

UTS WHO Collaborating Centre for Nursing and Midwifery (WHO CCNM UTS)

Professor Michelle Rumsey, WHO CCNM UTS Director



2024 has been a year of continued growth and impact for the WHO Collaborating Centre for Nursing, Midwifery, and Health Development at the University of Technology Sydney (WHO CCNM UTS). We celebrated our twentieth year as an established centre and are honoured to have been redesignated as a WHO Collaborating Centre for another four-year term. This reaffirmation underscores our ongoing commitment to advancing nursing and midwifery across the region. We extend our gratitude to our partners, funders, and dedicated colleagues for their unwavering support.

About the Centre

WHO CCNM UTS forms part of an international collaborative network that supports and undertakes projects in support of the World Health Organization's program at national, regional, and international levels. Our centre emerged in 2004 when chief nurses from the Asia-Pacific region gathered to discuss how UTS could support nurses during the SARS Outbreak by becoming a collaborating centre. Our centre was successfully awarded WHO CC Status in 2008, and redesignated in 2012, 2016, 2020 and now again in 2024. We have been working in the Pacific for over 20 years, collaborating with over 22 countries in this time. Our centre is the only one in Australia covering our technical expertise. The WHO CCNM UTS is dedicated to strengthening

nursing and midwifery leadership, workforce capacity, and policy development across the Pacific. As the Secretariat of the Global Network of WHO Collaborating Centres for Nursing and Midwifery (2022–2026), we continue to facilitate collaboration and knowledge-sharing to drive positive health outcomes globally.

2024 Projects and Initiatives

Strengthening Health Workforce in the Pacific (SHWP) (Nursing and Midwifery)

WHO CCNM UTS is proud to be a key recipient of the Australian Government's Partnerships for a Healthy Region initiative. This five-year program supports 13 Pacific Island Countries (PICs) to strengthen population health and their health systems by improving nursing and midwifery leadership, GEDSI, regulation education, standards and practice in the region. This project will build on existing regional partnerships to further strengthen quality and safety of health services to meet the goals of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) for people across the Pacific. This project will build contemporary evidence and provide training and country workshops on regulation, leadership, education and Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI).

Professor Michele Rumsey at the Global Network of WHO Collaborating Centres for Nursing and Midwifery meeting hosted at the Global Partners Meeting in Geneva.





Pacific Leadership Program 2024 (PLP) Participants, WHO CCNM UTS team, UTS SoNM staff and stakeholders at Welcome Reception.

Pacific Leadership Program 2024 (PLP) Participants at the Welcome Reception.



Strengthening Health Workforce Education (SHWE) in Papua New Guinea

In 2024, WHO CCNM UTS completed Stage 1 of the Strengthening Health Workforce Education (SHWE) program in Papua New Guinea. This involved revising and implementing curricula for nursing schools and community health worker (CHW) institutes. The program, which builds on the 2021 Review of National Curricula, is funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and aims to enhance the quality and consistency of health workforce education in the country. Over 45 deliverables were produced for Stage 1 of SHWE during the reporting period. Hundreds of documents, subjects and resources were also produced for the curriculums. As a result of this work, the program has secured funding from DFAT for Stage 2, which will commence in 2025 and assist and support the strengthening of teaching, learning, and educational standards in the UPNG School of Medicine and Health Science (SMHS) Nursing Division. Through an international partnership (Sister School model) between UPNG SMHS and WHO CCNM UTS, this initiative aims to improve the quality of education for nurses and CHWs across PNG.

Pacific Leadership Program (PLP)

The Pacific Leadership Program (PLP) was a key initiative in April 2024, designed to foster governance and leadership skills among nursing and midwifery professionals. The program provided opportunities for regional leaders to engage in capacity-building activities and knowledge-sharing to improve health outcomes across the Pacific. Due to its success, the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) has committed funding through the Australian Awards Fellowship to support the continuation of the PLP in 2025.

Global Network of WHO Collaborating Centres for Nursing and Midwifery

As part of its ongoing leadership within the Global Network of WHO Collaborating Centres for Nursing and Midwifery (GNWHOCCNM), WHO CCNM UTS participated in the Global Partners Meeting in Geneva in May 2024. This meeting brought together 34 Collaborating Centres, focusing on strengthening partnerships, aligning efforts with WHO's Strategic Directions in Nursing and Midwifery Policy Priorities 2021–2025, and enhancing collaboration among network members.

ANMAC – Regional Quality Improvement Program (RQIP)

The RQIP is a program of work led by WHO CCNM UTS, in collaboration with the South Pacific Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officers Alliance (SPCNMOA) and the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC). The program aims to assist Pacific Island countries to strengthen their health systems and thus population health by developing a Regional Quality Improvement Program for promoting quality and consistency in nursing and midwifery education and practice through accreditation, curriculum development, and an agreed scope of practice.

