

**Implementation of National Curriculum Review of the Diploma of General Nursing (DGN) and Community Health Worker (CHW) Programs: Strengthening Health Workforce Education in Papua New Guinea**

**Brief 13: DGN and CHW Subcommittee Meetings**

**8<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

In June this year, the World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre at the University of Technology, Sydney (WHO CC UTS) in partnership with Papua New Guinea's National Department of Health (NDoH) and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) held two subcommittee meetings as part of the *Implementation of National Curriculum for the Diploma of General Nursing (DGN) and Community Health Workers (CHWs) Program*. The DGN and CHW Subcommittee meetings occurred on Thursday the 8<sup>th</sup> of June 2023 and Tuesday the 13<sup>th</sup> of June 2023 respectively. Each Subcommittee is composed of participants from Schools of Nursing and Community Health Work Training Colleges throughout PNG. Representatives from nine Schools of Nursing and twelve CHW Training Colleges were present at the meetings. A full list of attendees is provided at the end of this brief.

the upcoming in-country workshop in June. The meeting facilitated feedback from Subcommittee members on gaps and potential improvements.



Figure 2: CHW Subcommittee attendees

**Subcommittee Meetings**

During both CHW and DGN meetings, Prof. Michele Rumsey (Director, WHO CC UTS), led a brief presentation updating attendees, some of the following points were discussed:

- DGN Curriculum has been completed and reviewed by the NDoH team and is going to the PNG Nursing Council for review and accreditation in June.
- CHW Curriculum has been completed and reviewed by the NDoH team and is going to the Medical Board for review in June.
- Draft skills checklists and logbooks have been developed and will be reviewed later this year.
- Participants of the Fast Track Program are on track with their Module work for the upcoming workshop in June.
- The Faculty Development Survey is in pilot stage, with plans to distribute it during the upcoming Fast Track Workshop and online in the following weeks.

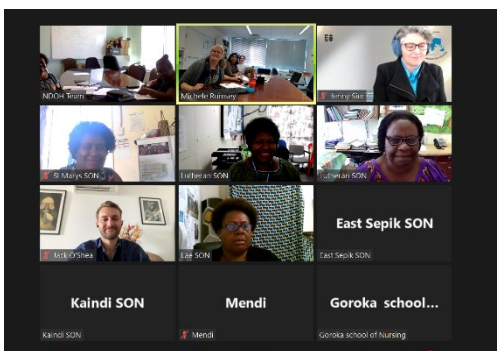


Figure 1: DGN Subcommittee attendees

The purpose of these meetings was to update the Principals of schools about the implementation of both the DGN and CHW curriculums and Continuing Professional Development (Fast Track) Program, and upcoming Faculty Development Survey ahead of

### **DGN Subcommittee Feedback**

After this, attendees of the DGN Subcommittee gave positive feedback regarding the use of the Fast Track Programs. A series of improvements in educational capacity were noted, emphasising an increase in collaboration between students and educators. Positive comments were also made by colleagues taking part in the Faculty Development Survey Pilot. A range of suggestions highlighted that the survey needs to be practical and applicable to each School of Nursing. Particular emphasis was given to the need for questions pertaining to a lack of Teaching and Learning Resources.

Other attendees expressed their excitement about filling out the Survey for their school at the end of June. Dr. Nina Joseph made concluding remarks, thanking participants for their presence and contributions.

### **CHW Subcommittee Feedback**

Participants of the second Subcommittee meeting echoed positive feedback regarding the new curriculum implementation plan. Updates were given by WHO CC UTS staff regarding the progression of the Fast-Track program for CHW Training colleges. Positive feedback of improved teaching and learning styles for FF training were shared. Similarly, Subcommittee members suggested that the Faculty Development Survey be further revised, with the addition of questions geared towards Teaching and Learning Resources. Specifically, institutional and clinical standards resources was highlighted, with reference to issues related to the distribution of the CHW Training Manual. Further discussion was held as to specify resource related issues that need to be addressed with this update of the Faculty Development Survey. Dr. Cathy Pilang concluded the meeting, thanking participants and reinstating the need for additional resources in CHW Training Schools.

### **Next Steps**

- Faculty development survey is in final stage of its pilot.
- In late June, feedback will be incorporated into the Faculty Development Survey and will be distributed to Principals via email and educators present at the upcoming Fast Track program.
- CHW and DGN Fast Track Curriculum development workshop to take place at Don Bosco Training Institute (DBTI) from the 12th – 23rd of June.
- Further discussion Continuing Professional Development Plan (CPD), is required.
- NDOH Senior Executive Management reporting is outstanding, NDoH team will provide a presentation.
- PNG Nursing Council meeting to take place on Monday 27th June at 10am. Mary Kililo (NDoH) and Michele Rumsey (WHO CC UTS) will present DGN curriculum.
- PNG Medical Board meeting to take place on Monday 27th June at 1pm. Mary Kililo (NDoH) and Michele Rumsey (WHO CC UTS) will present CHW curriculum.
- Accreditation and review of the new curriculums on track for discussion at the PNG Medical Board meeting on June 27th.
- The CPD plan due for June 2024 reporting has been brought forward following M&E reporting, consequently further funding to run fast track/BN conversion has been requested.
- Next subcommittee meetings for both Schools of Nursing and CHW Training Colleges are planned to take place after the Fast-Track program in July/August.