

# **Enhancing and Standardizing Regional Training Programmes in Nursing**

## **Nursing/Midwifery Leadership Summit 2006: Building Leadership Capacity and Disease Prevention in the WPR**

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**Sydney, Australia**

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# PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM SECRETARIAT

- The Administrative arm of the Pacific Islands Forum – which comprises of 16 independent and self-governing states (Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Nauru, New Zealand, Tonga, Samoa, FSM, Kiribati, Niue, Palau, PNG, RMI, Solomon Island, Tuvalu & Vanuatu)
- Responsible for implementing the decisions of our Forum Leaders
- Funded by contributions from member governments and donors

# Pacific Plan

- Endorsed by Leaders at the Pacific Islands Forum Meeting in October 2005.
- It is the result of work undertaken by the Pacific Plan Task Force with oversight by a Core Group of Leaders.
- It captures broad based feedback from Member countries and other stakeholders (including non-state bodies and development partners).

# Pacific Plan

- Identifies initiatives within an implementation framework that extends to ten years [2005 – 2015]
- Provides a framework for effective and enhanced engagement between Forum countries and with their non-state actors and development partners.
- Does not limit the sovereign right of Forum Member countries to determine their own national goals and priorities.
- May also guide but does not restrict bilateral development programmes and activities

# Forum Leaders Vision

- *Leaders believe the Pacific region can, should and will be a region of peace, harmony, security and economic prosperity, so that all of its people can lead free and worthwhile lives. We treasure the diversity of the Pacific and seek a future in which its cultures, traditions and religious beliefs are valued, honoured and developed. We seek a Pacific region that is respected for the quality of its governance, the sustainable management of its resources, the full observance of democratic values and for its defence and promotion of human rights. We seek partnerships with our neighbours and beyond to develop our knowledge, to improve our communications and to ensure a sustainable economic existence for all. (Auckland Declaration, April 2004).*

# Pacific Plan

- **Goal** - Enhance and stimulate economic growth, sustainable development, good governance and security for Pacific countries through regionalism.
- Based on the concept of regionalism – countries working together for their joint and individual benefit.
- Does not imply any limitation on national sovereignty. It is not intended to replace any national programmes, only to support and complement them.

# Pacific Plan

- There are mixed reactions to the adoption of a regional approach to education and training.
- “But by acknowledging some of our vulnerabilities and the limitations on our access to resources, which in turn place real limitations on those who seek to do the hard yards alone, we can find strength in pooled knowledge and experience; in the aggregation of our resources; and in the sheer strength of our numbers” - Mr Greg Urwin, Secretary General, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
- Regional initiatives in the Pacific Plan are aimed at supporting the delivery of essential services to Pacific people by harmonizing approaches and by collaboration on regional standards.

# Enhancing & Standardizing Regional Training Programmes in Nursing

*Initiative 7.2 in the Pacific Plan*

## **OUTCOMES FROM THE SPCNOA MEETING**

**4-8 September 2006**

**Apia, Samoa**

# Enhancing & Standardizing Regional Training Programmes in Nursing

- Initiative 7.2 in the Pacific Plan
- Informal discussions undertaken with key nursing personnel
- Tabled a concept paper at the SPCNOA – opportune time to discuss concept paper and determine “feasibility & how to progress this initiative”

# ***Concept paper***

- ***Main purpose of the paper:***
  - to investigate the potential for enhancing and standardizing regional training programmes in nursing
  - form the basis of discussion with possible stakeholders and make recommendations for the way forward.

# ***Concept paper***

- any regional programme must be of benefit nationally and take into account the quality of education and quality of practical skills needed locally.
- the level of education and training should reflect the practice of nurses in country.
- any standardized approach taken should allow each country to design its curricula to suit its own needs but remaining cognisant of an overall agreed regional approach with similar competencies.

# SPCNOA RESOLUTIONS

## ***Key points from the resolution read as follows:***

- *Mindful of the recognition that differing standards of education throughout the region impact on the quality of nursing care available in member countries, and that diverse qualifications and registration processes impede movement of nurses for purposes of work and study in the region.*
- *The 2006 meeting of the South Pacific Chief Nursing Officers Alliance resolves to work with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, supported by WPRO, to investigate the potential for enhancing and standardizing regional training programmes in nursing.*

# SPCNOA RESOLUTIONS

- *A preliminary exercise in mapping current educational provision and standards required for registration in member countries was required as an essential first step in the process.*
- *Such a mapping exercise would provide necessary information from which to move forward to further consideration of harmonization of educational standards across the region.*
- *SPCNOA proposes the Common Competencies for Registered Nurses in the WPSEAR (Kuala Lumpur 2004) are used as a reference point for the mapping exercise.*

# SPCNOA RESOLUTIONS

*The meeting further suggested that:*

- *WPRO provide support to the Alliance as they work in partnership with PIFS to undertake this initial piece of work.*
- *Proposes that an independent third party be contracted to undertake the mapping exercise*
- *The meeting also resolved to support and participate in this initial phase of investigation, with a view towards analyzing the resulting report prior to any further commitment to the proposal from PIFS.*

# Nursing / Midwifery Draft Strategic Action Plan for WPR

- Acknowledge Expected outcome 3.1

*Mapping needed as a critical part of broader educational improvements, to establish output of Pacific schools of nursing in order to create possible steps and stairs to enable maximum upgrading to international standard without individuals leaving their country*

# Mapping exercise

As such:

- Hopes to identify gaps or constraints in *creating possible steps and stairs to enable maximum upgrading to international standard*
- Assist in identifying mechanisms on how these gaps or constraints can be overcome which (hopefully) will lead to:
- Assist in facilitating national educational planning and implementation processes

# MAPPING EXERCISE

- Endeavour to map the skills and competencies of each country – respective training, qualification, regulatory & registration systems
- TOR for such an exercise is currently being drawn up and will be discussed with the WPRO – as per Resolutions from the 2006 SPCNOA.
- Commencement of this mapping exercise in 2007 – call for tenders: late January – early February.
- Report on Mapping – presented to Leaders Forum in Oct/Nov 2007.
- Report presented to SPCNOA in 2008: this will determine progression of the initiative
- Funding issues

# PIFS Perspectives on the Mapping Exercise

- The Pacific Plan espouses that Regional collaboration is essential for our mutual prosperity.
- Technical work in mapping skills, qualifications and licensing / registration requirements is a complex exercise. As such:
- I thank the SPCNOA and this Summit for allowing the Forum Secretariat to explore ways and means of implementing our Pacific Leaders decisions and to devise strategies to move forward on this matter.

THANK YOU