



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

In response to current COVID-19 pandemic concerns, we have been working closely with the WHO Western Pacific Regional Office (WPRO) to introduce psychosocial skills training for COVID-19 first responders in the Pacific. Adapted training resources have been developed by the WHO CC UTS in conjunction with a Working Group from 6 Pacific Island countries and are available online. See the story inside.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect the lives and work of health workers around the globe, it is important to talk about the challenges faced by nurses and midwives, and look at effective policy responses. Sharing these experiences and learning from them was the focus of the webinar series “Addressing Health Care Workers’ Challenges in Response to COVID-19: sharing experiences and drawing countries’ lessons” hosted by the Asia Pacific Action Alliance on Human Resources for Health. See the story inside.

We would also like to highlight the policy dialogue meeting held at the WHO CC UTS on 8 October with WHO’s Chief Nursing Officer Elizabeth Iro, and Technical Officer from WHO Headquarters in Geneva, Karen Daniels. The attendees discussed the impact and reception of the State of the World’s Nursing (SoWN) Report in the Pacific. See the story inside.

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](#).

As the end of 2020 approaches, we are sad to say good bye to two fabulous colleagues from the WHO CC Amanda Neill and Lisa Townsend, we wish

them all the best in their new adventures. We wish you a very peaceful festive season, and look forward to connecting again in 2021.

Basic Psychological Skills: A Guide for COVID-19 Responders

In the context of the global pandemic of 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 community. As a means of contributing to the preparedness of and support for first responders, the WHO CC UTS has worked with WHO since mid-June to adapt the Basic Psychosocial Skills: A Guide for COVID-19 Responders, for use in the context of Pacific Islands, creating teaching resources that are accessible and engaging for communities in the Pacific.



A Working Group was established which included members from 6 Pacific Island Countries. The Working Group met several times during July and August for discussions, Zoom workshops and structured feedback opportunities on the First Responder resource, and as a result, detailed feedback was incorporated into the development of an adapted training resource of Basic Psychosocial Skills: A Guide for COVID-19 Responders.

To access the Interagency Standing Committee (IASC) Guidance on Basic Psychosocial Skills - A Guide for COVID-19 Responders please click [here](https://www.uts.edu.au/research-and-teaching/our-research/who-collaborating-centre/news/basic-psychosocial-skills-guide-covid-19-responders). Full story <https://www.uts.edu.au/research-and-teaching/our-research/who-collaborating-centre/news/basic-psychosocial-skills-guide-covid-19-responders>

To access the teaser video links, please click below.

Module 1: <https://youtu.be/RJsVGZhGfLE>
Module 2: https://youtu.be/FNxTfTJ_K7Y
Module 3: <https://youtu.be/W8Yv2cj1gZ8>
Module 4: <https://youtu.be/XHSbO-quDTQ>

The 11st AAAH Webinar Series 2020 “Addressing Health Care Workers’ Challenges in Response to COVID-19: sharing experiences and drawing countries’ lessons”

The Asia Pacific Action Alliance on Human Resources for Health (AAAH) has convened a series of webinars, and conference, which focus on the health workforce impacts and responses to COVID-19. The webinars and conference covered the following critical issues:

1. To share national and global experiences in planning and implementing to mobilize the surge capacity of health care workers (HCWs) who are responsible for public health actions and clinical services in response to COVID-19 pandemic, identify challenges and recommend effective solutions;
2. To share national and global experiences on measures which reduce occupation hazards and violence from COVID-19 infection and mortality in HCWs; to discuss and promote approaches that ensure HCW’s mental health, well-being and resilience; to discuss data systems which capture morbidity and mortality from COVID-19 in HCWs; and to identify challenges and recommend effective solutions; and
3. To share national experiences on pre-service health professional training in the context of school closures due to COVID-19 pandemic and HCW in-service and graduate training for effective response to public health emergencies, identify challenges and recommend effective solutions.

The webinars have helped strengthen the HCWs capacity to fight against COVID-19 safety, while also helping AAAH members and individuals from other countries create and develop evidence-based health policies in response to the COVID-19 pandemic suitable to their national contexts. A policy brief based on the series is being prepared by team including Adjunct Professor James Buchan.

