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WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION COLLABORATING CENTRE FOR NURSING, MIDWIFERY & HEALTH DEVELOPMENT
BUILDING HEALTH LEADERSHIP AND CAPACITY IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC REGION

Provision of technical support to the Vanuatu College of Nursing Education for the development and accreditation of nursing curriculum

In-country visits by WHO CC UTS Team – October and November 2019

The Vanuatu Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Vanuatu College of Nursing Education (VCNE), with support from the Australian Government through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), are continuing to work with a team of education experts from the WHO Collaborating Centre (WHO CC) at the University of Technology Sydney, to develop and upgrade the national nursing curriculum for accreditation and implementation in line with the Government National Sustainable Development Plan. In the current timeline, it is hoped that the Bachelor of Nursing will be ready to roll out to students by January 2021.

In 2019, a Bachelor of Nursing (Conversion) program taught by WHO CC UTS staff members and educational consultants has been undertaken by 14 participants (7 educators from VCNE, and 7 senior clinical staff members) to upgrade their qualification from Diploma to a Bachelor level. This qualification will promote participants' capability to provide effective support and education to future BN students. Students have now completed all face to face teaching days for their subjects, and are completing their final assessment items for submission in November.

The draft Bachelor of Nursing curriculum documents have been drafted collaboratively by the WHO CC UTS with VCNE educators, senior clinical staff and the Vanuatu Bachelor of Nursing Steering Committee. Workshops were convened in October and November 2019 for the purpose of providing feedback and revising drafts of these documents, and having important associated discussions around resourcing practicalities, plans for ongoing work and support. They also allowed for review of course documentation for accreditation prior to submission to the Vanuatu Qualifications Authority (VQA).

WHOCC UTS team members Ms Lisa Townsend and Dr Caroline Havery and Bachelor of Nursing Workshop participants Erick Narau, Jeffery Samansa, Clelia Kemol, Rosaria Maurice, Marie Nicklum, Sally Sale, Juliann Aru, Johanne Thaine, and Rodney Tabi

Bachelor of Nursing Workshop participants in October, reviewing curriculum component descriptor documents

In-Country Activities

UTS WHO CC staff members Prof. Lin Lock, Ms Lisa Townsend and Dr Caroline Havery were in country for six days, from 20-26 October 2019.

During this week, a two day workshop was convened where participants were invited to provide feedback on draft documents, provide detailed consultation on the order of content, the list of topics and objectives for different curriculum streams, and review the assessment drafted for the Bachelor of Nursing. Discussions were also held on the important issues of resource allocation for the program. Feedback has been recorded and now incorporated into the second draft of the documents, to be sent to stakeholders for further consultation in November.

It was recognised that ensuring that students are rigorously supervised and supported within their clinical placement opportunities is a priority for the new curriculum, and that this may require some changes in staff roles at VCNE, and supporting more clinical staff to be trained in supporting students well during their experiences. Draft student clinical assessment forms were tabled for discussion and feedback, which will now be revised according to the feedback received.

Following on from this workshop, WHO CC UTS staff Lisa Townsend, Lin Lock and Amanda Neill travelled to Vanuatu from November 11-15, to hold a formal meeting of the Vanuatu Bachelor of Nursing Steering Committee with the specific purpose to review the full three year BN curriculum documentation for accreditation, prior to the document's submission in late 2019. Monitoring and evaluation interviews were also conducted.

<u>Meetings and Monitoring & Evaluation</u>

Amanda Neill undertook further data collection for project monitoring and evaluation (M&E), meeting with and interviewing a variety of key stakeholders. These included representatives from the MoH (Mr Johnson Wabaiat – Acting Director General, Mr Donald Pelam – Acting Director for Public Health, Mr Karel Haal – Health Economist with the Policy and Planning Unit); VCNE (Mr Erick Nalau – Acting Principal Nurse Educator, Mrs Marie Nicklum - VCNE Board, staff and students), Vanuatu

Bachelor of Nursing Curriculum Workshop participants Filomene, Evelyne Emile, Bertha Talereo, Rodney Tabi and Marie Nicklum

Qualifications Authority (Mr Sam Samuels – Quality Assurance Officer), and clinical staff from VCH. When meeting with Dr Geoff Clark and Ms Nellie Willy Matou from the Vanuatu Health Program, and Mr Nish Vivekananthan (Procurement Manager and PFM Adviser) and Mr Robinson Charlie from the Vanuatu Health Resource Mechanism in the Ministry, issues that may potentially impact sustainability and success of the project were discussed. The importance of continued collaboration between stakeholders, participants and project staff to ensure project sustainability, and to build staff capacity in preparation of the Bachelor of Nursing curriculum was noted.

The WHO CC UTS team also met with representatives from the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Ms Olive Taurakoto – Program Manager, Health and Kirsty Dudgeon – First Secretary, Health and Infrastructure), WHO (Mr Michael Buttsworth – Health Information Systems Technical Officer), VIPAM (Mr Pierrick Lesines, Principal) and clinical staff from VCH.

Discussions with BN (Conversion) participants and key stakeholders continue to confirm a clear request for ongoing support and consultation in the preparation of BN teaching materials in 2020, and for further capacity building of teaching staff and nurses in Vanuatu.

This visit was the latest in a series of in-country visits and the final visit for 2019 for provision of technical support by the WHO CC UTS Team to strengthen the quality of nursing education in Vanuatu.