Publications and research

- Regional Nursing and Midwifery Forum in the Western Pacific to Optimize Nurses' and Midwives' Contributions to Achieving Universal Health Coverage, Manila, Philippines, 14–16 February 2024. [Read the meeting report.](#)
- WHO Regional framework to shape a health workforce for the future of the Western Pacific. Contribution by WHO CCNM UTS. [Read the framework.](#)
- WHO first global guidance on health practitioner regulation. Contribution by Professor Rumsey as author and steering committee member. [Read the health practitioner regulation.](#)
- WHOCCNM UTS launched a new video in November 2024, showcasing abroad the work WHO CCNM UTS undertakes within UTS, regionally and globally. [Watch the video.](#)
- LINKS Magazine Volume 17 highlighting WHO CCNMs from AMRO/PAHO. [Read the Magazine.](#)
- LINKS Magazine Volume 18 highlighting WHO CCNMs from EMRO, and a toolbox of resources for working in working in fragile, conflict affected, and vulnerable (FCV) settings. [Read the Magazine.](#)
- Papua New Guinea Strengthening Health Workforce Education (SHWE) Report. [Read the Report.](#)

- M Kililo; J Dopsie; S Passingan; J Kep; N Joseph; R Kitau; M Roroi; C Rossiter; J Sim; D Brown; C Havery; A Moloney; M Rumsey. 2024. Preparedness for practice of health professionals in Papua New Guinea: a cross-sectional survey of nurses and community health workers. *Pacific Journal of Health*, Vol. 7, (1). [Read the article.](#)
- Cutler NA, Rumsey M, Chang O, Motofaga S, Millard J. 2024. Framing the future: Ensuring vulnerable island communities are engaged. *Australasian Psychiatry*. Vol. 33, (2). [Read the article.](#)

Events

The [21st South Pacific Nurses Forum \(SPNF\)](#) was held in June 2024, bringing together over 300 nursing leaders from across the region. Discussions focused on key challenges such as workforce shortages, leadership development, and nurse migration. WHO CCNM UTS played a significant role in the forum, presenting key programs such as the Pacific Leadership Program, the Regional Quality Improvement Program (RQIP), and the Strengthening Health Workforce Education (SHWE) Program, all of which contribute to strengthening nursing education and governance across Pacific Island Countries.

In November 2024, WHO CCNM UTS participated in the '[Shaping a Future Health Workforce in the Western Pacific](#)' workshop, held in Vientiane, Lao PDR. This workshop brought together workforce leaders and planners from across the Western Pacific Region to discuss strategies for improving HRH governance and stewardship capacity. Professor James Buchan contributed as a technical consultant, providing expertise on evidence-based workforce planning and policy development. The workshop served as a platform for sharing best practices and strengthening collaboration among HRH focal points in the region.

At the [ACFID National Conference 2024](#), WHO CCNM UTS engaged in discussions on regional resilience and Universal Health Coverage, reinforcing its commitment to sustainable health workforce development.

Partnerships

MOU –Fiji National University (FNU) and Pacific Community (SPC)

WHO CCNM UTS has MOUs for ongoing work with FNU and SPC In March 2025, WHO CCNM UTS staff participated in and presented at the 5th annual Pacific Heads of Nursing and Midwifery (PHoNM), run by SPC in Fiji. SPCNMOA

WHO CCNM UTS is secretariat of the South Pacific Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officers Alliance (SPCNMOA). Through the partnership between the World Health Organization Western Pacific Regional Office, SPCNMOA and WHO CCNM UTS, the Alliance aims to enhance nursing and midwifery effectiveness through promoting and improving population health in the region. It represents the nursing and midwifery leaders working in Governments across 22 Pacific countries, as well as stakeholders from the World Bank, WHO and UNICEF. Members meet bi-monthly to share updates on all projects.

GNWHOCCNM

WHO CCNM UTS is secretariat for the Global Network of WHO Collaborating Centres for Nursing and Midwifery. As secretariat, WHO CCNM UTS coordinates and publishes the LINKS magazine biannually, last year having published Volume 17 and Volume 18. WHO CCNM UTS organises international partnership side meetings, executive committee meetings quarterly and WHO HQ meetings quarterly.

UTS FoH Interest Group

The UTS FoH Interest Group is a collaboration between FoH staff and WHO CCNM UTS staff to advance research, education and policy initiatives. The interest group supports the centre's mission by providing expertise and fostering partnerships that address global health challenges.

International Development Teams Group

WHO CCNM UTS is part of the International Development Teams group. Group members share tools, resources and expertise to assist in developing sustainable health programs and policies tailored to local needs and contexts.

State of the World's Nursing (SoWN) 2025 Global Steering Committee

Prof. Michele Rumsey, Director WHO CCNM UTS, is on the global steering committee for the upcoming SoWN 2025. The report will be launched on International Nurses Day, 12 May 2025.

Acknowledgements

WHO CCNM UTS extends sincere appreciation to its partners, funders, and stakeholders, including SPCNMOA, WHO, DFAT and the many nursing and midwifery leaders contributing to this shared mission. Through these collaborations, WHO CCNM UTS aims to make significant progress toward a stronger and more resilient global health workforce.

For more information, please visit the [WHO CCNM UTS website](https://whoccnm@uts.edu.au) or contact us at whoccnm@uts.edu.au



Strengthening Health Workforce Education in PNG fast track program with representatives from all 16 Schools of Nursing and all 19 Community Health Worker institutes in PNG along with PNG NDoH and WHO CCNM UTS team.