



WHO CCNMH UTS Regional Update 2025

Welcome to the 2025 Regional Update from the World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Development at the University of Technology Sydney (WHO CCNMH UTS). The 2025 year has been busy with the support and collaboration of our many partners for our various programs.

One highlight this year has been the collaborations and workshops with the Strengthening Health Workforce in the Pacific (Nursing and Midwifery) (SHWP) Program in 13 Pacific Island Countries, under the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's (DFAT) Partnerships for a Healthy Region (PHR) five-year Initiative (2024-2028).

As Secretariat of the Global Network of WHO Collaborating Centres for Nursing and Midwifery (GNWHOCCNM) (2022-2026), we published two issues of the LINKS magazine. Both issues include contributions from esteemed partners and colleagues across all WHO regions. [Volume 19](#) included special features on the EURO region, while [Volume 20](#) ends the year with a focus on WPRO, with the 5th WPRO Regional Forum of WHO Collaborating Centres held in Manila in November. We look forward to the GNWHOCCNM Secretariat handover at the International Conference on Leadership for Global Health: Advancing Nursing and Health Care Systems, hosted by Mahidol University during 8-10 June 2026.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude and festive wishes to all our partners.

You can visit our [website](#) or reach us at whoccnm@uts.edu.au for any further information.



Watch the Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wPJ3LPZg2fE>

News and Program Updates

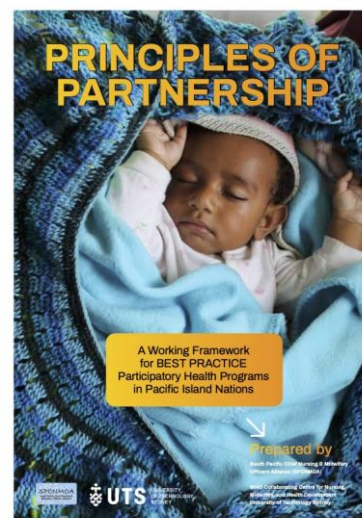
Volume 20 of LINKS Magazine Dec 2025

LINKS Magazine aligns the work of WHO CCs for Nursing and Midwifery with the WHO Strategic Directions for Nursing and Midwifery (SDNM). [This edition](#) highlighting WHO CCs from WPRO is momentous, as our second-last before handing over the Secretariat.



Principles of Partnership Framework

The Principles of Partnership guide was developed as an adaptable, working approach for best practice to aid organisations in building genuine and mutual participation in research and health development programs in Pacific Island Countries. It outlines the rationale for working in partnership and presents the underlying principles that guide this approach for individual projects, programs and research. The working framework is based on contributions of SPCNMOA members and past and present WHO CCNMH UTS staff. [Full report.](#)



New year, new leaders: Pacific Leadership Program 2025

April 2025



The 2025 Pacific Leadership Program (PLP) was held at UTS in April, with 26 fellows from 13 Pacific Island Countries and nation states. Jointly hosted by WHO CCNMH UTS and SPCNMOA, and partially funded by DFAT's Australia Awards Fellowship Program and the PHR Initiative, the Program this year placed particular emphasis on the Strengthening Health Workforce in the Pacific (SWHP) Program – tasking fellows with developing country-specific projects and taskforces. [Read more.](#)

Strengthening Health Workforce in the Pacific: In-country Workshops

July - Dec 2025



PLP 2025 Fellows facilitated in-country workshops and meetings with newly established national taskforces aimed at addressing nursing and midwifery regulation and country specific priorities, including education, accreditation and leadership. The workshops are part of WHO CCNMH UTS' [SHWP Program](#) under DFAT's PHR initiative. [See more.](#)

Strengthening Health Workforce Education in PNG – STAGE 2

Nov 2025



A Sister School Partnership between the University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG) and UTS was initiated, with a series of workshops to build capacity for educators at UPNG in delivering their proposed Bachelor/Graduate Diploma in Health Professional Education (BHPE/GradDipHPE). The [SHWE Program \(Stage 2\)](#) is supported by the PNG National Department of Health (NDoH), WHO PNG, PNG-Australia Transition to Health (PATH) program, and DFAT.

