Welcome to the Regional Update (RU) for May 2020 of the World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Development at the University of Technology Sydney (WHO CC UTS).

This month we celebrated International Day of the Midwife on 5 May and International Nurses Day on 12 May. With 2020 declared as the World Health Organization (WHO) International Year of the Nurse and International Year of the Midwife, the profile of nurses and midwives is being recognised and celebrated around the world. Making up well over half of the world's health workforce, nurses and midwives are vital for the achievement of Universal Health Coverage (UHC). We are thinking of you all at this challenging time for global health.

This RU showcases recent projects and initiatives undertaken in line with our Centre's newly designated 2020-2024 Terms of Reference (TORs). The TORs were devised in collaboration with WHO Western Pacific Regional Office (WPRO) to continue to strengthen WHO work in the region.

This RU includes resources from different areas to address the recent challenge of COVID-19. We would also like to introduce our Facebook group for regional nursing and midwifery colleagues to share and update information across the Pacific Region. To access the Facebook group, please click here .

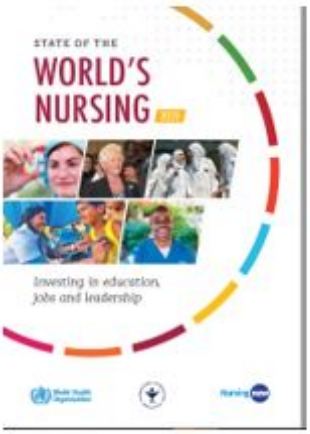
As we deal with the COVID-19 pandemic, the valuable work of nurses and midwives around the globe is highly visible and in our thoughts. The WHO Global Report on the State of the World Nursing (SoWN) has been developed to provide a technical description of the nursing workforce in member states, and contains welcome data on the global status of nurses. See story on webinar and report.

Finally, we celebrate UTS being ranked #1 in Australia for Nursing and Midwifery for the fourth year running, and the launch of the UTS Health School of Nursing and Midwifery website.

This Update links to relevant publications and documents of the WHO CC

UTS, - please also visit our website for current information. You can also reach us at whocc@uts.edu.au. For more information on the South Pacific Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officers' Alliance (SPCNMOA) click here.

WHO State of the World's Nursing Report 2020



On 7 April 2020, WHO has launched the first State of the World's Nursing (SoWN) report which describes how the nursing workforce will help deliver Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and highlights areas for policy development. The Report has been produced in partnership with ICN and Nursing Now.

The report presents facts and figures for Nurses in the Western Pacific Region and the WHO CC UTS has proudly supported the data collection of the SoWN for our region. The data provided by individual countries for this report is available on the WHO website. Individual country profiles can be accessed here .

The **WHO Collaborating Centre at UTS held a webinar on 9 April** and celebrated the launch of the SoWN report and World Health Day in 2020 the International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife, with the colleagues from Western Pacific Region including the Cook Islands, Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Republic of Korea, Samoa, Philippines, Tuvalu and Australia.

The webinar was welcomed by the WHO CC UTS Director Michele Rumsey, and she introduced the speakers Dr Indrajit Hazarika (WHO WPRO), Professor Debra Thoms (former Chief Nursing Officer of Australia), and Professor Jill White (Nursing Now Board).

To access the first State of the World's Nursing 2020 report, click here.
To access the first State of the World's Nursing 2020 Country Profiles, click here .

International Day of the Midwife 2020

International Day of the Midwife is celebrated each year on 5 May. The theme for 2020 International Day of the Midwife was Midwives: Defenders of Women's Rights, that brought into focus how midwives and women can partner together to mobilise and unite toward a shared goal of gender equality.

The International Confederation of Midwives prepared a tool kit with a list of suggested activities to celebrate the special occasion, while the WHO HQ hosted a virtual event on 5 May with speakers including the WHO Director General, HRH The Princess Royal from the Royal College of Midwives in the United Kingdom; President of the International Confederation of Midwives; UNICEF Executive Director; UNFPA Executive Director; the Minister of Health, Tonga, and Mrs Elizabeth Iro, Chief Nursing Officer at WHO. The event was streamed live with the limit of 500 attendees reached within a minute!

The speakers congratulated midwives around the world on 2020 International Day of the Midwife and thanked them for their professionalism, service and contribution to global health. The critical role of midwives in providing essential health services to mothers and children, their integral part in achieving sustainable development goals and UHC, and challenging conditions they often face were highlighted by the midwifery leaders in their speeches. The webinar also provided midwives from all around the world with the opportunity to share their stories in the online format and was hailed a huge success.

Read more here and here .

