WHO CC UTS Regional Update April 2021

Welcome to the Regional Update (RU) for April 2021 of the World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Development at the University of Technology Sydney (WHO CC UTS).

The WHO CC UTS team has been working on a Basic Psychosocial Skills training resources for COVID-19 first responders. This work has culminated in a FREE online course Basic Psychosocial Skills Training Program. The program is designed to build resilience, mental health, and wellbeing for first responders and frontline health staff. See the story below.

New COVID-19 cases around the world continue to rise, and although vaccination programs started to roll out in many countries around the world, the pandemic is far from over. The situation in Papua New Guinea is of serious concern our nursing and midwifery colleagues need significant support. Work with WHO in PNG is about to begin to support nursing and community health workers education. With new cases on the rise, and critical functions at the country's pandemic control centre under threat of collapsing. See inside for details.

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.

Basic Psychological Skills: An Online Training for COVID-19 Responders

A new Free online course on Basic Psychosocial Skills has been made available by the WHO CC UTS. The Basic Psychosocial Skills online Training is a FREE program for those affected by the pandemic designed to build resilience and mental health wellbeing for first responders and frontline health staff.

World Health Organization
Western Pacific Region

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION COLLABORATING CENTRE FOR NURSING, MIDWIFERY & HEALTH DEVELOPMENT

BUILDING HEALTH LEADERSHIP AND CAPACITY IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC REGION

The FREE online course:

1. Focuses on personal well-being
2. Explores supportive communication in everyday interactions
3. Provides a practical framework to enable first responders to support others to problem-solve and make healthy decisions
4. Examines how to recognise emotional patterns and provide support to individuals.
5. Provides a certificate on completion

View a detailed video on how to sign up: https://youtu.be/-Cguw2SCHOQ
Enroll for this FREE online course: http://open.uts.edu.au/COVID-19-responders-en.aspx
Read instructions on how to sign up: https://bit.ly/3bEJGkx
Read more about the basic psychosocial skills course: https://bit.ly/3sgZpf7

You will need an email account to register and log in for the online course.

For more information and full Power Point https://bit.ly/3cZCGy2
with facilitation notes, please contact michele.rumsey@uts.edu.au

FAQs

How many resources are provided in the Basic Psychosocial Skills training program?

The program provides 3 resources. Guidance report, short online course and presentation with facilitation notes.

How many languages is the guidance offered in?
While the online course is only in English, the guidance report is provided in 28 languages.

Is the online course time-bound?
No. The online course is self-paced and takes an average of 3 hours to complete with a short quiz and a certificate awarded.

COVID-19 Performance Index - Lowy Institute

The effect of COVID-19 has impacted countries differently, with regions, political systems, population size and economic development being major variables influencing the performance of countries against COVID-19.

The Lowy Institute's COVID-19 Performance Index splits countries into four main regions: Middle East and Africa, Asia-Pacific, Americas and Europe. Political Systems are split into three: authoritarian, democratic and hybrid. Population size are segregated into three categories: small (less than 10 million inhabitants), medium (10-100 million inhabitants and large (over 100 million inhabitants). Economic development is split into advanced and developing.

Methods of measuring performance included six distinct factors:

- Confirmed cases
- Confirmed deaths
- Confirmed cases per million people
- Confirmed deaths per million people
- Confirmed cases as a proportion of tests
- Tests per thousand people

The above factors were used to determine the COVID-19 performance index in 98 countries. The main results showed that economically developed countries, countries with a smaller population, and countries with a

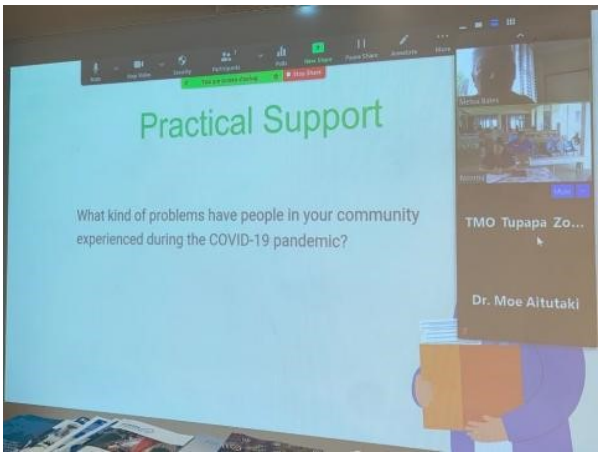
democratic government fared better against the pandemic compared to other countries.

