorn, Denis Blackford, Verena Tinning, Kerry Sims, Marty Musco, Kym Richardson, Heath Stevenson, Lea Torrens, Busi Mutengwa and Kristy Butler.

2. **APOLOGIES:** Adele Northwood, Georgie Wood, Pat Bradley, Deb Spurgeon, Makiko Noto, Erin Evans, Julie Hughes, Marion De Wit and Jane Hair.

3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** Accepted. Moved- Marty Musco, Seconded- Lea Torrens.

4. **STANDING ITEMS**
   4.1 **Suggestions for Members Matters Meetings:** Pam Wood was unable to attend the meeting in November to discuss renal issues and mental health. Pam has agreed to present at the first Meeting of the year for 2014.
   4.2 **Vacant DON position:** The DON position has remained vacant for the past 12 months, since Wendy Scott left the NT. Lea reports that this matter has been discussed at executive leadership meetings, and that the position would be for the Top End and Remote. A discussion over the GM roles has been taken to Christine Denis and an EOI for a number of positions. Lea will ask about this position again at the next leadership meeting via Teleconference on Thursday. The NT Branch last sent a letter in February 2012 and met with CE Jeff Moffett in March 2012. Ali to send Christine Denis a letter on behalf of the NT Branch re: the vacant DON position before Christmas and request a response by the end of January.
   4.3 **Social media platform:** The NT Branch Facebook page that was created last year has been closed down. Ali is liaising with Clare Butterfield re: posting photos from NT Branch events on the ACMHN National Facebook page.
   4.4 **Meeting with NT Health Minister:** NT Branch members Marty Musco, Denis Blackford and Verena Tinning met with NT Health Minister Robyn Lambley on Wednesday 27th November 2013. This was a ‘meet and greet’ to introduce Minister Lambley to the College and showcase what the NT Branch is doing at a local level.
   4.5 **Post Graduate Nursing Student Placements:** Flinders Uni Post Grad students continue to be expected to take Annual Leave to attend placements to attend placements within TEMHS and at times take a case load without financial reimbursement, despite working for the service as an RN. Pat to continue to discuss with Flinders University re: this matter.
5. OFFICE BEARER REPORTS:

5.1. CHAIR: Ali and Sharleen attended Face to Face Council of Branches meeting at the College Conference in October and Sharleen attended the most recent COB meeting via teleconference on Thursday 14th November 2013. Key points included recent changes to the constitution, Mental Health Act and preparations for the Conference in Melbourne for 2014. A summary of the Council of Branches Meeting is on the ACMHN website.

5.2. SECRETARY: No correspondence in the PO Box. New members for the previous month include Sibusisiwe Mutengwa and Rodney Roulstone. An obituary for Glenn Horder has been submitted to the ACMHN Summer edition of the magazine for publishing. Ali is proud to report that NT Branch membership is currently at 100% for Nhulunbuy (Gove). Ali will contact Head Office re: obtaining postcards for 2014 Conference to circulate to NT Branch members.

5.3. TREASURER: No new business to report.

6. BUSINESS ARISING

6.1. Treasurer Position for NT Branch: It was decided in the constitutional changes that there will no longer be role of Treasurer. NT Branch members have given Verena a new title ‘Branch Financial Officer’ to continue utilise funds for catering for meetings and so on.

6.2. Suggestion of 2014 NT Symposium: It has been decided that 2015 would be more appropriate year for another NT Symposium due to the 40th Anniversary Conference in Melbourne for 2014. The NT Branch will need to establish a committee and start planning next year for a Symposium in 2015.

6.3. Nurse Practitioner Role: The NT Branch has one member who has completed the NP course, yet needs to be endorsed (Adele). The position needs to be within the scope of practice. The was a NP meeting with Deb Spurgeon, Adele Northwood, Kerry Sims, Georgie Wood and Verena Tinning. Robin Atkins to talk about these roles can be incorporated within the department. Robin is working on where an NP would be most useful. For example, there is not huge scope for the role on the inpatient unit. This has been under discussion with the Office Commission of Public Employment by looking for gaps in the service and for the role to be built into the EBA.

6.4. PO Box: Marty has been delegated to check the PO Box as Ali is participating in the role as secretary from a remote locality. The consensus from NT Branch members was to keep the PO Box for future correspondence, particularly in the NT is to host a symposium in 2015.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

7.1 No business without notice.

Meeting Closed: 18:15hrs, followed by Christmas Dinner Party at Dolly O’Reilly’s Irish Pub, Darwin.

NEXT MEETING: Members Matters Meeting. February 7th 2014 at Wanguri Electorate Office.