To view episodes of the webinar series, please click here:

<https://aaahrh.net/11th-aaah-webinar-series/>



**Asia Pacific Action Alliance
on Human Resources for Health**

Policy Dialogue Meeting with Chief Nursing Officer at WHO, Elizabeth Iro

A policy dialogue meeting was held at the WHO CC UTS on 8 October 2020 with WHO’s Chief Nursing Officer Elizabeth Iro, and Technical Officer from

WHO Headquarters in Geneva, Karen Daniels, to discuss the impact and reception of the State of the World's Nursing (SoWN) Report in Australia, New Zealand, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Palau, Samoa, Bangladesh and Singapore. A total of 24 attended, with WHO counterparts from Singapore, Bangladesh and Japan, and members from the South Pacific Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer's Alliance also joining the meeting.



The country representatives split into two sub-groups for conversation – one with Asian representation, joined by Karen Daniels, and the other with representation from the Pacific, joined by Elizabeth Iro.

The meeting gave the representatives an opportunity to talk about how the report was received in their country, and the extent to which it had been discussed among nursing leaders and government officials.

To read more, please click [here](#).

International Council of Nurses Position Statement: Mental Health



Mental illness is a growing concern that has severely worsened due to the rise of COVID-19. As the global voice of nursing, the International Council of Nurses (ICN) has released a position statement on practices that nurses can participate in order to support mental health services.

There are three interventions that the ICN has placed importance in guiding nursing care in mental health. These include **Risk** reduction, **Harm** reduction, and the **Recovery** model. To promote these interventions, the ICN has listed a number of recommendations, practices and areas of interest in which nurses can participate to aid mental health services.

Mental health is an important aspect of global health. A greater prevalence of mental illness is found in lower income communities and has seen an increase due to the global pandemic. The ICN has proposals on confronting declining mental health but needs the help of individual nurses to enact

action. For more information, please visit the link below to view the whole position statement and recommendation list from the ICN.

To read more, please click [here](#).

CSANZ COVID-19 Cardiovascular Nursing Care Consensus Statement



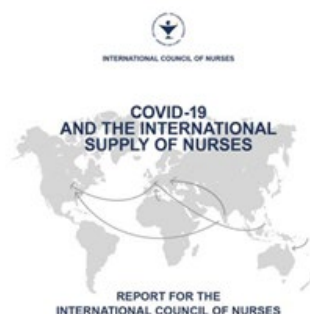
The Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand (CSANZ) released an executive summary of the key issues relevant to cardiovascular nursing care in Australia and New Zealand during the COVID-19 pandemic. The executive summary is comprised of nine key issues relevant to cardiovascular nursing care in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Each key issue highlighted by CSANZ included recommendations, guidance and protocols that should be followed. The new models and protocols for cardiovascular care included outpatient and community management and cardiac rehabilitation.

Read the full CSANZ COVID-19 Cardiovascular Nursing Care Consensus Statement [here](#).

COVID-19 and the International Supply of Nurses: James Buchan's Report

A recent report authored by Professor James Buchan, Adjunct Professor at UTS, and commissioned by the International Council of Nurses (ICN), provides an assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on the global nursing workforce. The focus of the report is on how patterns of nursing supply and mobility may change after the pandemic.



The report emphasises that the pandemic has further exposed the existing staffing gaps and addresses the reduction in the availability of nursing workforce during the COVID-19 pandemic.

At the country level, Professor Buchan recommends implementing policy bundles which target retention of domestically trained nurses and ensure adequate domestic training capacity.

At the international level, efforts should focus on monitoring international flows of nurses; support, implementation and evaluation of effective and ethical approaches to managing the international supply of nurses; analysis of nurse labour markets including workforce projections, and investment in nurse workforce sustainability in countries most vulnerable to nurse outflow.