Milestones In Tonga Nursing Accreditation

Nov 2025



The Tonga National Qualifications and Accreditation Board invited Prof Di Brown from the WHO CCNMH UTS team to be part of two accreditation panels for programs to be offered by the Queen Salote Institute of Nursing and Allied Health at Tonga National University: reaccrediting the Graduate Certificate in Acute Care Nursing and accrediting the new Bachelor of Nursing program to be introduced in 2026.

PNG Takes Steps Towards Health Workforce Digitalisation

Nov 2025



Health Minister Hon. Elias Kapavore MP marked a new era for PNG health worker registration, calling for an immediate move over to digital registration of health workers, including nursing. Speaking at the SHWP Program in-country workshop, Minister Kapavore urged the medical and nursing registration divisions within NDoH to reorganize their offices and give prominence to digital registration. [Read more.](#)

Vanuatu Initiative to Improving Nursing Education (VIINE) - Phase 3

Oct 2025



The latest phase of VIINE began in April 2025 focusing on curriculum and course accreditations. Workshops were held in October and December for clinical educators to improve teaching and learning skills and capacity for the new Bachelor of Nursing (BN) (Conversion), with hopeful approval from the Vanuatu Qualifications Authority for commencement in early 2026. [Read more.](#)

Research masters at Fiji National University

Nov 2025



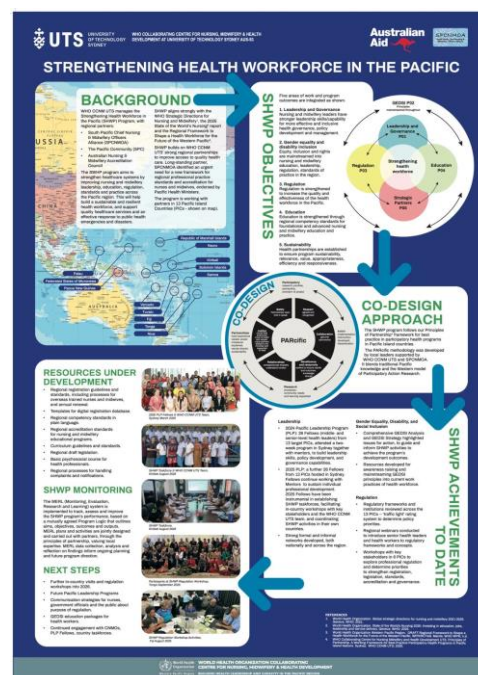
FNU hosted their 2025 Research Dissemination Seminar during which Master of Nursing (Emergency NMursing and Nurse Practitioner (NP)) students presented wonderful research on the vitality of nurses in improving patient outcomes and strengthening Fiji healthcare systems, NP Scope of Practice in Fiji, the role of NP-led interventions in improving HPV vaccination rates in Tonga, and the influence of cultural differences in parental satisfaction in pediatric intensive care within Colonial War Memorial Hospital.

Prof Di Brown was in attendance supporting the students and in true Pacific fashion, an appreciation ceremony was held for her which included a heartfelt traditional dance performed by iTaukei students.

Fifth Regional Forum of WHO Collaborating Centres in the Western Pacific

Nov 2025

The [Fifth Regional Forum of WHO CCs in the Western Pacific](#) was held in Manila early in November, under the theme ‘Interweaving Innovation and Unity: Elevating Partnerships for Health and Well-being in the Western Pacific’. WHO CCNMH UTS Public Health Prof Jacqui Webster presented our achievements under the SHWP Program. The program is underpinned by the Principles of Partnership and the the PARcific research method developed by regional leaders supported by WHO CCNMH UTS and SPCNMOA, blending traditional Pacific knowledge with the Western model of Participatory Action Research.



