

April 2015 WHO CC Regional Update

Dear Colleagues, The start of the new year has been very busy and productive for the WHO CC UTS. This issue of the Regional Update highlights key developments achieved by the Centre over the past few months in nursing, midwifery and health development throughout the Pacific. You will also find links to a number of informative resources.

We welcome your feedback or comments regarding this newsletter or the work of the WHO CC UTS. Please contact us at [whccc@uts.edu.au](mailto:whccc@uts.edu.au), or follow us on Twitter by adding [@whccmichele](https://twitter.com/whccmichele) to your contacts.

Maternal and Child Health Initiative (MCHI) 2015

MCHI holds first workshop for 2015 The PNG Maternal and Child Health Initiative (MCHI) held its first workshop for 2015 at Sogeri, Central Province, Papua New Guinea at the end of March. This workshop is the fourth for Phase II of the Initiative, and focussed on the areas of antenatal care and strengthening competency assessment skills in midwifery education. Over 20 national educators, clinicians and leaders attended the three day workshop, along with representatives from the MCHI team including four clinical midwifery facilitators, one clinical midwifery educator and one of the obstetricians. Christine Sturrock (Counsellor, Health and HIV, Australian High Commission Port Moresby) and Mrs Mary Kiliv from the National Department of Health officially opened the workshop which was led by the five PNG midwifery course coordinators, with support from Alison Moores and Caroline Homer from the WHO CC UTS. Feedback from workshop participants was extremely positive and further workshops are planned for later in the year. The MCHI is funded by the Australian Government and led by the PNG National Department of Health.



Longitudinal study of midwifery graduates in PNG The MCHI's longitudinal study tracking midwifery workforce participation and graduate influences is progressing well with over 80% of midwifery graduates from the 2012 and 2013 cohorts surveyed to date. The study is being led by Alison Moores and Caroline Homer, with support and involvement from the Research Team in PNG. Two members of this Team - Nancy Buasi and Paula Puawe - have assisted with data collection through conducting surveys and focus groups with midwifery students with Alison's guidance. Final study results will be available towards the end of 2015.

Asia-Pacific Midwifery Workforce Workshop



On March 2-4 2015, the H4+ (UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women) partnership, along with the WHO, the World Bank, and the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) hosted a workshop in Bangkok, Thailand to discuss issues facing midwives in the region. Senior leaders in midwifery education and regulation came together to share experiences and discuss the findings from recent evidence and international movements supporting the advancement of maternal and newborn health.

WHO CC UTS Member Professor Caroline Homer was a speaker and co-facilitator at this event, delivering sessions explaining the impact of care by midwives, and the importance of stabilising under- and over-medicalisation of midwifery in the region. WHO CC UTS Research Officer Florence West supported the workshop as a rapporteur.

The workshop was also a platform for the launch of the State of the World's Midwifery 2014 report, which highlights the diversity of issues affecting midwifery across the region.

Outcomes of the workshop included the improved understanding of similarities and differences in midwifery issues between countries in the Asia Pacific region. The delegation participated in lively discussions regarding issues affecting midwifery workforce development to increase the availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality of care for women and children.

A workshop report with recommendations for action is [available here](#).

PNG Nursing Council (PNG NC) Update on Registration of Nurses and Midwives



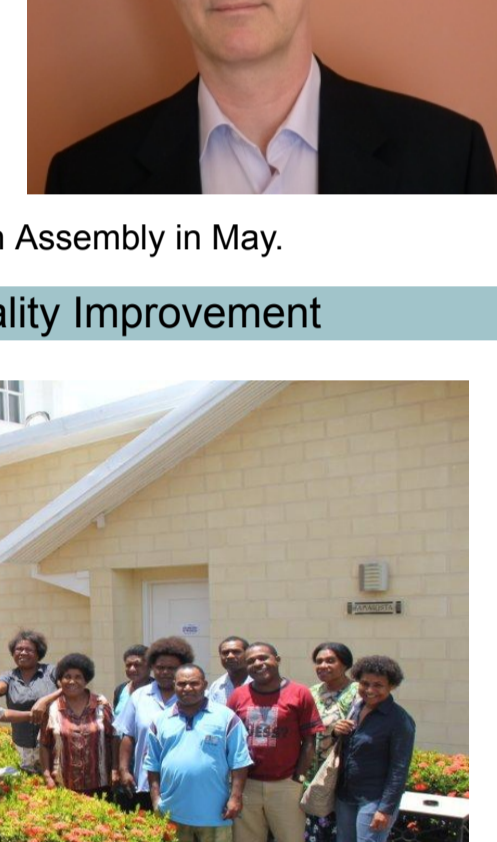
Michele Rumsey, Director of Operations and Development at the WHO CC UTS, has been working closely with PNG NC Acting Registrar Dr Nina Joseph to work towards all qualified nurses and midwives in Papua New Guinea (PNG) becoming registered. In 2014 this work included Committee meetings to ensure work is being carried out and nurses/midwives can be registered in a timely manner, nursing and midwifery educational institute audits; communication with institutes and with nurses/midwives to ensure they are informed of PNG NC changes; and a new website to be released in 2015.