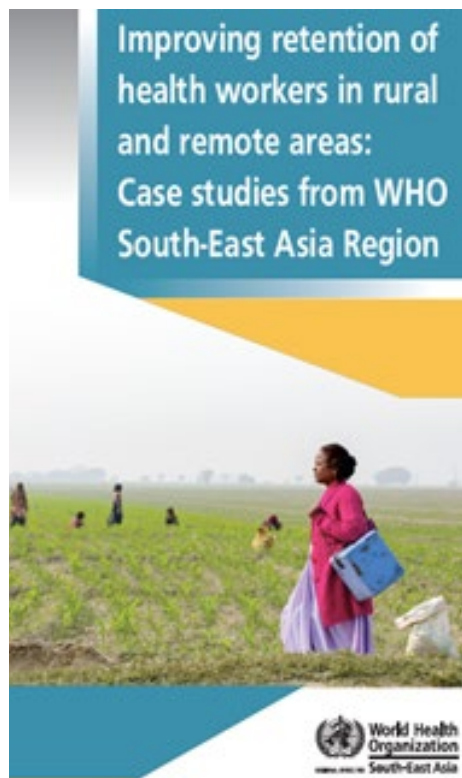
Read more [here](#).

The full report can be accessed [here](#).

Improving retention of health workers in rural and remote areas: Case studies from the WHO South-East Asia Region

This report was published by the WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia and is based on case studies conducted in six countries: Bhutan, India (Chhattisgarh state), Indonesia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

Four key messages emerged from the analysis of case studies, and these must be taken into account when efforts to improve retention in rural areas are being considered in any country. These are:



the limited evidence base from which to draw information to shape an approach
the need to consider multiple stakeholder engagement when identifying and developing relevant interventions;
the need to coordinate, "bundle" and evaluate interventions; and
the need to look to develop financial sustainability to enable workforce stability

Read more [here](#).

Read the full report [here](#).

Zapata, T., Buchan, J., Tangcharoensathien, V., Meliala, A., Karunathilake, I., Tin, N., ... & Noree, T. (2020). Rural retention strategies in the South-East Asia Region: evidence to guide effective implementation. *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, 98(11), 815. Available: <https://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/98/11/en/>

Every Nurse's Business Survey

Throughout every nurse's career they will encounter a wide variety of people with different personalities and various illnesses. Regardless of what field of nursing they are in, all nurses throughout their career will care for an individual with an Intellectual Disability or Autism.

The "Every Nurse's Business" study from the Southern Cross University are seeking nurses to take part in their current survey which will help build nursing capacity to address the healthcare needs of people with Autism and/or Intellectual Disability (ASD/ID). The data from this survey will be pivotal in helping researchers learn more about nurses' experiences with ASD/ID, and will be used to inform education and training content and subsequently improve the health outcomes of patients with ASD/ID.

To read more, please click [here](#).



every nurse's business **SURVEY NOW OPEN**

All nurses, no matter what setting, will care for someone with Intellectual Disability or Autism during their career.

Share your voice to help build nurse capacity.

CENA **apna** **ACCCN** **pandda**

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Federation Australian College of Critical Care Nurses



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Call for Papers on Nursing and Midwifery Workforce

The Call for papers on the nursing and midwifery workforce in “Human Resources for Health”, edited by Adjunct Professor James Buchan, in collaboration with WHO, will be closed on February 1st, 2021. The Call was established to mark the International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife, and a range of papers on nursing and midwifery policy issues have already been published - see

<https://www.biomedcentral.com/collections/yeurnursemidwife>

Papua New Guinea ANGAU Memorial Hospital Redevelopment Project – Birthing Suites

A team from the WHO CC UTS has been conducting a scoping review of training needs under the Clinical Services Program of the ANGAU Memorial Hospital Redevelopment Project, firstly for the birthing suites at ANGAU Memorial Hospital, and then the paediatric facilities, between August 2020 and August 2021. This hospital is located in Lae, the second largest city in Papua New Guinea (PNG).



The WHO CC UTS team is working with JID to explore the hospital training requirements, and the Government of Australia, through its Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), has committed to co-fund the redevelopment of the ANGAU Memorial Hospital in cooperation with the Government of PNG.

