



Anne Vigar

NPAQ President

Welcome to the first NPAQ newsletter. As our organisation grows from strength to strength I want to thank you for your support and trust you have shown us. The principles that NPAQ is based on are obviously very relevant to you as more nurses look to our professional group.

Cath Seaver, our Secretary does a marvellous job fielding phone calls, answering your queries and passing on any issues to the QAS Group. Our liaison with the QAS Group has proved useful and beneficial to several of our members over the last twelve months. These legal and HR/IR professionals give us a level of support of the highest standard.

As our numbers grow we have established branch representatives in workplaces around Queensland and will continue to do so. These people are professional nurses and are enthusiastic about their role in our organisation.

Being onsite they are there to support you. NPAQ is based on having active local branches with support from head office. That way we can keep costs low and pass savings back to our members. [continued]

More choice for Bundy nurses



PHOTO: Cathy Madsen, Member for Burnett Stephen Bennett, Phill Tsingos and Graeme Haycroft discuss the benefits of joining NASQ. Max Fleet BUNNPAQ

A NEW professional association for Queensland nurses has launched a branch in Bundaberg offering an alternative to unions, with the backing of member for Burnett Stephen Bennett.

The Nurses Professional Association of Queensland aims to provide services including indemnity insurance and legal help for lower cost, and apolitical support for nurses.

"We see unionism as very militant; it's a very different philosophy to the way nurses are," branch secretary Phill Tsingos said.

"When you've been told by unions to go on strike and be away from the workplace, that cuts really deep to our core values and we don't agree with that," Mr Tsingos said.

Anne Vigar (continued)

I have recently been involved in EB negotiations and it's the local knowledge that can be very important and can make a significant difference to outcomes.

We listened to your suggestions on education and changed the structure on what we offer. Many of you have the opportunity to do your education through your workplace, so we have made the education component optional. For some in remote and isolated areas or smaller hospitals education is still available.

With the possibility of an election looming on the horizon, I once again would like to emphasise NPAQs commitment to be apolitical. We will not be supporting any party. We are only about issues that affect nurses.

These are the principles that make us different.

And finally, don't forget to refer a friend. If they join then you get a refund of one month's membership. More importantly, so do they. So give a gift to your colleagues and spread the word.

Warm regards
Anne

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More choice for Bundy nurses (continued)

He said some of NPAQ's 300 members had joined after experiencing what they felt was discrimination, including getting lower priority for shifts and rostered days off, if they did not take part in union activities such as strikes.

Mr Bennett said NPAQ offered a much-needed alternative.

"It's really important that nurses have a clear choice about their representation, particularly when it comes to collective bargaining," he said.

A cornerstone of NPAQ's campaign is that it does not align itself with a political party, while it claims about \$200 out of every Queensland Nurses Union member's subscription fee is directed in cash or kind to the Australian Labor Party.

"Health professionals' hard-earned dollars shouldn't be lining the pockets of a political party," Mr Bennett said.

But Queensland Nurses' Union refutes this and has sent Mr Bennett a cease and desist letter for making this claim.

"That's not true," QNU secretary Beth Mohle said.

"We don't shy away from the fact that we act politically. We are a campaigning union and we are proud of that," Ms Mohle said.

"You have to lobby politicians of all political persuasions - we hold them to account to get the best outcome for nurses and for the community," she said.

NPAQ charges its members \$32 a month, and QNU charges \$54.20.

ORIGINAL ARTICLE: <http://m.news-mail.com.au/news/more-choice-for-nurses/2878280/>

VIDEO HIGHLIGHT

Nursing Career Coach | Nicole Nash-Arnold
In case you missed it! A video of this event is available via our YouTube channel.
https://youtu.be/vlgz8OM_KSU



Found us on Facebook?

<http://www.facebook.com/NPAQueensland>



Have your say in our NPAQ Facebook community page.



Here is a Referral Gift for you and your friends and colleagues



Thank you for growing the NPAQ community

Our rapidly growing membership is mostly from personal referrals, so to show our appreciation for your valuable time and spreading the NPAQ message we are offering a Referral Gift.

If you refer friends or colleagues and they join, one month's membership \$ is refunded and your friend or colleague receives one month too.

- **Ongoing offer**
- **Refund \$ for every referral**
- **Referrals remain active forever**

Together we will build a strong network of professional nurses and allied health professionals.

It is really simple



1

Tell your friends/colleagues about us and this offer

We believe the real value of NPAQ is in the protection that membership guarantees. This gift offer is a “thank you” for telling your friends about us. Talk to your friends and colleagues or click below to use the digital referral system.



2

Your friends/colleagues join

We look forward to providing you with continuous support and sending lots of “thank you” referral gifts your way.



3

You both receive the referral gift

Refer a friend or colleague NOW



<http://www.npaq.com.au/referral.html>



Is it time to take a break?

Taking a break is an important part of any professional career, but the reality for most nurses is, it doesn't happen often enough. If you would like to get away for a weekend but don't have time to plan where to go....

Introducing Worldsaway Retreat.



Set in the Moreton Bay Hinterland, and less than an hours' drive north of Brisbane or south of the Sunshine Coast, Worldsaway Retreat offers a truly unique way to unwind and relax in luxuriously appointed self-contained cabins, with breathtaking views of the Glasshouse Mountains, Sunshine Coast, Moreton Bay and the Redcliffe Peninsula. The property also features a rugged waterfall, rocky caverns, hiking trails, entertainment decks complete with BBQs, and fire pits a movie projector, chill out areas and abundance of wildlife.

Indulge yourself by combining a relaxing weekend in the crisp mountain air with a visit to a nearby winery for lunch or dinner or simply to sample the wines on offer (transport is available).

Further information and bookings can be made on the Worldsaway website: www.worldsawayretreat.com