The National Department of Health (NDoH) has also been working closely with educational institutes to improve their capacity and quality. Four accreditation audits of nursing schools were carried out in 2014. PNG Secretary for Health Mr Pascoe Kase released a statement confirming a focus on ensuring institutes are accredited by the PNG NC: "We need to maintain the standard of healthcare in PNG. For this reason, health worker training providers must be accredited through the PNG Nursing Council and Medical Board. This ... ensures that our health workforce continues to be highly competent in their roles and be responsive to the needs of our people."

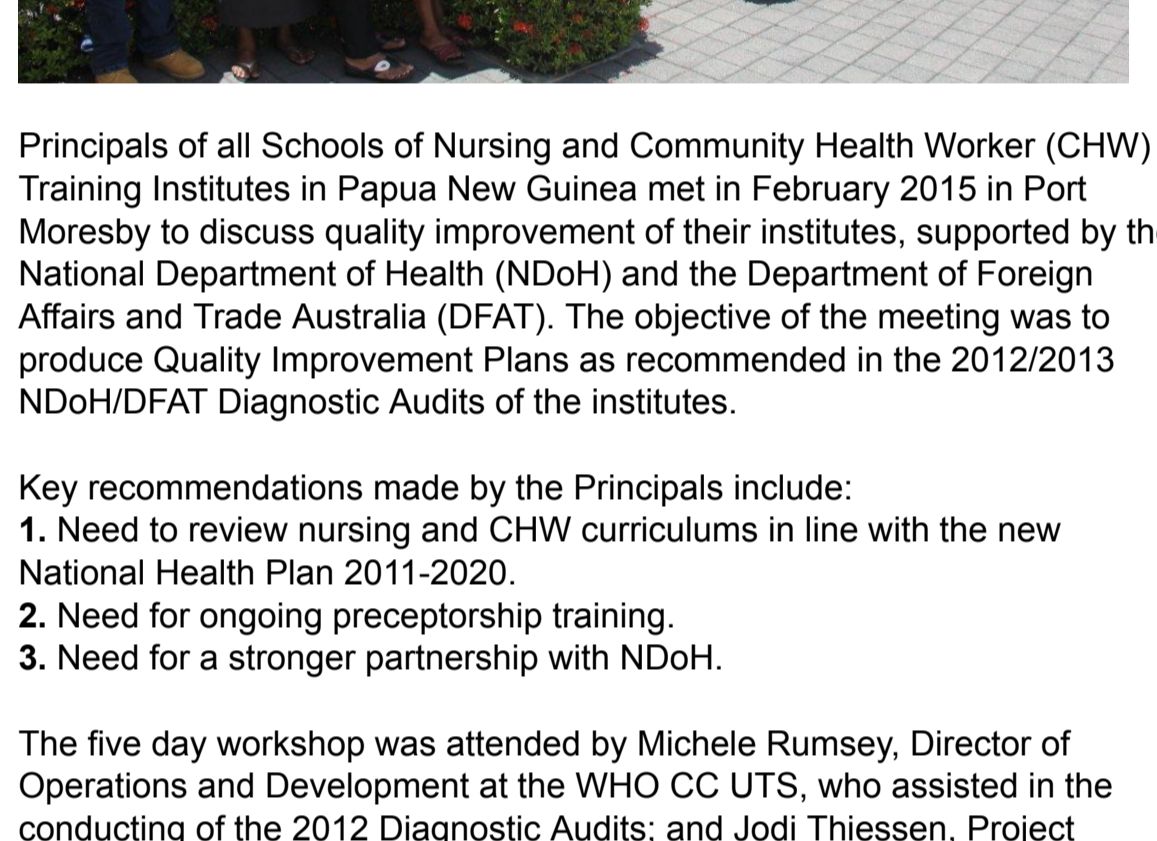
Work will continue in 2015 to ensure historical nurse and midwifery graduates are formally registered.