A draft Scoping Report has now been prepared in response to the need to improve the quality of care at the birthing suites at the Hospital, fully utilising the opportunities of its redevelopment. This Report has been developed with significant stakeholder engagement, collaboration and commitment through Working and Advisory Group meetings with clinicians, key stakeholders and expert advisers. Within the Hospital, the preparedness of the birthing suites is seen as an urgent priority and consequently this is the first scoping review to be developed for the redeveloped health facility.

See the webstory [here](#).

Calls for fabulous photos to celebrate IND!

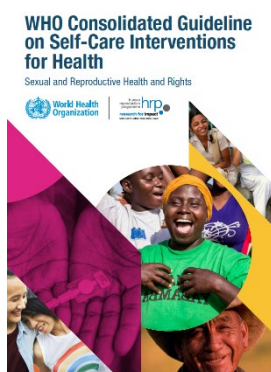
Here's your chance to enter a free photo contest and win some fabulous prizes! As part of the celebration for International Nurses Day 2021, with the theme **Nurses: A Voice to Lead – A Vision for Future Healthcare**, the International Council of Nurses is launching a contest for photographs illustrating the critical role of nurses and how they are shaping the future of healthcare in different contexts and places. We have several categories and prizes for each one. Help us to celebrate and honour nurses with your amazing images!

[Click here for rules and how to enter!](#)
[Download the consent form here.](#)

Deadline for submission is 10 January 2021.

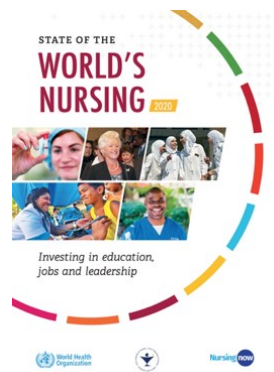
Please contact Violaine Bobot at bobot@icn.ch if you have any questions.

Documents



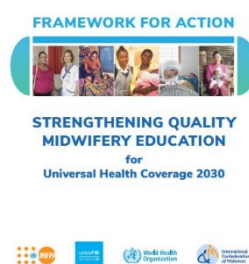
WHO Consolidated Guideline on Self-Care Interventions for Health: sexual and reproductive health and rights

[Download report](#)



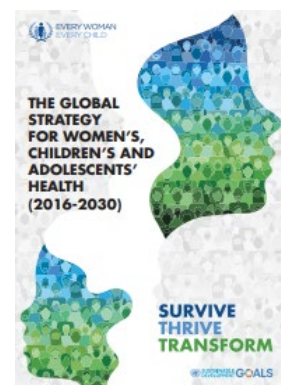
State of the World's Nursing Report

[Download report](#)



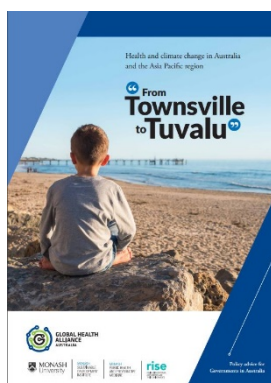
Strengthening quality midwifery education for UHC

[Download report](#)



Global strategy for women's, children's and adolescents' health (2016-2030)

[Download report](#)



Health and climate change in Australia and the Asia Pacific Region

[Download report](#)



Western Pacific Region Partners' Forum

[Summary Report](#)



Surveillance of Antibiotic Consumption

[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 Dashboard - Johns Hopkins University

Johns Hopkins complimentary COVID-19 Webcasts

WHO Operational Planning Guidelines to Support Country Preparedness and Response

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

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

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

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

Mamatuki Sosefo - Disaster & Emergency Preparedness in Fiji

Publications

1. 73rd WHA (resumed session), 9-14 November: [Watch Online](#)