To access the ICM tool kit, click here.
To watch the WHO webcast click here (Access Password: IDM@5May2020)

International Nurses Day 2020

International Nurses Day was celebrated around the world on 12 May. This year the day is particularly special as it takes place in a very special year – with 2020 being the International Year of the Nurse and Midwife as declared by the World Health Organisation during the 72nd World Health Assembly. The celebrations this year also mark the 200th anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale, one of the founders of modern nursing.

To celebrate this special occasion, the International Council of Nurses (ICN) has released a toolkit called Nurses – A Voice to Lead for All, in line with the 2020 theme of 'Nursing the world to health', with WHO CC UTS Adjunct Professor James Buchan as a co-author of one of the chapters in the Toolkit. In this toolkit, ICN CEO Howard Catton emphasizes the need to address the global shortage of nurses, unleash the potential of advanced practice nurses, address gender inequalities and raise the profile of nursing, concluding that 'There is no health without a health workforce!'

As the SoWN Report 2020 demonstrated, there is much to celebrate about the global nursing workforce yet urgent work is still required to address global shortages of nurses, especially in low to middle income countries. In particular, the report estimated a global shortfall of 5.9 million nurses, with an urgent need to increase the number of nurse graduates by 8 per cent per year.

This year the work of nurses has been brought into the spotlight by the COVID-19 pandemic which has revealed the true value of essential workers

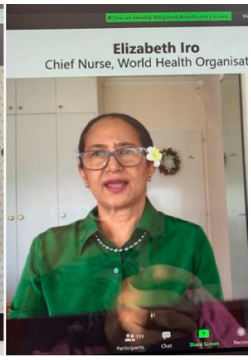
and nurses in particular, and the difficult conditions in which they operate, such as for example lack of personal protective equipment. However it shouldn't take a pandemic to make us realise the critical role nurses play in keeping our communities healthy. It is important to recognise nurses for their everyday work as well as for their sacrifice. In line with this thinking, on the eve of International Nurses Day, WHO and ICN encouraged the public to take part in a global movement of reflection for those nurses and health workers who died as a result of COVID-19 with the hashtag #RememberHealthHeroes.

On the occasion of the International Day of the Nurse and the 200th anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale, we want to thank all amazing nurses around the world and in the Pacific region for the valuable contribution they make every day to support health and wellbeing of our communities.

Read more here.

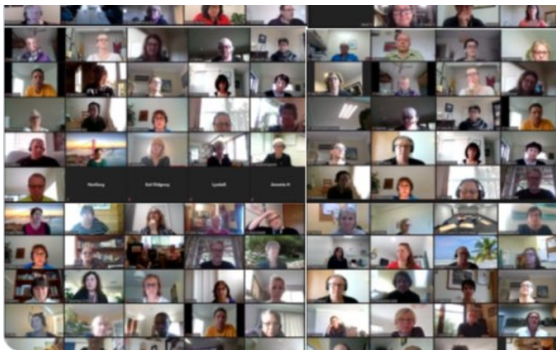
A significant achievement was celebrated in Kiribati on the International Nurses Day, 12 May 2020. This day saw the launch of the Kiribati Nursing and Cultural Framework "*Ana Maneaba ni Mwakuri Te Neeti".*

The framework is grounded on I-Kiribati cultural needs and values and was facilitated by New Zealand through Counties Manukau as part of the Medical Treatment Scheme. New Zealand is a proud partner of Kiribati in support of a healthy and prosperous I-Kiribati through quality and responsive nursing workforce.



In New Zealand, celebrations of the International Nurses Day 2020 started with a special Zoom meeting, attended by 170 nurses and healthcare colleagues.

New Zealand Minster of Health and Elizabeth Iro, Chief Nursing Officer at WHO joined the virtual celebrations



and congratulated the nurses in New Zealand on this important day.

In Tuvalu, the International Nurses Day 2020 was commemorated with a celebratory cake while in Australia, Professor Jill While, a former nurse and Professor Emerita of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery at the University of Sydney and the Faculty of Health at University of Technology Sydney, spoke on the national TV about the need to recognise nurses for their professionalism.

Online Workshops for Nursing Education in Vanuatu

Since 2018, a team from the WHO CC UTS and UTS Faculty of Health have been working with their colleagues from the Vanuatu College of Nursing Education (VCNE) to develop a new Bachelor of Nursing curriculum for Vanuatu, with the first four subjects of the curriculum prepared for course implementation in 2021.

As this work continues, the unfolding situation with the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in restricted international travel, preventing face-to-face interaction. Consequently, the teaching staff from Australia and Vanuatu had to devise new ways of working together in order to keep the work progressing. This process culminated in changing the primary mode of support to working online through video conferencing, social media and other communication methods.