WHO Expert Advisory Group Meeting

In March 2015, Professor Jim Buchan, International Human Resources for Health Expert UK, and Adjunct Professor UTS participated in the convening of a WHO Expert Advisory Group Meeting to address the relevance and effectiveness of the WHO Global Code of Practice on international recruitment of health personnel, representing the WHO CC UTS. The meeting, which took place in Geneva, aimed to produce an executive report to be presented to the World Health Assembly in May.



Principals Meeting to Discuss Quality Improvement

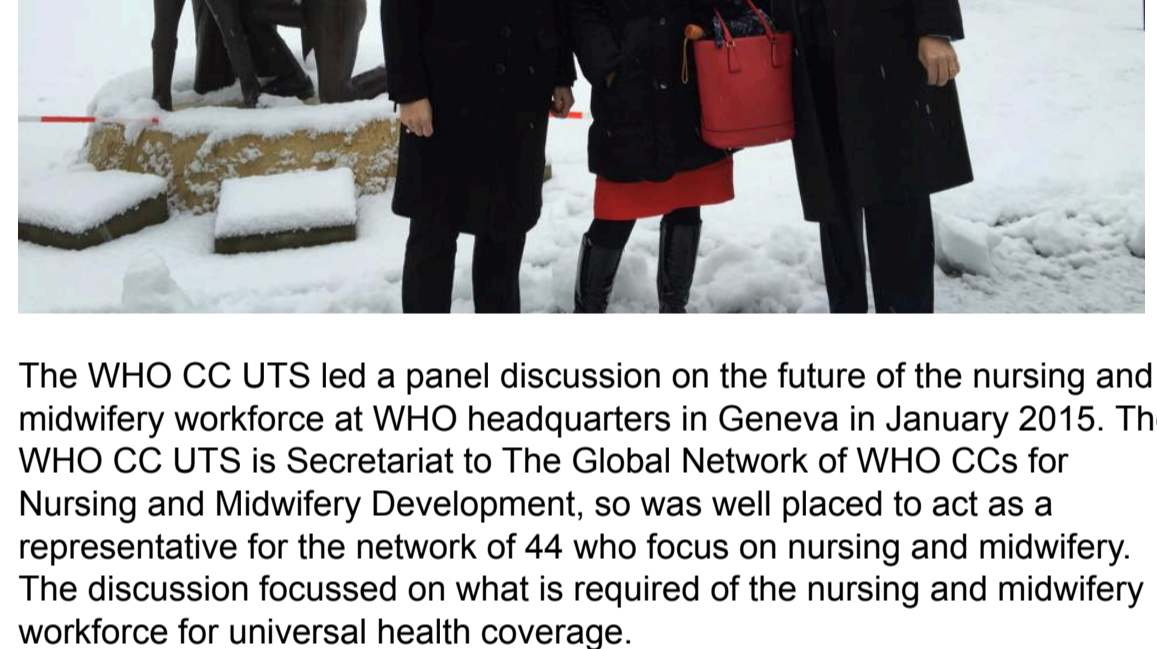


Principals of all Schools of Nursing and Community Health Worker (CHW) Training Institutes in Papua New Guinea met in February 2015 in Port Moresby to discuss quality improvement of their institutes, supported by the National Department of Health (NDoH) and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Australia (DFAT). The objective of the meeting was to produce Quality Improvement Plans as recommended in the 2012/2013 NDoH/DFAT Diagnostic Audits of the institutes.

Key recommendations made by the Principals include: 1. Need to review nursing and CHW curriculums in line with the new National Health Plan 2011-2020. 2. Need for ongoing preceptorship training. 3. Need for a stronger partnership with NDoH.

The five day workshop was attended by Michele Rumsey, Director of Operations and Development at the WHO CC UTS, who assisted in the conducting of the 2012 Diagnostic Audits; and Jodi Thiessen, Project Manager WHO CC UTS.

Global Network of WHO CCs discusses health workforce



The WHO CC UTS led a panel discussion on the future of the nursing and midwifery workforce at WHO headquarters in Geneva in January 2015. The WHO CC UTS is Secretariat to The Global Network of WHO CCs for Nursing and Midwifery Development, so was well placed to act as a representative for the network of 44 who focus on nursing and midwifery. The discussion focussed on what is required of the nursing and midwifery workforce for universal health coverage.

