

Implementation of National Curriculum for the Diploma of General Nursing (DGN) and Certificate for Community Health Worker (CHW) Program

Brief 16: Subject Development & Continuing Professional Development, Health Professional Education, Fast Track Program

Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, 16th-20th October 2023

WHO Collaborating Centre for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Development at the University of Technology Sydney (WHO CC UTS), in partnership with the Papua New Guinea (PNG) National Department of Health (NDoH), University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG) and the PNG Department of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology (DHERST) facilitated a workshop in PNG in October 2023. This workshop was part of the Continuing Professional Development Fast Track Program designed to help educators improve their teaching practices. The overall program aims to support PNG's health workforce to meet current and future health needs through the review, development and implementation of revised National Curriculum for the Diploma of General Nursing (DGN) and the Certificate for Community Health Worker (CHW) Program. The National Curriculum Review program is funded by the NDoH, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Australian Government, through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

As part of this program, representatives from NDoH and the WHO CC UTS held Health Professional Education workshops for CHW and Nursing Educators in October 2023.

Workshop

The aims of this workshop were to: review and finalise the Semester 1 subject outlines, student and teacher guides, lesson plans and other suggested resources for the DGN and CHW curricula; provide feedback on assessments and work submitted by participants; provide learning opportunities for participants to search for evidence and write an annotated bibliography; listen to and provide feedback on the change projects that participants had initiated in their schools; and plan for completion of the Reflection in



Teaching and Learning course of the Fast Track Program. Fifty seven (57) participants attended the workshop from 22 provinces across PNG. Some late flight cancellations limited the number of days that some of the participants from Goroka and Western Province were able to attend.

Day 1: Ms Mary Kililo (Technical Adviser – Pre service and Health, NDoH) welcomed participants and opened the workshop. Participant groups provided critical reviews on the Semester 1 subject learning guides for the DGN and CHW curricula. This feedback will be considered in finalising the subject resources.

Day 2 and 3: Participants completed activities to improve their writing of an annotated bibliography. Building on learning activities conducted in a previous workshop including writing critical reviews of journal articles, participants gathered evidence, wrote an annotated bibliography and explained and evaluated evidence for colleagues.





Short presentations were given by participants on correct referencing, and critical evaluation of journal articles and textbook chapters, followed by practice activities such as writing an annotation of their textbook chapter. By the end of two days, many participants said they felt more confident about writing their next annotated bibliography.

Day 4 and 5: During the last two days of the workshop participants presented their change projects that included incorporating student-centred learning activities into classroom teaching, improving attendance, developing mentoring programs to support students in their academic work, and developing students' reading skills.

On Thursday afternoon, a sightseeing trip was organised by NDoH for participants to visit popular places in Port Moresby. Mrs Kililo concluded the workshop and certificates were given to participants by the NDoH team.

Workshop Outcomes:

All objectives of the workshop were achieved.

- Participants submitted their expected modules.
- All participants presented their "Change Project".

- Participants adapted to and practised working in groups and learning in pairs.
- Participants critically reviewed lesson plans and resources for the new curricula.
- Positive participant evaluations indicated that the intended workshop outcomes were achieved.

Other Achievements

Approval of Curricula:

Certificate IV for Community Health Workers (CHW) curriculum received formal approval from the Papua New Guinea Medical Board in August 2023. The revised Diploma of General Nursing (DGN) has been endorsed by the PNG Nursing Council and sent to DHERST for their approval and accreditation. This momentous achievement highlights the commitment to advancing the standards of nursing education in PNG.

Approved CHW Curriculums were disseminated to the CHW schools at the workshop. The DGN program curriculum will be disseminated to Nursing Schools and relevant stakeholders once accredited. This dissemination signifies a pivotal moment, reflecting the project's commitment to healthcare education and improving the quality of healthcare services across PNG.

Next Steps:

With the successful approval of the CHW curriculum, the project has now shifted its focus to the forthcoming phases. The DGN curriculum has been endorsed by PNG Nursing Council and sent to DHERST and awaits approval and accreditation from the DHERST. These anticipated endorsements are expected to conclude later this year. The next workshop is planned for April 2024.