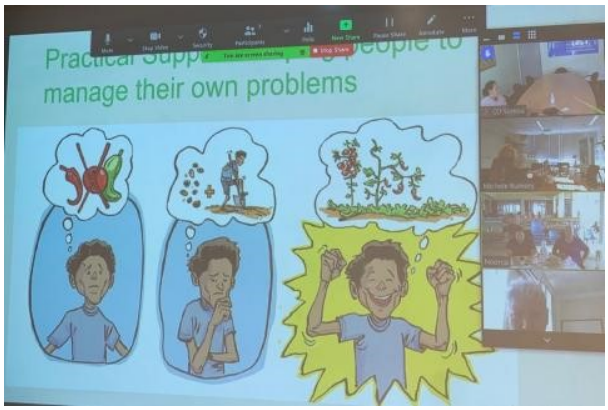
To read more, please click here.

Basic Psychosocial Skills: Pacific Training

In the context of the global pandemic of the COVID-19, people who are in first responder roles are experiencing increasing stress and pressure and are being called on to support others in their communities with high rates of stress and distress. Supporting mental health and wellness is recognised as being a key component of effective health promotion during this challenging period.

As a means of contributing to the preparedness and support for first responders, the WHO Collaborating Centre at UTS (WHO CC UTS) has worked since mid-June to adapt the IASC Basic Psychosocial Skills: A Guide for COVID-19 First Responders for use in Pacific Island Contexts, creating teaching resources that were accessible and engaging or communities in the Pacific.





WHO CC UTS also held a virtual event wherein front-line workers from Solomon Islands were facilitated in workshopping basic psychosocial skills and practices. Largely, by virtue of the feedback, the session is regarded to be a success, though weakness of the training were seen to be centred around how the transition to an online environment required more time to run the program.

In conjunction with the PowerPoint presentation/teaching resources, four short videos were developed and produced for use on social media to be shared widely throughout the Pacific. The videos focus on central psychosocial skills and encourage the viewer to engage with full resource.

To read more about the Cook Islands session, please click here.

To read about the Basic Psychosocial Skills: A Guide for COVID-19 Responders, please click here.

Papua New Guinea COVID-19 Crisis

The number of COVID-19 cases across the country has tripled over the past month, with the country's major hospital reporting seven out of every 10 symptomatic patients testing positive to coronavirus. As of 12 April 2021, the number of daily COVID-19 infections in Papua New Guinea reached a record high new cases in a 24-hour period. The total number of COVID-19 infections in Papua New Guinea now stands at 8,442 cases.

COVID-19 has exposed weaknesses in the PNG ‘s health system. The system is currently under enormous stress, and 90 per cent of beds at the Port Moresby intensive care unit full. As of 12 April 2021, 68 people have died from COVID-19 in the country.

Leaked documents reveal holes in Papua New Guinea’s COVID-19 quarantine systems, and “critical functions” at its pandemic control centre “at risk of collapsing” because some staff haven’t been paid.

An internal ministerial briefing written last month, and obtained by the ABC, shows about 40 temporary staff performing “critical functions” at PNG’s National Control Centre for COVID-19 have not been paid since starting work five months ago.

As a crisis continues to unfold with alarming speed, experts are sounding the alarm and call to fast-track vaccine access.

Australia is working with Papua New Guinea to support the Government’s response to the spike in COVID-19 cases, with Royal Australian Air Force delivering more than 8,000 AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines from Australia’s supply to Port Moresby. The vaccines will enable vaccination of

the country's essential health workforce, with an initial rollout for the National Capital District. The Australian Government will also make a formal request to AstraZeneca and European Authorities for one million doses of Australia's contracted supplies to gift to Papua New Guinea.