Panellists of the discussion included: - John Daly, Secretary General, Global Network of WHO CCs for Nursing and Midwifery, Head, WHO CC UTS - Michele Rumsey, Assistant Secretary General, Global Network; Director of Operations, WHO CC UTS - Caroline Homer, Assistant Secretary General, Global Network; Director, Centre for Midwifery, Child and Family Health

Recent Events

Free Online Course on Ebola In January 2015 the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine hosted an online seminar, exploring the scientific basis for the recent spread of Ebola as well as the social context of the disease. Participants heard from experts in infectious disease epidemiology, anthropology and public health.

Nursing Research Priorities Meeting in Bahrain The WHO CC for Nursing Development at the University of Bahrain hosted a two-day workshop in February 2015 to discuss nursing research priorities, as well as the establishment of a national nursing research network. It is hoped that the network will be established by mid-2016.

Risk and Resilience Webinar Series Part Four On February 26 ABT Associates held the fourth mental health and well-being webinar. The series of webinars aims to explore how a 'risk and resilience' framework can assist governments in improving outcomes for the most vulnerable members of society. The webinar can be watched online [here](#). The fifth webinar will be held April 21. More information can be found at [this link](#).

ICAP Webinar The International Centre for AIDS Care and Treatment Programs hosted a webinar on March 5, entitled 'Preceptors' Role in Student Acquisition of Essential Nursing and Midwifery Skills in Primary Care in Lesotho'. For more information about future events by ICAP, please see [their website](#).

Updates in the Region

Global Disaster Management The Hong Kong Polytechnic University School of Nursing has recently teamed up with the Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute at the University of Manchester. Throughout this partnership, the two organisations have collaboratively developed an online postgraduate program aiming to tackle key issues such as disaster risks, and vulnerability and resilience of communities.

Bishop announces \$15 million to fight TB in PNG In February, Foreign Minister Julie Bishop announced a three year \$15 million package to tackle tuberculosis in Papua New Guinea, the nation with the highest rate of infection of TB in the Pacific Region. This package will bring Australia's total contribution for TB support in PNG to \$60 million by 2016-17.

Pacific Islands Forum Update In early 2015, Dame Meg Taylor of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat emphasised the need for deeper Pacific regionalism. Speaking to the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) in Suva, Pacific Plan Review members highlighted the importance of taking a more coherent and collaborative approach to issues that affect the whole region, as well as the need to seek regional outcomes for these issues.

ANZ-DFAT Partnership Foreign Minister Julie Bishop announced in February an Australian Government partnership with ANZ to work together in the Pacific. The key areas of focus of the partnership are financial innovation for small businesses, women's financial literacy and involvement, and opportunities for joint financing of infrastructure projects.

Upcoming Events

Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Federation Conference On 12-13 March 2016, the Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Federation will host their third conference entitled 'Towards 2020: Celebrating nursing and midwifery leadership' in London, UK. The conference celebrates the bicentennial of the birth of Florence Nightingale, founder of modern nursing; and the WHO decade for a healthy world. Abstracts for the conference are being accepted until 31 May 2015 and can be submitted [here](#).

5th ACQID University Network Conference Monash University is hosting a conference on 4-5 June 2015 to bring together researchers and practitioners to discuss the role of inequality in development policy and practice. More information can be found [here](#).

Gender, Poverty and Violence Global Symposium A global symposium is being held on 13-15 July 2015 in Sydney, hosted in conjunction by the University of Sydney Law School, UTS Cosmopolitan Civil Societies, Kings College London, the University of Capetown and ActionAid. The symposium will be primarily concerned with the impact of conflict on issues faced by women. More information can be found at [this link](#).

2015 PNG Update The annual 2015 PNG Update will be held on 18-19 June 2015 in Port Moresby, hosted by the University of Papua New Guinea. The theme of this update is 'Development Challenges in the LNG Era'. Discussion topics will include PNG's economic climate, social and gender issues, and governance of development.

Health Workforce Education Webinar On Tuesday 14 April, at 9:00-10:30 EDT (13:00-14:30 UTC), CapacityPlus and SHOPS (Strengthening Health Outcomes through the Private Sector) will be hosting a webinar on innovative investment options for health workforce education and training. More information can be found [here](#). The webinar can be accessed on the date [at this link](#).

International Council of Nurses (ICN) Conference 2015 On 19-23 June 2015, the ICN will be hosting a conference in Seoul, Korea to strengthen international nursing networking. The conference theme is 'Global Citizen, Global Nursing', with seminar topics ranging from universal health coverage, the socio-economic status of nurses, and nursing migration patterns. The Burdett Trust for Nursing is sponsoring the attendance of seven former participants of the ICN Burdett Global Nursing Leadership Institute (GNLI). Nurses, other health professionals and members of the public may register online [at this link](#).

