

Strengthening Health Workforce Education (SHWE) Program in Papua New Guinea (PNG) – Stage 2
Brief 2: Continuing Professional Development Workshop - Subject Review & Development, Health Professional Education

Hideaway Hotel, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, April 28th – May 2nd, 2025

In partnership with the Papua New Guinea (PNG) National Department of Health (NDoH), WHO PNG and with funding from the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), education specialists from WHO Collaborating Centre for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Development at the University of Technology Sydney (WHO CCNM UTS) are facilitating a series of continuing professional development (CPD) workshops as part of Stage 2 of the Strengthening Health Workforce Education (SHWE) Program. This Program commenced in 2021 and is designed to upskill PNG nursing and community health worker (CHW) educators by improving their teaching skills and practices to support PNG's health workforce to meet current and future health needs.

Stage One of the SHWE included the review, development and implementation of revised National Curriculums for the Diploma of General Nursing (DGN) and the Certificate IV for CHWs Program across PNG, and CPD workshops that have

supported health educators with further development of subjects and implementation of the newly revised curriculums.

Stage Two of SHWE continues the strengthening of teaching, learning and educational standards in PNG through a series of Health Professional Education workshops for CPD of PNG health workers planned throughout 2025. The University of PNG (UPNG) has been identified as the local institution to provide this education to build capacity in health educators, sustainably. The UPNG School of Medicine and Health Science (SMHS) staff joined health educators from each school of nursing and CHW institute for these workshops.

Subject Review & Development Workshop

This workshop was dedicated to the subject review and development of the final semester for the new CHW Certificate IV and for the final year of the new DGN program and was held at the Hideaway Hotel in Port Moresby between April 28th and May 2nd,



Participants with WHO CCNM UTS educators at the CPD Workshop, Hideaway Hotel, Port Moresby

2025. This workshop built on the outcomes of the previous workshops held in 2022-2024 that focused on curriculum development with the same group of participants – 37 females and 16 males representing a total of 32 schools of nursing and CHW institutes across PNG.

These participants were supported by NDOH mentors as well as staff from WHO CCNM UTS as they worked to review and draft subjects, materials and resources for the new revised nursing and CHW curriculums. The workshops also aimed to familiarise the educators with teaching activities and subject material for ongoing implementation of both curriculums.



Group discussion at the CPD Workshop

Objectives for this workshop were for participants to be able to:

1. Evaluate the implementation of the revised curriculum with encountered benefits and challenges.
2. Review and complete second- and third-year subjects including development of weekly planning guide and lesson plans.
3. Present feedback on subjects.
4. Facilitate further training as requested by participants.



Workshop facilitators and participants

Following an opening prayer, Day One of the workshop was introduced by Mrs Mary Kililo (Technical Adviser) and Ms Julie Dopsie (A/-

Technical Officer) from Pre-Service and In-Service Training NDoH, who outlined the purpose and goals of the workshop. Participants then worked in subject groups to build on tasks that were completed in the previous workshops. Their task for this session was to review the final year subjects for the DGN and the final semester of the Cert IV for CHWs.

Each following day opened with a prayer and reflection on previous day's activities. On Day Two, teaching strategies were introduced by WHO NMCC UTS staff, with practical demonstration and role plays. Educators discussed various methods for engaging students and assessing knowledge and skills.



Mrs Mary Kililo (NDoH) and Prof Di Brown (WHO CCNM UTS) with workshop participants

On Day 3 participants worked on subject review and development and provided presentations to each other related to how they would use a specific teaching skill. Data analysis and review was also a focus with participants discussing the necessity of including data collection, analysis and reporting as a capstone project for the CHW curriculum.

Day 4 focused on reviewing the new subject material related to disability and rehabilitation. This subject has been included in both curricula. Educators worked on ensuring all assessment tools were appropriate for the relevant health program, and also in ensuring their understanding of the content. The afternoon included a simulation session provided by WHO CCNM UTS staff, focusing again on visual and physical disability that could be implemented with minimal resources in any classroom. Participants then continued subject and lesson plan development.



Workshop exercise for disability training

The final day of this workshop included discussion of reflections from the WHO CCNM UTS team and the NDoH staff. All participants were involved in a symbolic candle lighting ceremony demonstrating the teamwork and power in collaboration. A word cloud was also created with 'one word' from each participant's overall experience of the SHWE workshop series.



The candle lighting ceremony to mark the conclusion of the workshop series.

Workshop Outcomes:

Feedback from participants and presenters indicated that all objectives of the workshop were achieved. Participants reviewed and provided feedback on the final subjects of both curricula throughout the week, working diligently to complete their subject outlines, including assessment tasks and criteria.



The word cloud created with each participant's 'one word' upon reflection of the program workshop series.

They actively participated in all aspects of the program and their reviews, reflections and final evaluations indicated that their learning was beneficial, interesting and relevant to their work in the future. This workshop was the final in this series of CPD workshops focusing on curriculum development for the new DGN and CHW curriculums.

Next Steps

Further Fast Track Program workshops will be held for new cohorts of nursing and CHW educators planned for May, August and October 2025. Collaborative work will also continue with the WHO CCNM UTS and UPNG, through an international partnership based on a Sister School model to further improve the quality of education for nurses and CHWs across PNG. Through joint planning and development of the Graduate Certificate of Health Professional Education, proposed course structure, entry points, and credit achieved for completion of the Fast Track Program will be determined.

