

National Curricula Review of the Diploma of General Nursing and Community Health Worker Programs: Strengthening Health Workforce Education in Papua New Guinea

Brief 9: DGN and CHW Subcommittee Meetings

12 July 2022 & 21 July 2022

In July 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 Trading (DFAT) held two subcommittee meetings as part of the *Review and Development of National Curricula for the Diploma of General Nursing (DGN) and Community Health Workers (CHWs) Program*. The DGN and CHW Subcommittee meetings occurred on Tuesday the 12th of July 2022 and Thursday the 21st of July 2022 respectively. Each Subcommittee is composed of participants from Schools of Nursing and Community Health Work throughout PNG. 9 schools were represented at the meetings. A full list of attendees is provided at the end of this brief.

aim to address the key health priorities identified in PNG's National Health Plan, the NDoH baseline survey, the PNG National Sector Review Annual Performance (SPAR) 2019 document, the PNG National Qualifications Framework, and the Gap Analysis of the previous curricula prepared by WHO CC UTS.



Figure 2: Participants of DGN Subcommittee Meeting



Figure 1: Mrs Molly Marava, Principal, West New Britain School of Nursing

The purpose of these meetings was to review and discuss the proposed curricula for nurses and community health workers and receive feedback from Subcommittee members on gaps and potential improvements. The new curricula

Changes to the curricula aim to integrate competencies and stimulate deep learning within and across subjects to better prepare students to practice in complex settings.

DGN Subcommittee Meeting

During the DGN meeting, attendees reviewed the background of the DGN curriculum, the proposed subject outlines, and the draft course structure. Professor Lin Lock (WHO CC UTS) explained how the revised curricula exceeds the PNG National Qualifications Framework requirements for a DGN, and highlighted the potential for an Advanced Diploma.

Throughout the meeting, attendees discussed subject pre-requisites and requirements, the potential to combine subjects, additional course content, and how to mitigate student fatigue in

the course; fatigue is reportedly common as a result of the current structure. Prof. Lock explained that many important topics will be integrated throughout the curriculum and not solely taught within a single subject.



Figure 3: Mary Roroi and Colleagues, NDoH

Dr. Di Brown (WHO CC UTS) provided a presentation on clinical learning and the use of clinical logbooks. She proposed a skills checklist in addition to the use of global competency standards. Clinical assessment and grading were also discussed. Attendees were asked to provide further feedback via email after reviewing the subject outline and course structure in detail.

The following key actions arose from the meeting, and will be addressed in preparation for the *Curricula Review Program Workshop*, to be held in October in Port Moresby.

- Finalise the topics and structure of the revised curriculum.
- Begin to develop subjects, including topics, lectures and possible readings. Workshop participants should come prepared to contribute to the development of these subjects.
- The revised curriculum is proposed to be case-based to enable integration of knowledge and skills with deeper learning. Participants should come prepared to contribute with a case study that represents their area of subject development.

CHW Subcommittee Meeting

At the CHW Subcommittee meeting, participants reviewed and discussed the CHW Curriculum Framework and draft subject summaries, noting improvements from the current curriculum.



Figure 4: Participants of CHW Subcommittee Meeting

Professor Di Brown commenced the meeting by presenting on the Global Competency Framework for Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and outlining the key components of competency-based teaching. During the presentation, she emphasised that one of the key aims of the program is to develop modules which integrate UHC competencies and existing module competencies into each subject. Subsequently, Professor Lin Lock discussed the integration of maternity care into this framework, which is an addition to the last course. Prof. Lock also discussed the integration of the SPAR document into the curricula design. The SPAR document is a monitoring and surveillance tool which enables PNG to identify how they are progressing against set targets and PNG's National Health Plan.

Following the presentation, discussions were held regarding the necessity of getting students to think critically in the workplace, the importance of considering clinical educator capacity in curriculum design, and the necessity of aligning the curriculum to the National Qualifications Framework. Michelle Rumsey (Director WHO CC UTS) noted that a fast-track program is being created to upskill educators and senior clinicians and highlighted the importance of supporting the professional

development of educators to properly implement the program.

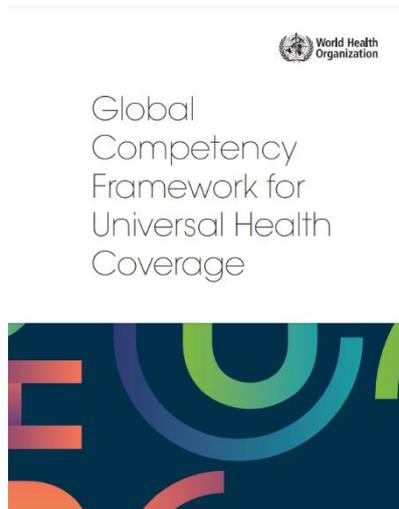


Figure 5:WHO Global Competency Framework for UHC

As the meeting concluded, the participants outlined four actions to be addressed before the next workshop in October.

- Review the details of the Fastrack training program.
- Review the draft curriculum documents and note any items for discussion at the October workshop
- Finalise the accreditation process.
- Review the UHC Global Competency Framework to further discuss in the October workshop.

Next Steps

Within both the CHW and DGN Subcommittee meetings, participants are asked to further review the draft curriculum documents and prepare discussions and contributions for the next workshop scheduled for October in Port Moresby. This workshop will provide an invaluable forum for generative discussions on any potential gaps, suggestions, or improvements in the content and design of the curricula.

Attendees

CHW Subcommittee Members	DGN Subcommittee Members	NDOH	WHO CC UTS
Dr Cathy Pilang Principal, Kumin CHW Training College Noi Seo - Principal, Onamuva CHW Training College	Mary Akis Head of School, St Marys, ENB/Catholic Divine Word University	Julie Dopsie NDOH WHO CC	Prof Di Brown Academic Lead, WHO CC UTS
Lois Isaac A/Principal, Kundiawa CHW Training School	Jorim Zira Principal, East Sepik School of Nursing	Mary Kililo NDOH WHO CC	Michele Rumsey Director, WHO CC UTS
Nichola Kaoka Principal, St. Gerard's CHW Training School	Molly Marava Principal, West New Britain School of Nursing	Dr Russell Kitau NDOH WHO CC	A/Prof Lin Lock Expert Curricula Advisor, WHO CC UTS
Amos Kupaloma Principal, Rumginae CHW Training School	Myrtle Sammy Deputy Principal, Arawa SON	Prof Glen Mola Head of Reproductive Health, Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Port Moresby General Hospital	Dr Kylie McKenna Research Fellow, WHO CC UTS
Nobert Lota Tanamalo CHW training school, Bougainville	Sr Celyn Tusalah Principal, Arawa SON	Mary Roroi NDOH WHO CC	Tasnuva Tisha Project Officer, WHO CC UTS
Ali Moloney TAFE curriculum advisor WHO CC UTS		Shirlyn Waudi Belden NDOH WHO CC	Prudence Murphy Programs Officer, WHO CC UTS
		Dr Nina Joseph NDOH WHO CC	