A National Forum on Nurse and Midwife Mobility and Australia's Workforce Future

Nov 2025



The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA), hosted a National Forum on Global Nurse and Midwife Mobility and Australia's Workforce Future, filled with meaningful discussions and the opportunity for collective action. WHO CCNMH UTS' Director Michele Rumsey, and Regional Coordinator, Michael Larui, had the honour of attending alongside distinguished guests including keynote speaker Prof James Buchan (UTS), Adj Prof Veronica Casey AM (Chair of NMBA), Adj Prof Karrie Long (Chair, Australian Council of CNMOs), David Stewart (ICN), Samir Garg (WHO WPRO), Natalie Bekis (Department of Health, Disability, and Ageing), and Helen Townley (Health Workforce, AHPRA).

WHO Western Pacific 76th Regional Committee Meeting Oct 2025



A milestone [76th WHO WPRO Regional Committee Meeting](#) was held in Fiji in October, with the endorsement of an implementation plan for the 2024 amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR). Together with the WHO Pandemic agreement, these initiatives aimed to strengthen regional health security. Fiji Nursing Association President Miliakere Nasorovakawalu gave a powerful address representing the [International Council of Nurses](#) commending the endorsement, while strongly calling for better integration of nursing workforce and leaders. [Read More.](#)

FOODWISE: Towards Food And Water Security In The Asia Pacific Sep 2025



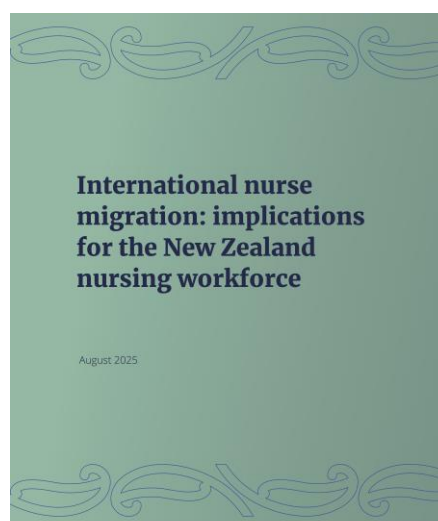
The [2025 FoodWISE Asia Pacific Regional Meeting](#) on Food and Water Security was held at UTS in September, co-convened by Prof Jacqui Webster (UTS), Professor Greg Leslie (UNSW Global Water Institute) and Professor Sera Young (Northwestern University). The event launched the

FoodWISE Asia-Pacific Network, marking a pivotal step in addressing rising food and water insecurity through strengthened regional partnerships and cross-sector collaboration. This work is especially critical for nursing and midwifery, who are on the frontline of health systems, safeguarding equity, and building climate-resilient health care. [Read more.](#)

New Report on the Implications of Nursing Migration on New Zealand

Aug 2025

The Nursing Council of New Zealand | Te Kaunihera Tapuhi o Aotearoa worked with UTS Adjunct Professor James Buchan on a forum and accompanying report assessing international nursing migration and its impacts on the nursing workforce profile in New Zealand. The forum and report examined recent trends showing New Zealand acting as a “stepping stone” for nurses then moving to Australia, with significant increases in the mobility of internationally qualified nurses. This pattern has resulted in system-wide policy issues related to the effects on the health workforce, regulators, employers, and immigration, trade, education, and finance. Further details, implications and recommendations can be found in the [full report](#).



 Te Kaunihera Tapuhi o Aotearoa
Nursing Council of New Zealand

PNG Delivers Historic Emergency Care Training By Nurses, For Nurses

Aug 2025



The [Pacific's first all-nursing Basic Emergency Care \(BEC\) Provider and Training-of-Trainers courses](#) were successfully held in PNG in August. This BEC course, co-designed by WHO and partners for first contact emergency care providers in resource-constrained settings, involved 18 participants and 6 facilitators from nursing schools across 14 PNG provinces and the NDoH. It was co-hosted by Regional Emergency and Critical Care Systems Strengthening Initiative, the NDoH, and WHO CCNMH UTS, and facilitated by National St John Ambulance PNG. [Read more.](#)

