

Strengthening Health Workforce Education (SHWE) Program in Papua New Guinea (PNG) – Stage 2
Development of a Graduate Certificate / Graduate Diploma in Health Professional Education

Brief 8: Fast Track Program 3 Workshop
Holiday Inn, Port Moresby - Monday 16th March, 2026 – Friday 20th March, 2026

Introduction

This brief provides an overview of the Fast Track Program 3 workshop held in Port Moresby from March 16 – 20, 2026 under Stage 2 of the Strengthening Health Workforce Education (SHWE) Program in Papua New Guinea (PNG). Supported by the PNG National Department of Health (NDoH), the Fast Track Program is supported by WHO Collaborating Centre for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Development at the University of Technology Sydney (WHO CCNMH UTS). The SHWE Program is sponsored by the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFA) under the PNG-Australia Partnership.

The Fast Track Program is a capacity building program that enables health professional educators to critically evaluate current teaching processes and practices to improve the quality of student learning.

Twenty-eight (28) educators (17 females and 11 males) from Nursing and Community Health Worker (CHW) schools across PNG are participating in this program. The overall aim for this week-long workshop was to enable participants to critically evaluate a contemporary curriculum.

The workshop was facilitated by Associate Professor Caroline Havery and Lisa Townsend. A new component of facilitation this year is the inclusion of health educators from the PNG University of Medicine and Health Sciences (UMHS), Ms. Gracelyn Pojepat and Ms. Nikki Joseph. The aim of this co-facilitation is to begin transition of the program delivery and ownership to our local partners.

Fast Track Program 3 workshop participants with facilitators from the WHO CCNMH UTS, A/Prof Caroline Havery and Ms Lisa Townsend.



Day 1

The first day was focused on introducing and understanding the Fast Track Program course subject 'Improving Teaching and Learning', discussing the goals of the workshop, and getting to know each other and the facilitators. Participants reflected examples of their own positive and negative learning experiences and used these reflections to analyse important factors contributing to learning. They then worked in groups to imagine the qualities of future graduates needed to support positive health outcomes in PNG. The learning outcomes of the revised nursing and CHW curricula were evaluated and compared to the graduate profiles they had developed.

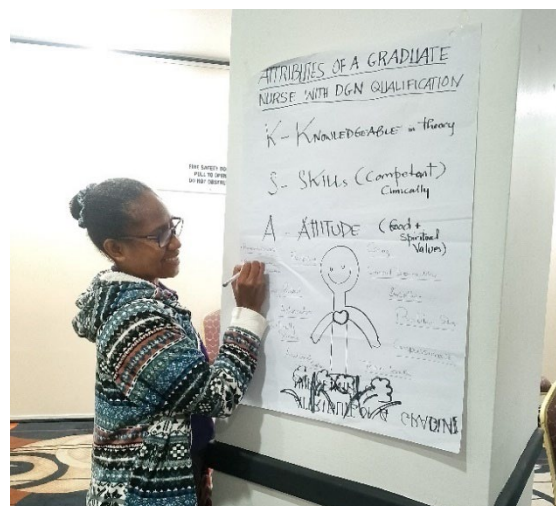
Support resources were distributed to the participants, including the hard copies of the revised curriculum for both programs.

Day 2

The educators had the opportunity to meet WHO CCNMH UTS Director Professor Michele Rumsey, who gave a summary of the work undertaken in PNG and the region. Prof Rumsey highlighted the important collaboration between the DFAT, WHO CCNMH UTS and the PNG NDoH.



Prof Michele Rumsey speaking at the Fast Track 3 workshop.



Workshop participant reporting small group findings to the larger cohort.

She announced the establishment of the position of Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer (CNMO) had been confirmed in PNG which was met with enthusiasm from participants. Nursing participants present felt that the new leadership role will enable pivotal developments for nurses in PNG.

Participants later continued to work in groups to examine in depth one semester of the CHW or nursing curriculum. A range of teaching techniques were modelled by the facilitators which the educators could consider using in their teaching back in their schools.

Day 3

Further varied group activities and discussion of curriculum content continued throughout the day. Activities completed were linked to the resources that were provided to educators in the ongoing roll out of the curricula for CHW and DGN program. Each group then presented their summary of a semester of the curriculum to their peers, summarising subjects, key topics and assessment outcomes.



A variety of teaching strategies and activities were demonstrated during the workshop by the WHO CCNMH facilitators.

Day 4

Curriculum activities continued with the focus on developing educators' understanding of the alignment between learning outcomes and course content and assessment tasks.

Participants enjoyed activities exploring curriculum detail, allowing them to develop an understanding of the integrated curricula and how learning outcomes are linked with a subject's content in both DGN and CHW programs. The aim of these activities was for participants to gain an in depth understanding of the revised curricula and to have a framework to

review a curriculum to ensure it meets the needs of PNG.

Facilitators from UPNG and UTS also prepared participants for post workshop self-directed learning, in addition to the preparation of their first assessment task, which is a plan to implement a change in teaching and learning in their local schools.

Day 5

The highlight of this day was meeting the Registrar of PNG Nursing Council.

Ms. Romana Kuaisombi thanked WHOCC for the opportunity for health workers and the intention of the Fast Track program. She also thanked the facilitators and participants and assured that PNG NC would support such incredible programs.



One of the participants presenting feedback to the larger group.



Nursing educators had the chance to seek advice and information regarding the registration and licensing of nurses.

The day concluded with the PNG educators teaching activities from the new CHW or nursing curriculum. The aim of this activity was to encourage educators to try some new ways of teaching that they had experienced during the week. They successfully focused on using active learning strategies e.g. small group work, labelling diagrams, and interactive quizzes.

Key learning outcomes

By the end of the week, participants were able to:

- Describe and apply a framework to evaluate a curriculum;
- Explain some of the key factors that contribute to deep learning;
- Begin to design teaching activities based on active learning.

“The revised curriculum is already there, for us to implement. Our job now is to grasp the ideas and practice taught to us in order to successfully implement it, ensuring a better learning outcome for our students”.
(CHW educator Polyn Salo)

Follow up

A WhatsApp group has been established and a weekly drop-in session is held via video call to further support educators in their learning.

The Master Trainer Preceptorship Program for PNG NDoH

The first four day project meeting brought together five senior nurses from PNG (3 female, 2 male), including a representative

from the PNG NDoH, Mrs Julie Dopsie and Ms Christabel Millar, from the WHO CCNMH UTS. Guided by the Principles of



Prof Di Brown and team with representatives from NDoH for the Master Trainer Preceptorship Program

Partnership approach, the group commenced the collaborative development of the Master Trainer for PNG NDoH Preceptorship Program. This program provides orientation for

This project aligns with evidence highlighting the importance of strengthening collaboration between training institutions and health services, investing in capacity building, and adequately supporting clinical supervisors to enhance the quality and sustainability of nurse preceptorship and clinical learning.

Next Steps

Fast Track Program - The second workshop for series 3 of the Fast Track Program will be held in the first week of May 2026. Two subsequent workshops are planned for August and November 2026.

Preceptorship Program - The next five day project meeting commences on the 4th May, where the developed Master Trainer for PNG NDoH Preceptorship Program will be reviewed and revised accordingly.