Opportunities

Global Master's in Health and Sustainable Development The American University of Beirut, in conjunction with Earth University, have finalised the first course from their new Global Master's in Health and Sustainable Development. To celebrate the launch, the university is assisting successful applicants through considerable financial support. Applications close on April 15. For more information, see the [official website](#) or contact Maha Damaj via [email](#).

Post-Doctoral Scholar's Fund The Faculty of Nursing at the University of Alberta is hosting a scholarship program for registered nurses who have recently completed doctoral education and are from a low to middle income country. Throughout the fellowship, scholars will undertake activities such as the submission of research papers, the development of a personal research timeline, and personal mentorship from a member of the Faculty. Applications have since closed.

Monash University Course on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Former Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Professor Olivier de Schutter, will be the chief examiner for a new Monash University course discussing economic, social and cultural rights and their basis in international human rights law and comparative law. More information can be found [here](#).

Publications

'Global, regional and national age-sex specific all-cause and cause-specific mortality for 240 causes of death, 1990-2013: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2013', The Lancet, Vol. 385, Issue 9963, 117-171: [available here](#)

Komro, K. A.; Burris, S.; Wageman, A. C. 'Social Determinants of Child Health: Concepts and Measures for Future Research', Health Behaviour and Policy Review, Vol. 1, No. 6, 432-445: [available here](#)

Buchan, J., Connell, J. & Rumsey, M. 2011. 'Recruiting and retaining health workers in remote areas: Pacific Island case-studies', World Health Organisation, Geneva: [available here](#)

Buchan, J. 2011. 'Midwives count: Achieving effective use of a scarce resource', Midwifery, 27, 297-298: [available here](#)

Dawson, A., Buchan, J., Duffield, C., Homer, C. S. E. & Wijewardena, K. 2013. 'Task shifting and sharing in maternal and reproductive health in low-income countries: a narrative synthesis of current evidence', Health Policy and Planning, 29 (3), 396-408: [available here](#)

Dawson, A., Wijewardena, K. 2013. 'Health and Education Provider Perspectives on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health in Sri Lanka', South East Asian Journal of Public Health, in press accepted, June 2013.

Fletcher, S., Thiessen, J., Gero, A., Kuruppu, N., & Willetts, J. 2014. 'Traditional Coping Strategies and Disaster Response; Examples from the South Pacific Region', Journal of Environmental and Public Health, Vol. 2013: [available here](#)

Rumsey, M., Fletcher, S. M., Thiessen, J., Gero, A., Kuruppu, N., Daly, J., Buchan, J. & Willetts, J. R. 2014. 'A qualitative examination of the health workforce needs during climate change disaster response', *Pacific Island Countries*, Human Resources for Health, vol. 12, no. 1, 2-20: [available here](#)

Valley, L. M., Homiehombo, P., Kelly, A. M., Valley, A., Homer, C. S. E. & Whittaker, A. 2013. 'Exploring women's perceptions of access to care during pregnancy and childbirth: A qualitative study from rural Papua New Guinea', Midwifery, 29(10), 1222-1229: [available here](#)

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Resources

Midwifery4all - sparking discussion on the benefits of investing in the midwifery workforce

E-Learning Modules by Inners to help health care workers prevent the top causes of maternal mortality

Toolkit for Engaging Midwives in the Global Campaign to End FGM

Rural Profiling Guidance by the Rural Health Advocacy Project in South Africa

Health at a Glance Third Edition: Europe 2014 and Asia-Pacific 2014 produced by OECD

Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Federation eNews Vol. 8 February 2015

International Centre for Human Resources in Nursing eNews Publication January 2015

Non-Communicable Diseases: A Priority for Women's Health and Development

Disease Control Priorities, Third Edition (DCP3), Vol. 1 - Essential Surgery - now available

UN Documents



UNDP Asia-Pacific Regional Report

Achieving Development Results in Asia and the Pacific - featuring MY World results

WHO Report from 6th Global Forum for Government Chief Nurses and Midwives - Geneva, May 2014

Transformative Education for Health Professionals

E-Learning for Undergraduate Health Professional Education - WHO Education Guidelines

EnfAmericas Global Engagement Institute Blog Post on Ebola

PAHO/WHO Press Release: Accessible, cost-effective measures can prevent cancer deaths

WHO Training Manual Infographic on Health in All Policies

Health Workforce 2030 Video: The Way Forward

Preventing Suicide: A Global Imperative

Global Status Report on Non-Communicable Diseases 2014