



Inaugural Pacific Heads of Nursing and Midwifery (PHoNM) Meeting – Summary and Recommendations

11–14 February 2020, Nadi, Fiji

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Summary and recommendations

PHoNM's role is to provide executive-level oversight of regional nursing functions in the Pacific, including a 'policy advisory' and technical role in informing decision-making.

The main objectives of the inaugural meeting were to discuss and make recommendations to Pacific Heads of Health (PHoH)¹ on the:

1. Health workforce
2. Health emergencies
3. Immunisation and vaccine preventable diseases
4. Maternal and child health
5. Non communicable disease (NCD)
6. Universal health coverage (UHC) and primary health care (PHC)
7. Nursing education and research
8. Nursing regulations.

The meeting was attended by Chief Nursing Officers, or their representatives, from 11 Pacific countries and territories, and observers from development partners and regional and international organisations including the International Council of Nurses and Nursing Now.

Pacific Heads of Nursing and Midwifery agreed on the following recommendations:

Health workforce

1. Establish National Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer (CNMO) positions, where appropriate, in the Ministries of Health (MOH) of Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs).
2. Acknowledge the leadership programmes offered by national and international institutions and organisations (including PICTs, NZMTS, SPCMNOA and UNFPA²) and agree on the importance of strengthening nursing and midwifery leadership programmes in PICTs.
3. Encourage PICTs, where appropriate, to form a National Nursing and Midwifery Leadership Advisory Group.
4. Develop criteria for PICTs governing the regional mobility of the nursing and midwifery workforce, including during emergencies, with consideration of issues such as:
 - registration in the host country
 - indemnity
 - welfare
 - job security.
5. Note the development of WHO's State of the World's Nursing Report, which will be launched on World Health Day (7 April 2020).

¹ Pacific Heads of Health will meet in April 2020.

² NZMTS — New Zealand Medical Treatment Scheme; SPCMNOA — South Pacific Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officers Alliance; UNFPA — United Nations Population Fund.

Health emergency

6. Support access to appropriate infection prevention and control resources in PICTs for all infectious disease outbreaks/epidemics (e.g. COVID-19), to protect health workers, patients and the public.
7. Agree on the need to provide culturally appropriate psychosocial support to health workers and communities during and after health emergencies and natural disasters, through national, regional and international mechanisms.

Immunisation and vaccine-preventable diseases

8. Acknowledge UNICEF's regional vaccine supply initiative and support strengthening of immunisation coverage and practice in PICTs in compliance with the WHO Performance, Quality and Safety process for immunisation delivery.

Maternal and child health

9. Acknowledge the findings and recommendations of The State of the Pacific's RMNCAH³ Workforce Report (UNFPA), and Regional Accreditation – Midwifery Gap Analysis (SPCNMOA).
10. Support discipline-specific regional networks for nursing and midwifery.

Nursing in the future

11. Collaborate with national, regional and international non-government organisations (e.g. Nursing Now, International Council of Nurses, SPCNMOA, APNLC,⁴ and nursing organisations in Francophone PICTs) to raise the profile and status of nursing and midwifery and their essential role in improving health outcomes and health care.
12. Include nursing and midwifery as an integral component of all national, regional and international long-term health plans.

Non-communicable disease

13. Support PICTs in implementing NCD-related nursing and midwifery research to strengthen evidence-based interventions and policy development, noting the requirement for ethical approval as part of the research process.

Primary Health Care and Universal Health Coverage

14. Recognise the role of nursing and midwifery in primary health care and their importance in maximising use of the resources needed to achieve UHC.
15. Encourage PICTs to seek assistance from development partners to support the collection and analysis of health data to assist decision-makers to improve the quality and efficiency of health care, as part of monitoring progress towards 'Healthy Islands' and achieving UHC.
16. Acknowledge the activities of various service providers (e.g. World Bank and NZMTS) and their contribution to capacity building in PICTs.
17. Support perioperative and post-operative nursing training in PICTs and acknowledge the Royal Australian College of Operating Room Nurses (ACORN) and the Australasian College of Surgeons Pacific Island Program (RACS-PIP).

³ RMNCAH — reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health.

⁴ APNLC — American Pacific Nursing Leaders' Council.

Nursing education and research

18. Recognise and support continuous professional development for nurses and midwives in PICTs.
19. Where appropriate, support nursing and midwifery specialisation, including career pathways for specialty nursing and midwifery positions in PICTs.
20. Support the provision of accredited training by nursing institutions and explore the consistency and transferability of educational programmes in PICTs.
21. Collaborate with national, regional and international non-government organisations to support and strengthen nursing and midwifery research in PICTs.
22. Support national clinical governance frameworks in PICTs.

Nursing regulation

23. Collaborate with national, regional and international non-government organisations to review and strengthen culturally appropriate nursing and midwifery regulation in PICTs and note the need for related regional and international technical support.

Other recommendations

24. Support PHoNM representation at appropriate national, regional and international forums.
 25. Encourage PICTs to celebrate the Year of the Nurse and Midwife 2020.
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