GNWHOCCNM meets at ICN Congress 2025

Jun 2025



A Global Network of WHO Collaborating Centres for Nursing and Midwifery (GNWHOCCNM) meeting was held in June at the [2025 International Council of Nurses \(ICN\) Congress](#) in Helsinki, Finland. The hybrid meeting was attended by WHO CCs from all six WHO regions, as well as partners including WHO, JHPEIGO, Sigma, ICN, the International Confederation of Midwives, and AfreHealth. At the Congress, Adjunct Professor James Buchan (UTS) participated in a plenary session on nurse workforce issues, and also contributed to a “policy café” event and a parallel session on nurse staffing issues. [Read More.](#)

Pacific Heads of Nursing and Midwifery: A Force for Pacific Health

Mar 2025



The 2025 Pacific Heads of Nursing and Midwifery (PHoNM) meeting, organised by the Pacific Community (SPC), took place in Fiji in March under the theme ‘Nurses and Midwives Together: A Force for Global Health’. In attendance were regional health leaders, CNMOs, officers, academics, and experts, all focused on issues faced by the nursing and midwifery workforce: education, leadership, clinical governance, universal health coverage, health emergencies, and research. [Read more.](#)

2026 Events

Event	When	Where
Immunization and vaccines related implementation research advisory committee (IVIR-AC)	23–27 February	TBC
Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE)	9–12 March	WHO HQ / Hybrid
Creating Health Work Environments (SIGMA)	20–22 March	Washington, DC, USA
International Maternal Newborn Health Conference (JHPEIGO)	23–26 March	Nairobi, Kenya
48th Annual Education Conference (IntNSA)	13–17 April	Seattle, USA
Global WHO Collaborating Centre Meeting	April	Lyon, France
79th World Health Assembly	18–23 May	Geneva, Switzerland
International Conference on Leadership for Global Health: Advancing Nursing and Health Care Systems	8–10 June	Bangkok, Thailand
34th ICM Triennial Congress	14–18 June	Lisbon, Portugal
37th International Nursing Research Congress (SIGMA)	16–18 July	Toronto, Canada
9th AFREhealth Conference	24–26 August	Mbarara, Uganda
ICN NP/ACN Conference	14–17 September	Nashville, USA

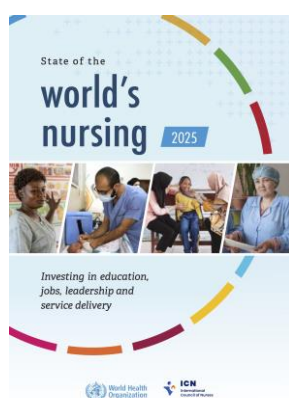
Immunization and vaccines related implementation research advisory committee (IVIR-AC)	21–25 September	TBC
Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE)	5–8 October	WHO HQ / Hybrid

You can also check out WHO's [world global public health days](#).

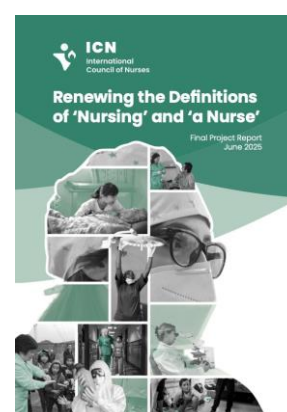
Key Publications



[LINKS Volume 20](#)



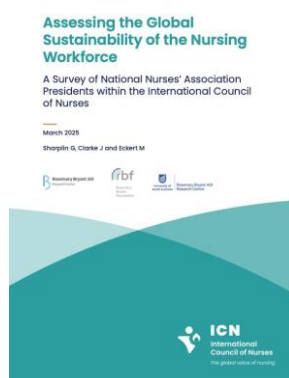
[State of the World's nursing report 2025](#) - WHO, ICN



[Renewing the Definitions of 'Nursing' and 'a Nurse'](#) - ICN



[LINKS Volume 19](#)



[Assessing the Global Sustainability of the Nursing Workforce](#), ICN



[Global Standards for Midwifery Regulation – 2025 Update](#), ICM

 <p>Implementation Guidance on Transitioning to Midwifery Models of Care, WHO</p>	 <p>Global Standards for Midwife Faculty Development, ICM</p>	 <p>ICN Annual Report 2024 – ICN</p>
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