As a result, a week-long workshop scheduled at the end of March was converted to online mode wherein VCNE teachers attended online sessions, and the educators worked together on self-directed tasks set.

As a result, a week-long workshop scheduled at the end of March was converted to online mode wherein VCNE teachers attended online sessions, and the educators worked together on self-directed tasks set.

Despite of the shortcomings of remote working and online education, the expertise and adaptability of the WHO CC UTS and VCNE teams has enabled new collaborative ways of working during the COVID-19 pandemic by prioritising relationships, giving time for meaningful exchange of ideas and time for group consideration of issues, which are central to the culture of Vanuatu.
Read more here

News from UTS Faculty of Health

UTS has once again been named as the leading university in Australia for Nursing and Midwifery, for the fourth year running, and 7th in the world for Nursing and Midwifery. These results are a true testament to the Faculty's commitment to excellence and high-quality education, driven by academic leadership and innovative, future-focused research.

Read more here.

On a separate note, this month the Faculty of Health launched the School of Nursing and Midwifery website, with messages from Faculty of Health staff to celebrate International Year of the Nurse with a particular focus from our region on what '*Nurses are*…' Watch here and here.

To visit the School of Nursing and Midwifery website, click here.

The Inaugural Pacific Heads of Nursing Meeting 2020

The Inaugural Pacific Heads of Nursing Meeting (PHoN) was held on the 11-14th of February earlier this year in Nadi, Fiji. The PHoN provides a platform for Pacific Countries to lobby for nursing issues and strengthen a united voice for nurses.

The PHoN was endorsed by the Heads of Health and announced by the Director General of the Pacific Community (SPC) in August 2019. The meeting's primary purpose is to provide executive level oversight for regional nursing functions in the Pacific, including a policy advisory and technical role to inform nursing decisions in the region.

The Pacific Community (SPC) co-organised the event with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). Key partners included International College of Nurses (ICN), Australian College Operating Room Nurses (ACORN), Nursing Now, Royal Australian College of Surgeons Pacific Islands Program, UNAIDS, UNICEF, World Bank and WHO. Personnel from Australia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Nauru, New Zealand, Palau, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu were in attendance.

Read more here.

WHO support on updating the evidence on retention of health workers

Professor James Buchan, Adjunct Professor, has acted as lead consultant on a WHO project to develop country level case studies which reported and evaluated the implementation of policies intended to improve retention of health workers in remote and rural areas in South East Asia. Case studies were conducted in 2019 in six countries - Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. Preliminary findings were presented at the Prince Mahidol conference in Bangkok earlier in the year. The key findings have been synthesised into an overview report, which will be published soon, along with the 6 country case studies.

Prof Buchan was also a member of the Expert Advisory Group (EAG) established by WHO HQ to review the effectiveness of the WHO Code of Practice on International Recruitment of Health Personnel. The Group met

twice in Geneva, and their report to the WHO Secretariat has now been published [A 73/9 at https://apps.who.int/gb/e/e_wha73.html]. The effectiveness of the Code was due to be an agenda item at the World Health Assembly in May, but has now been deferred until later in the year when a decision is made on when WHA will re-convene to discuss agenda items.

Prof Buchan is Editor in Chief of "Human Resources for Health" the peer journal published in association with WHO. Celebrating the International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife, the journal is currently running a Call for Papers on the theme of "Research to support evidence-informed decisions on optimizing the contributions of nursing and midwifery workforces". Details of the Call, and several papers which have already been published in response to the call, can be accessed freely at https://www.biomedcentral.com/collections/yearnursemidwife.

World Day for Safety and Health at Work - 28 April

On World Day for Safety and Health at Work, the World Health Organization called upon all governments, employers, workers organizations and the global community to provide healthy, safe and decent working conditions for all health workers, amidst COVID-19 pandemic.

UTS has once again been named as the leading university in Australia for Nursing and Midwifery, for the fourth year running, and 7th in the world for Nursing and Midwifery. These results are a true testament to the Faculty's commitment to excellence and high-quality education, driven by academic leadership and innovative, future-focused research.

Read more here.

On a separate note, this month the Faculty of Health launched the School of Nursing and Midwifery website, with messages from Faculty of Health staff to celebrate International Year of the Nurse with a particular focus from our region on what '*Nurses are*…' Watch here and here.

To visit the School of Nursing and Midwifery website, click here.

