

Pacific Heads of Nursing & Midwifery Meeting **Réunion des directeurs des soins infirmiers et obstétricaux du Pacifique**

NURSES TOGETHER: A FORCE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH

14 – 16 November 2023, Tanoa International Hotel, Nadi, Fiji

The Pacific Islands' Nursing Evidence Based Practice, Leadership and Research Capacity Development Program Proposal

Paper presented by Professor Marian Eckert, Director, Rosemary Bryant AO Research Centre, Clinical and Health Sciences, University of South Australia

Agenda Item N° 9.1

The Rosemary Bryant AO Research Centre is presenting to the Pacific Heads of Nursing and Midwifery Meeting (14-16th of November, 2023), in Nadi to provide an overview of the research strengthening program that could be offered in 2024 which is a collaborative with the Global Research Nurses (Global Health Network), University of Oxford, Burdett Trust for Nursing and the Rosemary Bryant AO Research Centre (University of South Australia).

1. BACKGROUND

The [Rosemary Bryant AO Research Centre \(RBRC\)](#) located at the [University of South Australia](#), in collaboration with the [Global Research Nurses](#) which is part of [The Global Health Network](#) (located at The Centre for Tropical Medicine and Global Health at the [University of Oxford](#)) and the [Burdett Trust for Nursing](#), is focused on building evidence-based care by directly supporting nurses and midwives to build research capacity and capabilities in low and middle-income countries. The primary focus of this capability building has been in Latin America, Africa and Asia. As a collaboration we are enthusiastic about forging collaborations with Pacific Islands countries and territories (PICTs) with the ultimate goal to enable nursing and midwifery research leadership.

In February 2020 at the [Inaugural Pacific Heads of Nursing Meeting](#) (PHONM) (held in Nadi) the RBRC presented a research program outline with the proposal to work with PICTs to build research capabilities amongst nursing and midwifery staff. Unfortunately, with the development of COVID-19 further pursuit to provide the research program halted. Since that time The Global Health Network has established the Global Research Nurses supported directly by the University of Oxford and the Burdett Trust for Nursing. The Global Research Nurses are focused on supporting nurses and midwives across the world to develop their research skills and offer a Research Capacity Strengthening Workshop.

2. PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Since the PHONM in February 2020, RBRC has progressed opportunities to work with affiliated organisations including the World Health Organization (WHO), International Council of Nursing (ICN), Global Health Network (recognised as a WHO Collaborating Centre), Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses (CATSINaM), the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) and local health networks within Australia to establish key areas of support for research development and growth.

2.1 Outstanding Workforce Leaders (OWL) Project Program

RBRC has established the Outstanding Workforce Leaders (OWL) Project Program. Now in its second year, the program is focused on supporting the development of leadership, research skills, and evidence-based practice capacity of nurse/midwife researchers across local health networks by:

- Supporting participants to undertake mentored quality-improvement work relevant to local priority issues in their everyday practice.
- Addressing health and wellbeing topics for real-world translational impact and improved consumer, workforce, and health system outcomes.
- Building collaborative and supportive links between participants as well as Program staff.

This program is focused on evidence-based practice, leadership and research capacity development has been structured into skill sets such that the program is completed in modules that (a) can stand alone as evidence of professional development, and (b) contribute to a more substantial educational certificate (e.g. certificate, diploma).

2.2 Research and Capacity Strengthening Workshops

In collaboration with the University of Oxford, and the Burdett Trust for Nurses, the RBRC helps to deliver Research and Capacity Strengthening Workshops that are now offered through the Global Research Nurses as part of The Global Health Network and in collaboration with all parties mentioned. Our primary objective is to ensure accessibility for nurses and midwives, providing them with free training opportunities. You can find examples of the most recent and upcoming workshops here: <https://globalresearchnurses.tghn.org/workshops/>.

2.3 Research and Capacity Strengthening Workshop Development Program

Building on the two training programs outlined above, RBRC would like to provide a brief overview of a proposed pilot of an Evidence-Based Practice, Leadership, and Research Capacity Development Program for nurses from the Pacific region in partnership with the Global Research Nurses network.

Budget: The maximum budget provided for this program is £2000 GBP (approximately \$5500 Fijian Dollar) from the Global Health Network. This budget has been calculated to accommodate a 1–2-day workshop catering to approximately 100 participants. However, we are flexible in terms of session duration; shorter and more frequent sessions are also viable options. The RBRC would further support this initiative offering ‘in kind’ support with the research training and development.

Project timeline: one to two programs offered in 2024 over 1-2 day period each time, reviewed and then an ongoing model developed in collaboration with each PICT. Anticipated commencement date: to be confirmed in 2024.

Additional activities and deliverables:

- Interim pilot programme reports to be produced at key milestones that outline what has been achieved and next steps for the program;
- A final pilot report to be produced at programme completion that outlines what has been achieved and next steps for the program; and
- Presentations by participants to be supported at relevant regional forums as well as additional promotion of the programme.

3. CHALLENGES

- Achieving in-principle support from countries in the Pacific region to progress this project further.
- Adequate promotion and marketing of the program to reach those who have the capacity to and are supported by their organisation/nursing/midwifery office to attend.
- Ensuring that the program meets the needs and diversity of expectations of the stakeholders.
- Ensuring that all relevant parties are consulted and engaged regarding the program.
- Establishing ongoing funding for the program into the future.

4. FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Recommendations and next steps required to progress in the piloting and delivery of the Evidence Based Practice, Leadership and Research Capacity Development Program include:

- For governments to support this initiative for nurses and midwives across PICTs to build an evidence-based care model and achieve in principle support from PICTs, development partners and other stakeholders to deliver the program.
- Initially to identify two Pacific Nations to host the program in 2024 and [apply for the funding through the Global Health Research Network](#) . Further in-kind support will also be provided by the RBRC and potential support from the Burdett Trust.
- Engage the RBRC to assist with the program delivery and workshop with relevant parties to finalise the content of the program to be delivered.
- Establish an agreed timeline and location(s) to deliver the program.