The Australian Government is also providing essential PPE supplies to the PNG Government including GeneXpert cartridges for testing, 1 million surgical masks and 200,000 N95 respirator masks plus 200 non-invasive ventilators, and dispatching Medical Assistance Team (AUSMAT) to assess the situation and work with the PNG Government on future priorities for support.

WHO CC UTS South Pacific Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officers Alliance held a meeting on 24th March with PNG nursing leaders offering support and sharing existing regional resources.

To learn more about PNG COVID-19 crisis, click here, and here.
To read more about PNG's COVID-19 pandemic control, please click here.

Policy Responses to aging nursing workforce - James Buchan

A report by the International Centre on Nurse Migration (ICNM), the International Council of Nurses (ICN), and CGFNS International, Inc. addresses the issue of the ageing nursing workforce and focuses on policy implications and necessary actions. The report builds on the World Health Organisation's State of the World's Nursing 2020 (SOWN) report which identified that one in six (17%) of nurses worldwide are aged 55 years or over and expected to retire within the next ten years. The SOWN report estimates that 4.7 million new nurses will have to be educated and employed to replace those older nurses who retire, in addition to the current 5.9 million nurse shortage, resulting in a total of 10.6 million additional nurses required by 2030.

Lead author Professor James Buchan, adjunct professor at the WHO Collaborating Centre at the University of Technology, emphasises the risk of losing the most experienced members of the nursing profession and highlights the need to employ retention policies for older nurses. Professor James Buchan argues that the retention of experienced nurses is particularly relevant now, when the Covid-19 pandemic has exposed the risk of global nursing shortages. This report is particularly relevant for nurses in our Region where many countries have policies of compulsory retirement at age 55 while at the same time also experiencing shortages of this critical health workforce.

To read the full report, please click here.

In his role as Editor in Chief of “Human Resources for Health”, Adjunct Professor James Buchan has led a Call for new research and evidence on the nursing and midwifery workforces. The Call is now closed, with more than 20 new papers published, from all WHO regions.

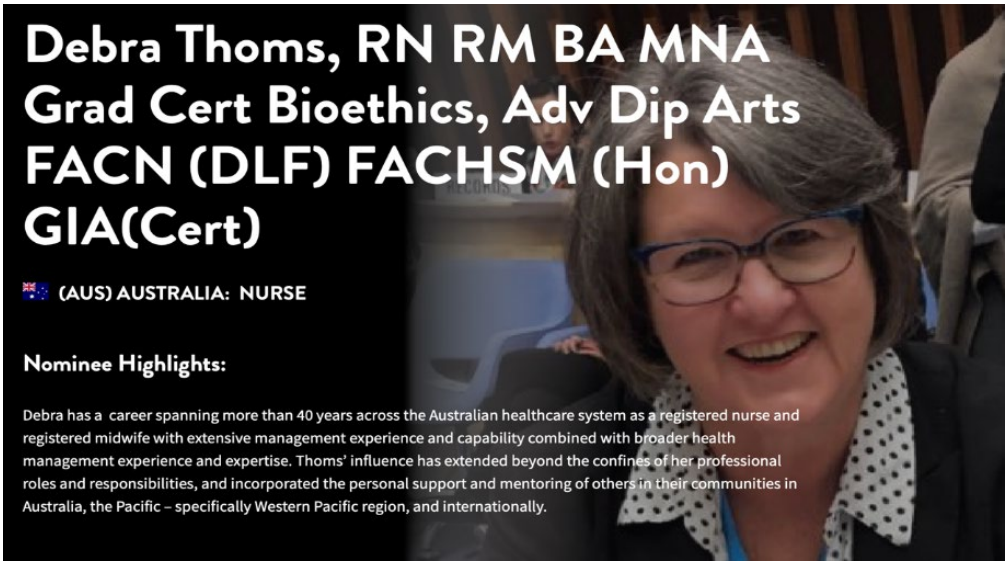
All the papers that were accepted for the Call can be accessed here.

