

**Review and Development of National Curricula for the Diploma of General Nursing (DGN) and Certificate for Community Health Worker (CHW) Framework**

**Brief 5: WHO CC UTS Country Visit  
February –March 2022**

### Background

This brief provides an overview of a visit to PNG undertaken by the WHO Collaborating Centre at the University of Technology, Sydney (WHO CC UTS), between the 17<sup>th</sup> of February and the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 2022. WHO CC UTS organised the visit to provide support and assistance to the *Review and Development of National Curricula for the Diploma of General Nursing (DGN) and Certificate for Community Health Workers (CHWs)* program funded by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trading (DFAT) in partnership with Papua New Guinea's National Department of Health (NDoH) and the PNG Nursing Council.



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The visit was significant: it marked the first visit to PNG by a member of the WHO CC UTS since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. During the visit, the WHO CC UTS organised important project meetings, workshops, and discussions with key partners and stakeholders involved in the program: the World Health Organization's in-country office at PNG, the PNG Nursing Council, DFAT-PATH, DHERST, the NDoH, and the Curricula Development and Review Steering Committee. The visit culminated in a successful meet-and-greet event at the Lamana Hotel on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February with members of the Curriculum Review and Development

Steering Committee and other affiliated stakeholders. An overview of these meetings is provided below.



*Dr Nina Joseph (PNG Nursing Council) and Dr. Russel Kitau (Medical Board)*

### Itinerary

The visit commenced on the 17<sup>th</sup> of February with a productive morning meeting with DFAT. At the subsequent meeting held at the WHO in-country office, the WHO CC UTS engaged in generative discussions with Anna Maalsen, WHO Representative in PNG. A meeting with Lina Wam, the HR Manager at the NDoH, was held in the afternoon. At this meeting, the particulars of supporting the National Curricula Review and Development program were discussed.

This momentum was sustained for the duration of the visit: back-to-back discussions were held with in-service and training officers and NDoH representatives on Friday the 18<sup>th</sup> February, while the following week was defined by a productive schedule of meetings and discussions with key partners and stakeholders involved in the National Curricula Review and Development program. This included a visit on Monday the 21<sup>st</sup> February to Sr. Carol Hosea, Director of Nursing and Sr Merylyn Nicholas, Deputy Director of Nursing at Port Moresby General Hospital (PMGH). A meeting with the PNG Medical Board, the PNG Nursing Council, and WHO in-country

representatives was held that same afternoon: attendees discussed the recent transfer of curriculum and training program oversight to DHERST via the *Higher and Technical Education Reform Act (2020 Schedule)*. Discussions were also held into the Health Practitioners Bill, the changes to regulation and accreditation the Bill encompasses, and its possible enactment in 2022. A productive meeting with DFAT PATH was held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February to discuss program contracts, and frequent meetings and discussions with the NDoH were conducted over the two-week period. Ongoing discussions were likewise held with key members of the NDoH Curriculum Project team.



*Dr. Nina Joseph (PNG Nursing Council), Dr. Francis Hualupmomi (Acting Secretary DHERST), and Ms. Mary Kililo (NDoH)*

The visit culminated with successful meet-and-greet and informal discussion sessions on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February. This was held at the Lamana hotel in Port Moresby. At this meeting, attendees discussed the data survey and upcoming data analysis workshop, the draft curriculum framework, the memberships and scheduled meetings for the Diploma of General Nursing (DGN) and Community Health Workers (CHWs) Subcommittees, relevant program data provided by the PNG Nursing Council data, and recent changes in legislation and governance. Additional meetings with key stakeholders



*Mary Sitaing inspecting the new labour ward beds at Port Moresby General Hospital, donated by the WHO*

were held right up until the conclusion of the visit on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March.

### **Outcome**

The visit consolidated the program, built on its achievements, and will contribute towards the efficiency and effectiveness of its implementation. The meetings, discussions, and workshops provided an invaluable opportunity for the program's key partners and stakeholders to work with and alongside each other and thereby navigate the complexities of curricula redevelopment and review. Key to the success of the visit was the WHO CC UTS' extensive in-country experience in PNG and comprehensive network of local contacts.



*Workshop at the Lamana Hotel, Port Moresby*

Ultimately, the visit confirmed the program's strength, viability, and sustainability; its success will allow the program's stakeholders to capitalise on the opportunities that 2022 presents.

### **Key Outputs:**

- Discussed key legislative changes in PNG, including the recent transfer of nursing curriculum and training program oversight to DHERST via the Gazettement of the *Higher and Technical Education Reform Act (2020 Schedule)*
- Health Practitioners Bill enactment discussed for 2022, and potential impact on accreditation and regulation of the DGN and CHW curricula review with relevant stakeholders
- Coordinated meetings with key stakeholders and funding organisations to discuss recent actions and achievements in the program
- Worked with and alongside key stakeholders to ensure program continuity and sustainability in PNG at a crucial stage in the program
- Ratified subcommittee memberships and meeting schedules at the Steering Committee workshop