

Regional Quality Improvement Project (RQIP)

Brief 1: July/August 2023

Steering committee meetings were held on July 20th and August 24th via Zoom meetings. Representatives from the World Health Organization Collaborating Centre at University of Technology Sydney (WHO CC UTS), South Pacific Nursing and Midwifery Officers Alliance (SPCNMOA) and Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC) were present. The Terms of Reference for the Steering Committee were ratified. Discussions centred around the program plan, project definitions, procedures for data collection and nursing mobility in the region.

A desktop review of literature surrounding regulation of nursing in the Pacific Island Countries commenced in July. Through the desktop review information available on line relating to Nursing Acts and the regulation and accreditation of nursing programs in the participating countries has been compiled. The following working project definitions have been adapted from the available literature.

Nursing program regulation: A set of standards set by regulatory bodies (i.e., government, nursing council, ministries of health) by which an organisation (i.e., education provider) delivers an educational program leading to a qualification in a nursing role.

Regulation of individual nurses: Where a regulatory body (i.e., nursing council, government) determines that an individual has met the pre-defined set of criteria and performance standards allowing them to register and practice as a nurse (i.e., Registered Nurse, Midwife, Nurse Practitioner, Enrolled Nurse)

Accreditation of nursing programs: The evaluation of the quality of preparatory programs at an educational institution (i.e., university, school, college) by a nominated professional body (i.e. nursing council, midwifery council, medical board, ministry of health) against pre-defined criteria/standards or regulations. The outcome of the process is that the program is accredited and therefore suitable to prepare students for registration as a nurse/midwife.



Participants in the steering committee meeting

NEXT STEPS

A process of data collection has also been determined and discussed with the Steering Committee. The project team plans to have initial meetings with the Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officers (CNMO) of participating countries to identify key stakeholders relevant to nursing program regulation, regulation of individual nurses and accreditation of nursing programs. Following this discussion, each CNMO will introduce the project team to key stakeholders. Data collection will commence in September.

Steering Committee Members

Position	Country	Name
Nursing Advisor, SPC	Fiji	Silina Waqa
Technical Officer, WHO	Fiji	Deki
CNMO	Palau	Antonette Merer
DNS	Solomon Islands	Michael Larui
CNMO	Fiji	Colleen Wilson
CNMO	Samoa	Ulises Tapuvae
CNMO	Cook Islands	Ngatamariki Manea
CNMO	Papua New Guinea	Mary Kililo
CNO/CNMO	Tonga	Mele Sii Inukihaangana Filise
CNO/CNMO	Vanuatu	Harriet Sam
Secretariat		
WHO CC UTS	Australia	Michele Rumsey
WHO CC UTS	Fiji	Karen Hammad
ANMAC	Australia	Alan Merrit
ANMAC	Australia	Greg Cantwell