100+ Outstanding Nurse and Midwives Leaders

To celebrate 2020 as the Year of the Nurse and Midwife, Women in Global Health in partnership with WHO, UNFPA, the International Confederation of Midwives, and Nursing Now, has selected notable midwives doing extraordinary work in their field and communities. Nominations and self-nominations were accepted throughout the course of several months through an online submission form across eight categories. Over 300+ nominations were received from around the world. Over 100+ final nominees were then selected, with representation from 43 countries and 6 global regions. Amidst a global pandemic, these women represent millions more nurse sand midwives on the frontlines of patient care, providing exceptional service to people around the globe.

This initiative highlighted nurses’ and midwives’ courageous work by introducing the stories of their everyday heroism and service to call for all countries to invest in decent work and a new social contract for nurses and midwives as part of their commitment to health for all.

One of the nominees included among 100+ Outstanding Nurses and Midwives Leaders is Debra Thomas. Debra is working closely with the WHO Collaborating Centre for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Development, and in the past acted as a member, expert adviser, and mentor with the South Pacific Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer’s Alliance (SPCNMOA).



To read Debra Thomas' profile, please click here.
To read Caroline Homers' profile please click here.
To join the Call to Action and view profiles of the final 100+ nominees, please click here.

School of Nursing, the Hong Kong Polytechnic University Ageing and Health

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University research focus on 'Ageing and Health' aim to build scientific evidence for nursing practice and impacting policy on ageing population, strengthen research collaboration with international and regional partners in research, practice and education, nurture young researchers' capacity in research and engage actively in policy making; to inform and shape policy to improve care for older people.

They key research foci of the group are:
- Cognitive impairment
- Symptom management
- Health literacy and gerontechnology
- Frailty

Their program consists of The Centre for Smart Health which aims to create healthcare innovations with technology, making positive impacts to practice and the quality of care, conducting cross-disciplinary applied research that capitalises on expertise in technology, including virtual reality and artificial intelligence, translating the results into practice to improve healthcare education, diagnosis and treatment. They also feature the Centre for Gerontological Nursing which was established in 2012 to bring together colleagues with research interest in ageing and health to develop concerted research projects and promote interdisciplinary research. The centre also provides health and cognitive assessment services to the local community.

To read more, please click here.

International Development Research Network 2nd Forum

The Forum took place in February via Zoom UTS International Development Working Group, a university-wide group that seeks to promote and strengthen research for international development outcomes, with a particular focus on translating research to impact.

The purpose of the Forum was to provide an opportunity for international development researchers to exchange best practices, enablers and also what challenges us to do effective engagement as part of our research and ensure our research has an impact on policy and practice.

The Zoom session included a panel of researchers and a Q&A (zoom chat space for moderated questions) to learn about research and engagement methods during times of pandemics. Panel speakers included:
1. Anthony Fee - "Sharing ideas to help Zoom interviews produce data that is reliable"
2. Raymond Ayilu - "Collaboration by distance"
3. Kyeong Kang - "Digital technologies Impact on Business and Society".
4. Sojen Pradhan - ‘Impact sourcing, community entrepreneurship for

tourism in Nepal”
5. Jess MacArthur – remote data collection - "Micro-narrative Sample - UTS Research"

To find out more, and links to relevant tools please click here.

China Deploys COVID-19 Vaccine to Build Influence, With U.S. on Sidelines

Beijing is assembling a chain of airplanes, warehouses and trucks to deliver refrigerated doses to the developing world. This week, more than one million doses of China’s new Covid-19 inoculations will move through Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

At stake is a potential soft-power prize: the goodwill of politicians and people across the developing world needing low-cost Covid vaccines, and the prestige of being seen as a nation with the capacity to act as a guardian of global public health. For months, China’s government, state enterprises and private companies have laid the groundwork for a vaccination push from Africa to the Middle East and Latin America.

To read more, please click here.

Bill Gates: Solving COVID-19 will be easy compared to the climate

Bill Gates's new book states that "Solving COVID-19 will be easy compared to the climate". Bill Gates makes insightful comments throughout the book. A tweet and blog from respectively Thomas Piketty and Ann Pettifor provide some context for Gates's statement. Piketty's tweet: "Time for Social Justice. Billionaires are everywhere in magazines, and it's time for them to appear in tax statistics." And Pettifor neatly summarises the upcoming 'pandemic era' in a blog "…so long as financialised globalisation continues to govern the global economy, so long will the viruses and the 1% co-produce future pandemics…"

Our recently published article in the Global Public Health explores new forms of cooperation between Big Tech, the telecommunications industry and public health authorities that have arisen during the first year of the pandemic.

