

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

Brief 15: Governance, National Curriculum Steering Committee and Regulation Meetings

June - August 2023

A series of governance and approval meetings for the ongoing ‘Strengthening Health Workforce Education In Papua New Guinea’ project were held in Port Moresby, in June – August 2023. World Health Organization Collaborating Centre at the University of Technology, Sydney (WHO CC UTS) in partnership with Papua New Guinea’s National Department of Health (NDoH), Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) attended meetings with PNG Nursing Council, PNG Medical Board, and Department of Higher Education, Research, Science & Technology (DHERST).

A National Curriculum Steering Committee meeting was also held in June before the newly revised Diploma of General Nursing (DGN) and Community Health Worker (CHW) curriculums were presented for regulation accreditation. The Strengthening Health Workforce Education program aims to support PNG’s

health workforce in meeting current and future health needs in the development and implementation of revised National Curriculum for DGN and CHW Programs. Funding was provided by PNG NDoH, the World Health Organization (review) and the Australian Government, through Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (implementation).

Representatives from NDoH, DHERST and WHO CC UTS held their 4th workshop in Port Moresby, PNG from 12th to 23rd of June which continued the Health Professional Education Expanded Fast Track Program with PNG CHW and Nursing Educators.

Senior Executive Management (SEM) Meeting
NDoH HR Training Team presented the program outcomes to the high level Senior Executive Management (SEM) meeting on June 20th. The objective of this meeting was to inform SEM of the program progress, prior to



Figure 1: National Curriculum Steering Committee, DFAT, NDOH, DHERST, Associations, CHS, other key Partners.

upcoming PNG Nursing Council and PNG Medical Board curriculum approval meetings. The National Curriculum Steering Committee Meeting was then held on June 26th for final approval of the CHW and DGN curriculum documents to report progress and implementation plan prior to meetings with PNG Nursing Council and PNG Medical Board the following day.

PNG Nursing Council and Medical Board

On the 27th of June, Prof Michele Rumsey (WHO CC UTS) and Mary Kililo (NDoH) met with the PNG Nursing Council who reviewed the DGN Curriculum documents, Prof Michele Rumsey (WHO CC UTS) and Mary Kililo (NDoH) were then invited to attend a meeting with PNG Medical Board to review the CHW Curriculum documents. During these meetings, the curriculum documents were presented for review, using the NDoH National Curriculum Development Standards for Health programs Checklist.



Figure 2: PNG Medical Board

Monitoring, Evaluation, Research and Learning (MERL)

Monitoring, Evaluation, Research and Learning (MERL) interviews were conducted between June with the Steering Committee members. These interviews aimed to gain feedback from a range of stakeholders including Nursing and CHW Educators, NDoH, DHERST and DFAT. The feedback received was overwhelmingly positive for the program.

Follow up Meetings

Follow up meeting held with DHERST August 9th and NDOH senior management team on August 11th to inform them of program progress.



Figure 3: Some of NDoH SEM Team Update Meeting

Next Steps:

Endorsement and accreditation is expected to be granted later this year for both CHW and DGN Curriculums. DHERST Board for DGN Curriculum proposed for November 2023. Meeting Following on from this workshop, the expanded Fast Track Program's 3rd Workshop is planned for the 4th-10th of September 2023.



Figure 4: PNG Nursing Council, Committees, NDoH and DHERST