

UTS:

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

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PAPUA NEW GUINEA MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH INITIATIVE – PHASE II

STAKEHOLDER FORUM - 25 NOVEMBER 2015

HOLIDAY INN, PORT MORESBY, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The Maternal and Child Health Initiative (MCHI) Stakeholder Forum for Phase II was held at the Holiday Inn, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea (PNG) on Wednesday 25 November 2015.

The overall objectives for the Maternal and Child Health Initiative Phase II are to:

- improve the standard of midwifery clinical teaching and practice in the five teaching sites;
- improve the quality of obstetric care in two regions through the provision of clinical mentoring, supervision, and teaching.

The Forum was planned and organised by Ms Mary Killilo from the National Department of Health (NDOH) and the UTS WHO Collaborating Centre (Ms Alison Moores, Professor Pat Brodie, Professor Caroline Homer and Ms Amanda Neill).

The aim of the Forum was to come together and reflect on the achievements and challenges of the MCHI over the past four years and consider the way forward. The objectives were to:

- Provide a forum to share the successes and challenges associated with Phase II of the MCHI
- Provide an overview of the monitoring and evaluation of the MCHI
- Share preliminary findings of the research conducted as part of the MCHI
- Highlight the recommendations for the future to continue to address maternal and child health and strengthen midwifery education.



Ms Mary Killilo with the course coordinators and educators, Clinical Midwifery facilitators, and MCHI obstetricians (Ann Yates missing from photo)

Over 50 stakeholders attended the Forum with representation from NDOH, WHO PNG, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Australia Awards, Deans/Heads of Schools, Church Health Services, Susu Mamas, Reproductive Health Training Unit (RHTU), national midwifery course coordinators, midwifery educators, clinicians and the MCHI obstetricians, clinical midwifery educator (CME) and clinical midwifery facilitators (CMFs). The Forum was officially opened after an opening prayer by MCHI key stakeholder Ms Mary Killilo - Technical Advisor Pre-service and Health Training, NDOH.

The day commenced with a presentation from Dr Lahui Geita, Technical Advisor Family Health Services, about the maternal and child health services and the work that the National Department of Health has been leading and supporting.

Professor Caroline Homer followed an overview of the real and potential impact of strengthening midwifery in PNG and globally. Professor Pat Brodie AM then provided a summary of the development of the MCHI, especially the story of how the Initiative came to be designed and implemented.

The course coordinators from each of the five midwifery schools gave short 10 minute presentations focussing on strengthening midwifery that included stories illustrating their midwifery education experiences. Professor Mola followed with an informative talk on increasing obstetric care in PNG regions, followed by Mrs Jennifer Pyakalia and Ms Ann Yates speaking about strengthening the PNG Midwifery Society.

After lunch, Ms Amanda Neill gave a summary of key findings from the monitoring and evaluation work of the MCHI to date. Ms Alison Moores, Mrs Paula Puawe and Dr Nancy Buasi then presented an overview of progress of the Midwifery Graduate Study.

Key achievements in midwifery regulation were reported on by Dr Nina Joseph from the PNG Nursing Council, and Ms Michele Rumsey from the WHO Collaborating Centre at UTS.

Ms Alison Moores, Mrs Paula Puawe and Dr Nancy Buasi presented the findings from the Midwifery Graduates study which tracked the experiences and outcomes of the graduates from 2012 and 2013. Finally, Ms Christine Sturrock presented on the Australian Government's support for the PNG health workforce. The day concluded with a discussion on the way forward.

Finally, the course coordinators thanked the CMFs, obstetricians, UTS, DFAT, AAPNG and Soroptimist International for their support of the MCHI by presenting beautiful bilums as gifts. Mrs Mary Kililo then conducted a final ceremony and prayer

Attendees at the forum had an opportunity to share knowledge and information on the MCHI and the way forward. They also had the chance to discuss outstanding issues for the future of midwifery education, and look at ways to continue to develop the PNG midwifery workforce and ensure quality midwifery care.

This was the final workshop activity for Phase II of the MCHI. The final Steering Committee meeting was held on Friday 27 November which marks the end of the workshops and meetings for MCHI Phase II. The MCHI officially finishes on 31 December 2015.



The team from the UTS WHO CC – Michele Rumsey, Amanda Neill, Christine Catling, Caroline Homer, Pat Brodie and Alison Moores

PNG Midwifery Society's Symposium

The PNG Midwifery Society's Symposium preceded the Stakeholder Forum, held from 23-24 November. Over 260 midwives attended this inaugural event which was deemed a great success for the midwives of PNG. The MCHI has provided ongoing support of the PNG Midwifery Society, through the work of the CME and supported by the CMFs. More than 260 delegates attended the Symposium. It was an amazing two days of learning and sharing with incredible energy and enthusiasm. The symposium showed that the PNG Midwifery Society is a vibrant and important association that has real capacity to make a big difference to maternal and child health in PNG.



Some of the delegates at the 1st PNG Midwifery Society Symposium