New partnerships have formed between Big Tech companies and public health authorities in managing the "infodemic" of misinformation and conspiracy theories that has undermined trust in public authorities and vaccines. At the start of the pandemic, the World Health Organisation travelled to Silicon Valley to develop joint strategies, one of which included a partnership with WhatsApp to develop a chatbot for channelling authoritative information about the novel coronavirus, and partnerships with Google and others to ensure that public health agencies' information features prominently in search engines.

To read more, please click here.

COVID-19 E-Learning Platform (CoHELP)

This year's Co-HELP learning program includes reviews and a total of 15 modules, including a newly added module on vaccinations. The program will go live on the 5th of April and a live seminar will be held every Friday 2pm til the 16th of July. Participants will also be presented with a certificate upon completion. To sign up for CoHELP, please click here.

Find more information here.

WHO CC Intern: Nathalia Rodrigues

Nathalia has a background in Pharmacy and is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Public Health at UTS. She has worked in community pharmacy for the past five years and is passionate about research.

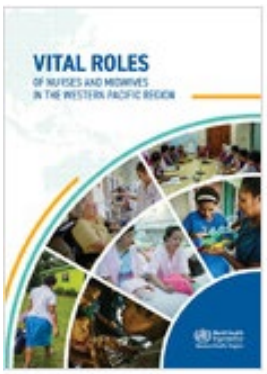
As an intern at WHO CC UTS, her role included liaising with WHO CC staff in conducting project work, performing literature searches, data collection reviews, and compiling bibliographical material.

Her experience at WHO CC UTS helped her achieve her learning objectives and allowed her to gain many of the skills she needs to achieve her career goals.

To read more about Nathalia Rodrigues and her experience at WHO CC UTS as an intern, please click here.

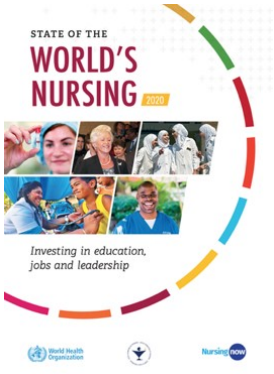
For more intern story, please click here.

Documents



WHO Vital roles of nurses and midwives in the Western Pacific Region

Download report



State of the World's Nursing Report

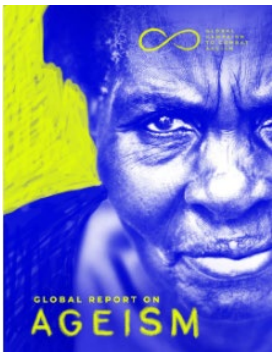
Download report

Strengthening quality midwifery education for UHC

Download report

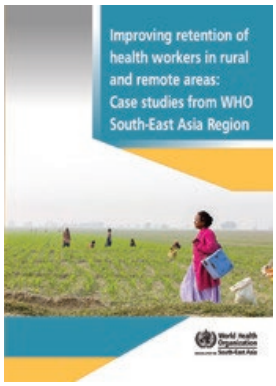
Global strategy for womens', childrens' and adolescents' health (2016-2030)

Download report



WHO Global report on ageism Full report

Full report



WHO report on rural health workers

Summary Report

Surveillance of Antibiotic Consumption

Download report

COVID-19 Educational Resources

New SPC videos on putting on and removing PPE

WHO HQ - Daily Press Brief on Covid -19

WHO guidance on practical considerations

WHO Operational Planning Guidelines to Support Country Preparedness and Response

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

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

NSW Government Health on latest COVID-19 updates

and recommendations for religious leaders and faith-based communities

Covid-19 Dashboard - Johns Hopkins University

The Covid-19 E-Learning Platform (CoHELP)-Free COVID-19 Training for Health Workers in PNG – (studyinpng.com)

WHO Guidelines on Critical preparedness, readiness 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