73rd World Health Assembly

For the first time ever, the World Health Assembly is taking place virtually. The agenda has been reduced to fit into two days, 18 and 19 May, and is devoted largely to debate the global COVID-19 pandemic

On World Day for Safety and Health at Work, the World Health Organization called upon all governments, employers, workers organizations and the global community to provide healthy, safe and decent working conditions for all health workers, amidst COVID-19 pandemic.

The Executive Board will be held virtually on Friday 22 May 2020 – read more here. To watch 73rd WHA live, click here.

To read more about WHA, click here.
To sign up for WHO new digital update on COVID-19, click here.

WHO CC UTS Interns

Spotlight on Zofia Salgado – 3rd year Bachelor of Health Science student

Over the summer break, I was fortunate to have been selected to participate in the University of Sydney's Faculty of Medicine and Health research scholarship program. I have been based at a cancer hospital in Camperdown for 2 months working on cancer genomics research.

As a prospective public health researcher, the value of this experience has been immeasurable. Being part of a team in a research environment has been a huge insight into the

professional world of research and it has been an amazing

chance to refine my research interests and emerging skills. It was also very nurturing to work with a team who was so approachable and encouraging to an undergraduate!

I was mostly involved in analysing qualitative research data from a sub-study of our main research paper. The study explores the feasibility and acceptability of risk-stratified cancer screening among public participants who were recruited through our main study and a mix of city-based and rural GPs. Risk-stratified cancer screening refers to using the genome to analyse individual gene variants that could inform early detection strategies (such as whom and how often to screen) as a way to improve the efficiency of cancer screening programmes and reduce the harm of over-diagnosis and overtreatment.

The study is very implementation science focused so it was a great chance to directly analyse data that currently represents an important public health issue. I was trained in research analysis software and met some amazing people who are leading the public health field. The most rewarding part of this experience was how much I grew personally and professionally. The team I worked with – and beyond, opened up so many opportunities for me to get closely involved in research. Public health genomics is now definitely one of my passion areas and I hope to explore it more in my career.

For any research aspiring health students – I really recommend this opportunity. You have nothing to lose by putting yourself forward. My best advice: ask questions, work hard and be nice to people!

Participants Needed

Dear Colleagues and friends,

You are invited to take part in a research project about people's responses to COVID-19 (also known as Coronavirus). We're conducting an international online survey amongst those who have experienced the outbreak (beginning in January 2020).

The study is being conducted by a team of researchers representing James Cook University (JCU), the National University of Singapore, and the Singapore Psychological Society under the leadership of Prof Caryn West and Dr Denise Dillon at James Cook University. The project has approval from the JCU Human Research Ethics Committee (approval no. H8064).

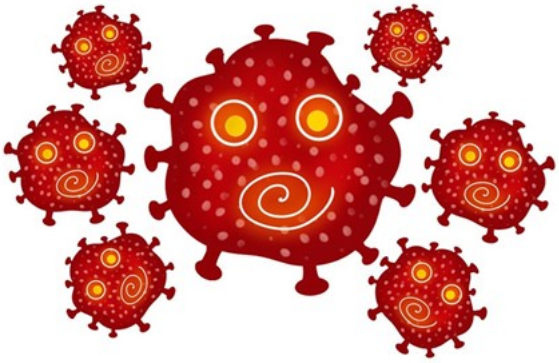
Exclusion criteria: Under the age of 18 years; Inability to understand conversational English; Diagnosis of any major mental health disorder,

Currently a patient under hospitalization for any reason.

The findings of this research will contribute to the overall understanding of the of the psychological effects of COVID-19.

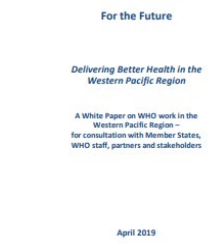
The survey is anonymous.

If you would like to discuss the project or require further information, please contact Professor Caryn West (caryn.west@jcu.edu.au or +61 404553167).
***please feel free to share with your networks**



Click the link to participate in the survey:
https://tinyurl.com/PsychCOVID

Documents



WPRO White Paper

Download White Paper

Western Pacific Region Partners' Forum

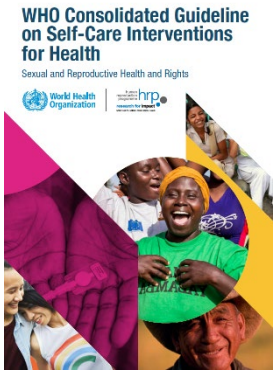
Summary Report

Surveillance of Antibiotic Consumption

Download report

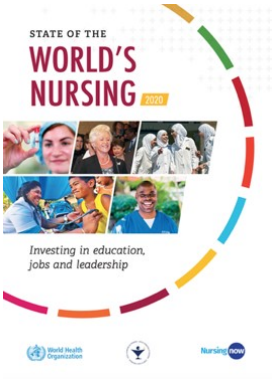
Health and climate change in Australia and the Asia Pacific Region

