

## ACTU President-elect Ged Kearney biography

Gerardine (Ged) Kearney was elected as the next President of the Australian Council of Trade Unions in April 2010.

She will officially assume the role on 1 July to replace Sharan Burrow, who has been nominated unopposed as General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation, based in Brussels.

Ms Kearney was elected the Federal Secretary of the Australian Nursing Federation in April 2008.

She has been an elected official with the ANF since 2003, also serving as Assistant Federal Secretary, Federal President and Victorian Branch President.

She is a member of the ACTU Executive, and a director of the HESTA Super Fund.

The ANF represents more than 175,000 nurses and midwives, and is one of Australia's fastest growing unions.

Ms Kearney became a registered nurse in 1985, and has worked in many settings across the public and private acute sectors, predominantly in Melbourne, and has also been a nursing educator, including manager of the Clinical Nursing Education Department at Austin Health. She has a Bachelor in Education.

As Federal Secretary, Ms Kearney has seen substantial membership growth of the ANF and the first national combined strategic growth campaign in the private sector aged care industry.

Her background in nursing and industrial experience combined with her passion for the profession has driven Ms Kearney in advancing the profession and industrial rights of ANF members.

In collaboration with ANF Branches in every state and territory Ms Kearney has worked to improve the working lives and conditions of dedicated nurses, midwives and assistants in nursing throughout Australia.

The second youngest of nine children, Ms Kearney grew up in the inner Melbourne suburb of Richmond, where her father was a publican.

She was brought up in a household where the importance of the collective, both in politics and society, was emphasised from an early age.

The year after qualifying as a registered nurse, she took part in the famous Victorian nurses' strike of 1986 which resulted in substantial improvements to pay and conditions.

Ms Kearney is a mother of four children aged from 16 to 23, and lives in Melbourne.

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