

**SOUTH PACIFIC CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICERS ALLIANCE (SPCNMOA)**  
**Accreditation Workshop 15 October, 2018**  
**Enuamanu Hostel Cook Islands**

South Pacific Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officers Alliance (SPCNMOA) with WHO Collaborating Centre, University of Technology Sydney (WHOCUTS) as Secretariat, and in partnership with Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC), convened a workshop to discuss regional accreditation issues in the Pacific. The aims of this workshop were in line with the recommendations agreed following SPCNMOA 2016 and WHO SPC Director of Clinical Services meetings at Heads of Health held in Fiji 2018 and discussions at the global WHO Government Chief Nursing Officers Forum in Geneva. These recommendations include:

- Review of each country's legislation and regulations impacting on nursing and midwifery services, understanding gaps and barriers in legislation. Especially:
  - Educational quality, accreditation, competencies, practice safety and standards at rural, remote, country, sub-regional and regional levels.
  - Examining and defining the scope of health assistant personnel's in the Pacific.
- Directors of Clinical Services Meetings acknowledged the need for regional mechanisms for nursing and midwifery to provide continuing professional development, capacity building for training, protocols and standards development.

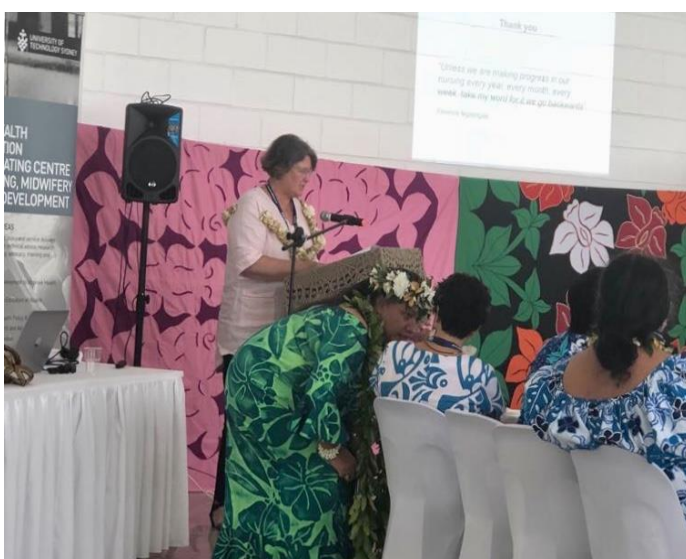
The workshop was attended by 25 Chief Nurses/Midwives or their representatives and senior leaders in regulation and education from 16 countries in the Pacific including Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Palau, Marshall Islands, American Samoa. Adjunct Professor Debra Thoms Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer, Department of Health Australia facilitated the workshop.



The positive developments/agreements from the workshop put forward were:

- Recognition for the need to have a regional accreditation approach with overarching generic standards,
- Pacific move to more Bachelor programs (Quality framework 7 & 8),
- Desire to improve accreditation and regulation,
- And more local accreditation bodies in countries.

The gaps identified in achieving these aims include variations in post registration programs and concerns for the quality of undergraduate nursing programs, need to strengthen independent accreditation processes across the region and the need for an agreed regional set of generic standards. Models for a proposed mechanism to look at regional program of accreditation and regulatory standards to address gaps were discussed. It was proposed that SPCNMOA should act as the coordinator, with support from the WHO CC UTS.



The first task would be to set up a working group with suggested membership to include CNMOs from Fiji, Samoa, Cook Islands, PNG, CNO from Tonga and ANMAC. Support from Australia and New Zealand with experts co-opted as necessary. Some of activities of the working group would include:

- Developing a Terms of Reference and Constitution,
- Review of existing Pacific accreditation and regulation and production of a report,
- Consideration of existing WHO, ICN, ICM and other frameworks that might be relevant,
- Understanding what is needed for recognition and support from Pacific Health Ministers Meeting, Heads of Health, WHO and others,
- Developing ground rules for the working group with particular focus on Pacific expertise.



**Overarching recommendations identified in the workshop were:**

- Agreement on a regional approach with links to country based systems
- Develop standards that meet regional needs
- Develop framework that covers undergraduates and post graduates
- Observe links/partnerships between existing NZ/Aust & Pacific Universities
- Look at the alignment of Au/NZ qualifications framework with Pacific qualifications framework including consideration of Northern Pacific (US System)
- Set up an SPCNMOA working group.