Download report



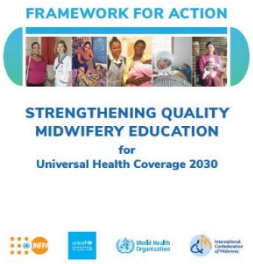
WHO Consolidated Guideline on Self-Care Interventions for Health: sexual and reproductive health and rights

Download report



State of the World's Nursing Report

Download report



Strengthening quality midwifery education for UHC

Download report

Global strategy for womens', childrens' and adolescents' health (2016-2030)

Download report

COVID-19 Educational Resources

WHO HQ - Daily Press Brief on Covid -19

WHO guidance on practical considerations and recommendations for religious leaders and faith-based communities

Covid-19 resources for nurses from the Royal College of Nursing Institute

WHO Guidelines on Critical preparedness, readiness and response

WHO Covid-19 training courses

WHO training on Infection prevention and Control

Covid-19 Dashboard - Johns Hopkins University

Johns Hopkins complimentary COVID-19 Webcasts

WHO Operational Planning Guidelines to Support Country Preparedness and Response

actions for COVID-19

WHO Guidelines on Operational considerations for case management of COVID-19 in health facility and community

Medical certification of cause of death for COVID-19

Simulation of the effects of COVID-19 testing rates on hospitalizations

WHO training on Health and safety briefing for respiratory diseases

WHO Q&A - Violence against women during COVID-19

A guide to preventing and addressing social stigma

Publications

A civil society guide to the 73rd World Health Assembly Read more
Global Network WHO CC and WHO Resources and Publications.
Nurses and Midwives are key to Universal Health Coverage Read more
The Lancet - SRHR: unmet needs and unfinished agendas Read more
COVID-19 pandemic - the world's biggest psychological experiment Read more
WHO Briefing - COVID-19 reveals gaps in health systems Read more
The Lancet: Investing in sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls to reach HIV and UHC goals Read more
The Lancet Regional Health - a new suite of open access general medical journals publishing high-quality, evidence-based research focused on six regions of the world Read more
The Lancet Global Health - Decolonising COVID-19 Read more
The Lancet Global Health - A new vehicle to accelerate the UN Sustainable Development Read more
The Lancet Global Health - Recognising the burden of maternal infection worldwide Read more
WHO Maternal mortality Fact Sheet Read more
Consolidated Guideline on Self-Care interventions for Health: sexual and reproductive health and rights Read more
Strengthening Quality Midwifery Education for Universal Health Coverage 2030 Read more

The Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescent's Health (2016-2030) Read more
The State of the World's Nursing report Read more
WHO Report on Surveillance of Antibiotic Consumption Read more
WHO Bulletin – March issue Read here
WHO Bulletin – April issue Read here
WHO Bulletin – May issue Read here
A civil society guide to the 73rd World Health Assembly Read more
Climate change – a study finds the human cost of the climate crisis will hit harder, wider and sooner than previously believed Read more
Independent - World must prepare for second and third coronavirus wave, WHO warns Read more
UN appeals for $6.7 billion to fight virus in poor countries Read more
World Health Organization is on course to become the most followed international organization on social media Read more
Five lessons from past global influenza outbreaks for Covid-19 Read here

Events

1st January – 31st December 2020 - Year of the Nurse and the Midwife
5th May- International Midwives Day
12th May - International Nurses Day
18th May – opening of the 73rd World Health Assembly – the first session will be **focused on the COVID-19 pandemi c** and will take place virtually, this will be followed by another session later in the year, to address technical items
26th May – 2nd *Civil Society meeting, 15.00 – 17.00 hrs CEST,*
"Reflecting on WHA73 and EB147: How we make sense of what has happened and how can civil society organizations find and defend their space in Global Health Governance / Global Governance for Health?"
14th June - World Blood Donor Day
28th July - World Hepatitis Day
17th May - World Patient Safety Day
May 2020 - WHO Government Chief Nursing and Midwifery officers' Forum
18th June - GNWHOCC 13th Biennial Conference , Online Chiang Mai
30th August – 2nd September - 11th ICN NP/APN Network Conference , Halifax Canada

October/November - SPNF and SPCNMOA Biennial Meeting
12th – 18th November- World Antibiotics Awareness Week
June 2021 - ICM 32nd Triennial Congress , Bali, Indonesia