

ANGAU MEMORIAL HOSPITAL REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Brief for the ongoing support of the Clinical Services Program - Scoping Study for Birthing Suites

May 2021

Background

Johnstaff International Development (JID) were engaged by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) in 2017 as Project Manager Contract Administrator (PMCA) for the Australian New Guinea Administrative Unit (ANGAU) Hospital Redevelopment Project.

The WHO Collaborating Centre at the University of Technology Sydney (WHO CC UTS) has been working with JID, in partnership with the PNG National Department of Health (NDOH), DFAT, University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG) and other key stakeholders to provide a clinical support program (CSP) for the redevelopment of ANGAU Memorial Hospital. WHO CC UTS developed two detailed scoping reports for training requirements for the birthing suites and pediatrics services at ANGAU Hospital in 2020. This would be carried out in partnership with Port Moresby General Hospital (PMGH) and UPNG School of Medical Health Science considering local training and specialist practice needs for the future.

Scoping Reports

Several Working Groups were set up as a collaborative bringing together key stakeholders interested in improving the health status of women, patients and catchment populations of ANGAU in partnership with PMGH. These groups included two National Advisory Working Groups—Birthing Suites and Pediatrics/Specialist Practice—and two clinical working groups based at ANGAU. The groups met regularly in PNG and with colleagues from WHO CC UTS via Zoom due to current travel restrictions. The two advisory groups and clinical working groups provided continuous feedback and participated in the collection of data that developed

the WHO CC UTS scoping reports on the ANGAU Hospital birthing suites and pediatric facilities. A number of recommendations were formulated in the scoping reports based upon the findings and were endorsed by the advisory working groups and ANGAU executive.



Recommendations from both scoping reports were provided to key stakeholders regarding continuing education and the need to upskill the health staff within ANGAU. The National Advisory Working Groups articulated a need to focus on ANGAU hospital first and then roll out activities across PNG.

The **birthing suite scoping report** highlighted in this brief indicated a requirement for new and innovative ways of working that supported both the early recognition and prevention of obstetric emergencies and effective management of such emergencies while engaging in respectful maternity care.

Generally, the recommendations recognised the need for upskilling the workforce to be able to practice effectively in the new facility. This included urgent training, in the form of short frequent and continuing professional development sessions to ensure the health workforce are

adequately prepared to support women and patients.

Other specific recommendations included:

- uniform training across all clinical areas for birthing suite staff;
- adaptation of the approved Essential Obstetric Care (EOC) and Emergency Obstetric Care (EMOC) training packages, and;
- that training should also include topics such as room readiness, respectful midwifery, maternal health in the region and leadership.



The birthing suites report also recognised that, due to the lack of available and qualified health staff, considerations and discussions into the re-organisation of health staff were necessary. In particular, departments should also be reviewed to better support more vulnerable women/patients, for example those in the early post-natal period where limited staff are currently available.



Communication (both internal and external) and data collection have been sources for concern and impact overall quality and safety of care.

Recommendations also included:

- streamlining of data collection practices;
- hospital-wide paging system to be developed and implemented;
- outline for a protocol to be devised for the use of a new call bell system in the birthing suite;

- internet access to be made a priority within the birthing suite.

Recommendations for the provision of various equipment and resources has also been made including requests for neonatal stethoscopes, portable ultrasounds, pinards and vacuum equipment.

COVID-19 Outbreak

The recent COVID-19 outbreak has placed increased pressure on PNG's whole health system and put increased pressure on ANGAU's ability commission the new hospital.

As of 12 May 2021, the World Health Organization declared 12,226 confirmed cases and 121 confirmed deaths from COVID-19, heavily impacting upon the already limited resources available in PNG and dismantling the fragile systems that were in place that provided regular basic healthcare.

The additional strain on the human resources, COVID restrictions and availability of midwives at ANGAU has delayed the start of the EMOC and EOC courses. In response to this delay, WHO CC UTS has developed fortnightly short online presentations for the upskilling of midwives and preparation for the use of the new birthing suites. They have been designed to enable small groups to be taught regularly to build rapport and knowledge.

During this period of delay related to the latest outbreak of COVID-19, WHO CC UTS has remained in contact with senior nurses across PNG as a means of support and information sharing during. WHO CC UTS has been collaborating with JID and NDoH to print and distribute NDoH and WHO PNG approved COVID-19 health promotion resources across the country for both health care workers and the community.

Online Presentations

Birthing care – partograms. WHO CC UTS held the first of eight online presentations at ANGAU Hospital on 22nd April, 2020. The first presentation focused on 'Birthing care – partograms'. There were 19 participants who attended across three separate sessions held that day. Professor Lin Lock, expert curriculum advisor, nurse and midwife at WHO

CC UTS, ran the workshop with the assistance of the in country JID team and Sister Norah. Discussion and knowledge sharing has increased as the sessions have continued and participants gain confidence.

Room readiness. As part of the online presentations, WHO CC UTS has developed a second module called 'room readiness' that is intended to prepare the midwives, nurses and CHWs to work and provide quality care in the new birthing suites which contain upgraded equipment and beds. This is has been developed to to enable safe move to the new birthing suites.

During preparation of this module, WHO CC UTS identified concerns with continuing a high level of maintenance and cleaning of the new birth rooms, beds and equipment. WHO CC UTS continues to work with JID to review hospital cleaning and maintenance guidelines and protocols that the JID team and the ANGAU Hospital are developing. This will be carried out when access to the new birthing suites is available.

In addition to these first two workshops, WHO CC UTS will continue to provide the midwives with fortnightly workshops which have been adapted from the EMOC and EOC materials in preparation for their move and opening of the new birthing suites. They will cover Birthing care, Partograms, Breach, Respectful Midwifery, Leadership, Postpartum Hemorrhaging, Maternal health issues

They will be conduct each online workshop on two separate days for a totally of 6 sessions each, up to a total of 48 sessions in total. This should allow sufficient opportunities for midwives, CHWs and O&Gs to attend. These presentations are also being shared with the eLearning team. As necessary, WHO CC UTS will continue to provide flexible learning options based upon the needs of the targeted audience, with advice of stakeholders in country, and as the COVID-19 situation changes.





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