COVID-19 Medication Breakthrough

WHO Covid-19 training courses

WHO training on Infection prevention and Control

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

1. WHO Bulletin WHO | Volume 99, Number 3, March 2021, 169-240
2. WHO - COVID-19 situation report for the Western Pacific Region
3. Loke, A. Y., Guo, C., & Molassiotis, A. J. N. e. t. (2021). Development of Disaster Nursing Education and Training Programs in the Past 20 Years (2000-2019): A Systematic Review. 104809. Read here
4. Kim, S., Lee, T. W., Kim, G. S., Cho, E., Jang, Y., Choi, M., Baek, S., Lindsay, D., Chan, S., & Lee, R. L. J. H. r. f. h. (2021). Nurses in advanced roles as a strategy for equitable access to healthcare in the WHO Western Pacific region: a mixed methods study. 19(1), 1-9. Read here
5. Reuters - Philippines reports first cases of COVID-19 South African variant
6. SCMP - Thailand begins vaccine roll-out with jabs from China's Sinovac
7. Reuters –WTO head warns 'vaccine nationalism' could slow pandemic recovery. Read here
8. Indo-Pacific Centre for Health Security podcast - ASEAN-Australian Health Security Fellows on their research and experiences working in public health, and on Vietnam's success in controlling outbreaks of COVID-19
9. Indo-Pacific Centre for Health Security Digest – Read here

10. Health Policy Watch – United Kingdom, Norway and & UNICEF Reaffirm Calls for “Global Cease Fire” in UN Security Council Open Debate on COVID-19 Vaccines Access. Read here
11. The Lancet – Challenges in ensuring global access to COVID-19 vaccines: production, affordability, allocation, and deployment. Read here
12. BMJ Journals – Assessing the health benefits of development interventions. Read here
13. IJHPM – Progressive Realisation of Universal Health Coverage in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: Beyond the “Best Buys”. Read here
14. BMC – Trust, risk, and the challenge of information sharing during a health emergency. Read here
15. The Guardian – ‘Wildly unfair’: UN says 130 countries have not receive a single COVID-19 dose. Read here
16. The Lancet – Offline: What is the UK for? Read here
17. World Health Organisation – WHO Director-General’s opening remarks at the media briefing on COVID-19. Read here
18. UN News – WHO seeks $1.96 billion for 2021 Strategic Plan for COVID-19 Response. Read here
19. Health Policy Watch – Lancet: Pandemic Containment Requires Increased Vaccine Production, Affordable Pricing & Global Allocation; WHO Calls for Tech Transfer To Scale Up Manufacturing. Read here
20. Devex – In Brief: Health groups urge Biden to name PEPFAR leader. Read here
21. WHO – COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund marks first anniversary and appeals for continued support. Read here
22. Nature Medicine – Preparing for the next pandemic. Read here
23. Reuters – Benefits outweigh the risks of Astra Zeneca COVID shot as review continues: WHO. Read here
24. Bloomberg – Vaccine nationalism threatens WHO’s 2021 goal of 2 billion doses. Read here
25. BMJ GH – COVID-19 vaccines pricing policy options for low-income and middle-income countries. Read here
26. UN News – South Asia: Sharp rise in child, maternal deaths due to COVID-19-induced disruptions. Read here
27. WHO – New research highlights risks of separating newborns from mothers during COVID-19 pandemic. Read here

Events

1. **27th – 29th April 2021** – Australasia Pacific Community International Development Conference
2. **28th – 29th April 2021** – Humanitarian Leadership Conference
3. **5th May 2021**- International Midwives Day
4. **12th May 2021** - International Nurses Day
5. **May 2021** – 74th World Health Assembly
6. **30th May - 3rd June 2021** - ICM 32nd Triennial Congress, Bali, Indonesia
7. **5th – 9th June 2021** – ICN Congress, Abu Dhabi
8. **14th June 2021** - World Blood Donor Day
9. **28th July 2021** - World Hepatitis Day
10. **29th August – 1st September 2021** - 11th ICN NP/APN Network Conference, Halifax Canada
11. **17th September 2021** - World Patient Safety Day

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