

## REGIONAL MEDICAL COUNCILS AND DIRECTORS OF CLINICAL SERVICES

West Inn, Nadi, Fiji – 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2019

### Meeting Brief

Senior health leaders from 14 Pacific Island countries and territories along with regional and international health professionals met in Nadi, Fiji recently for 9<sup>th</sup> Directors of Clinical Services (DCS) Meeting (1-2 April). This meeting preceded the Pacific Heads of Health (PHoH) Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> April, also in Nadi, Fiji and organized by the South Pacific Community (SPC) and World Health Organization (WHO) with support from the Government of Australia, Government of New Zealand, World Bank. The meetings provide a forum to review issues and contribute towards decisions that impact regional health policy.

The DCS Meeting covered updates on regional clinical services, and focused on key issues impacting the delivery of clinical services in the region, followed by open discussion of related country perspectives and challenges. Partners provided updates on services to the PICs and plans for 2019, and presentations followed covering a range of issues including regional palliative care, aging in Pacific, strengthening supply chains in the Pacific.



This year's nursing and midwifery attendance was significant including (*pictured above*): SPCNMOA Acting Chair Ms Debra Thoms CNMO Australia, Ms Margaret Leong CNO Fiji, Ms Bertha Tarileo Director of Nursing Vanuatu, Mr Russel Tamata – Director of Clinical Services Vanuatu, Ms Filoiala Sakaio – Acting Director Clinical Services Tuvalu, Ms Antonnette Merur – Director Nursing Palau American Pacific Nursing Leaders Council (APNLC), Ms Michele Rumsey Director WHO CC UTS.

Several presentations on issues for nursing in the region were presented with recommendations. These include:-

- Nursing specialisation - SPCNMOA's meeting recommendations; Ms Debra Thoms
- Nursing specialisation – Fiji's experience; by Ms Margaret Leong
- Paediatric nursing – development of PGC in Child health; by Ms Michelle Nicholson-Burr
- Perioperative Nursing – Pacific perioperative mentoring program; by Ms Sally Sutherland-Fraser

The following recommendations were prioritised to address ongoing challenges for Pacific Nursing and Midwifery and passed on to the Heads of Health for approval:



SPCNMOA APNLC Members and colleagues

Pacific Nursing and Midwifery Leaders<sup>1</sup> in attendance from South Pacific Chief Nursing Officers Alliance (SPCNMOA) and American Pacific Nurse Leaders Council (APNLC), requested the following recommendations.

**The DCS meeting makes the following recommendations:**

- That all countries offering nursing programs:
  - Work towards bachelor level as minimum requirement for registered nurses<sup>2</sup>.
  - Continue support for upgrading of curriculums, teaching facilities and resources.
  - Develop programs that align with country service needs, and
  - Ensure strategies are in place to build the appropriate skilled educators.
- Continued support to the SPCNMOA/APNLC in their work to develop regional standards for nursing practice, to ensure workforce flexibility and regional reciprocity<sup>3,4</sup>.
- Support of specialist practice programs for nursing in Fiji and another regional site<sup>5</sup>.
- That a review of Pacific Nurse Practitioner or relevant programs is carried out to improve consistency and move towards Masters level<sup>6</sup>.



*DCS Meeting attendees in Nadi, Fiji April 2019*

**References**

1. South Pacific Chief Nursing Officers Alliance (SPCNMOA) American Pacific Nurse Leaders Council (APNLC). Directors of Clinical Services Meetings Brief April 2018 2018. [www.spcnmoa.com](http://www.spcnmoa.com).
2. World Health Organization. Global standards for the initial education of professional nurses and midwives, 2009.
3. World Health Organization. Western Pacific Regional Office. Universal Health Coverage. Moving towards better health: Action framework for the Western Pacific Region. 2016. <http://iris.wpro.who.int/handle/10665.1/13371>
4. World Health Organization. Global strategy on human resources for health: Workforce 2030. Geneva: WHO, 2015.
5. South Pacific Chief Nursing Officers Alliance (SPCNMOA) American Pacific Nurse Leaders Council (APNLC). Specialist Practice Brief University of Technology Sydney, 2018.
6. Maier CB, Barnes H, Aiken LH, Busse R. Descriptive, cross-country analysis of the nurse practitioner workforce in six countries: size, growth, physician substitution potential. *BMJ open* 2016; 6(9): e011901.