2. WHO media release - 2021 designated as the International Year of Health and Care Workers: [Read here](#)
3. WHO – Launch of Triple Billion Dashboard: [Read here](#)
4. WHO – Launch of the Global Strategy to Accelerate the Elimination of Cervical Cancer: [Read here](#)
5. WHO - Neglected tropical diseases: World Health Assembly endorses bold new road map targets for 2030: [Read here](#)
6. WHO – World Diabetes Day 2020: Introducing the Global Diabetes Compact: [Read here](#)
7. WHO – Launch of One Health Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance: [Read here](#)
8. WHO - Augmented reality PPE course for health workers: [Read here](#)
9. WHO Bulletin – November issue: [Read here](#)
10. UN News - ‘Emergency Action’ Needed to Prevent Major Polio, Measles Epidemics: [Read here](#)
11. UN News - Neglected Tropical Diseases: Countries Endorse New Targets to Eradicate 20 Killers: [Read here](#)
12. UN News - World Can Save Lives and ‘end this pandemic, together’ – On Tedros’ media briefing on 6 November 2020: [Read here](#)
13. UN News - Independent UN experts decry COVID vaccine hoarding: ‘No one is secure until all of us are’: [Read here](#)
14. UNICEF – World Children’s Day: [Read here](#)
15. Lancet Commission - The Lancet Commission on Diabetes: Using Data to Transform Diabetes Care and Patient Lives [Read here](#)
16. Lancet - Leveraging the COVID-19 Response to End Preventable Child Deaths from Pneumonia: [Read here](#)
17. Measles Deaths Soared Worldwide Last Year, as Vaccine Rates Stalled: [Read more](#)
18. Low- & Middle-Income Countries Suffer From ‘Brain Drain’ Of Nurses That Threatens Their Health Services – International Council of Nurses: [Read more](#)
19. Breast Milk Substitutes Make New Inroads Among Hungry Households In The Global South During COVID-19: [Read more](#)
20. Where did COVID come from? WHO investigation begins but faces challenges: [Read more](#)
21. What Pfizer’s landmark COVID Vaccine Results Mean for the Pandemic: [Read here](#)

22. COVID vaccination logistics: five steps to take now: [Read more](#)
23. \$US6 Billion Basket of Drugs Planned For Worldwide Distribution Of COVID-19 Treatments: [Read more](#)
24. Politico - The US to look at a new global health world order: [Read here](#)
25. Think Global Health blog – Reducing the risk of Covid-19 this holiday season: [Read here](#)
26. Lancet editorial - COVID-19 vaccines: no time for complacency: [Read here](#)
27. WHO establishes Council on the Economics of Health for All: [Read here](#)
28. WHO - Access to COVID 19 Tools Accelerator commitments reach US\$ 5.1billion following new contributions, including at Paris Peace Forum: [Read here](#)
29. “30by2030” campaign - Health Coverage requires strengthening Primary Health Care: [Read here](#)
30. Special Edition of The Munich Security Report on Development, Fragility, and Conflict in the Era of Covid-19 “Polypandemic”: [Read here](#)
31. Call for COVID-19 responses to apply comprehensive public health principles: [Read here](#)
32. Achieving UHC in the Pacific, a Closer Look at Implementation: Summary of a Report for Pacific Health Ministers <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/23288604.2018.1537874>
33. UN News - UN urges ‘global solidarity, shared responsibility’ against pandemics, marking World AIDS Day <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/12/1078862>
34. Lancet Global Health- [Potential impact of midwives in preventing and reducing maternal and neonatal mortality and stillbirths: a Lives Saved Tool modelling study](#)
35. Lancet - [The 2020 report of The Lancet Countdown on health and climate change: responding to converging crises](#)

Events

1. **12th November 2020** – World Pneumonia Day
2. **14th November 2020** – World Diabetes Day

3. **20th November 2020** – World Children’s Day
4. **18th – 24th November 2020** - [World Antibiotics Awareness Week](#)
5. **3rd - 4th December 2020** – Special Session of the UN General Assembly in response to COVID-19
6. **5th May 2021**- International Midwives Day
7. **12th May 2021** - International Nurses Day
8. **May 2021** – 74th World Health Assembly
9. **30th May - 3rd June 2021** - [ICM 32nd Triennial Congress](#), Bali, Indonesia
10. **5th – 9th June 2021** – [ICN Congress](#), Abu Dhabi
11. **14th June 2021** - World Blood Donor Day
12. **28th July 2021** - World Hepatitis Day
13. **29th August – 1st September 2021** - [11th ICN NP/APN Network Conference](#), Halifax Canada
14. **17th September 2021** - [World Patient Safety Day](#)



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