

Aid Effectiveness Submission - SPCNMOA

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Tongan fellows who attended AusAID ALA course reported highly on knowledge and skills learnt from the course and most importantly their application to leadership role in real practice. They also voiced the need for such education to continue-to prepare them better for leadership roles and responsibilities-something they were never prepared for.

The AusAID ALA program is the **only nursing leadership program** whereby nurses from the Pacific come together and share their experiences, knowledge and skills which are essential for nursing leadership and development in the Pacific. There are common problems and lessons to be learnt from other countries' experience.

One of the key features of this program is the close collaboration and partnership between the WHOCC (in UTS) and nursing professions in the Pacific countries. This has not only made this program a true success in the Pacific but also bring benefit to the local communities as nursing leaders are better prepared to manage, direct and monitor nursing practice. Consequently, this will assist in the enhancement of the health outcomes of the people and the population.

South Pacific Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officers Alliance covering 145 countries in the South Pacific.

1. Background and rationale

The purpose of the South Pacific Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officers Alliance (SPCNMOA) is to enhance nursing and midwifery effectiveness in promoting and improving the population health in member jurisdictions. SPCNMOA intends to achieve its purpose by raising the quality and relevance of nursing, midwifery and health leadership in health services and nursing and midwifery education. This will be facilitated through forming alliances with, and collaborating closely with member jurisdictions, academic, regulatory and service partners in activities such as information sharing, capacity building, research, and education and service projects. These activities will be aimed at addressing national and sub-regional human resource and health service priorities. This purpose is integrally linked to those of the World Health Organization and other international, regional and national health agencies and ministries.

For the purpose of the Alliance, Chief Nursing and/or Midwifery Officers means a nurse and/or midwife appointed by the government of member countries to the role of providing official advice on nursing and/or midwifery and related issues. Where there is no national

Chief Nurse and/or Midwife, then a nurse and/or midwife nominated by the Government of a member country, or where appropriate, a nurse and/or midwife nominated by a group of Chief Nurses will be deemed to be the Chief Nurse and/or Midwife. Member countries are Australia, the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, New Zealand, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, New Caledonia, French Polynesia, Wallis and Futuna, Papua New Guinea. The President of the American Pacific Nurse Leaders Council is also a member.

The key rationale for the alliance is to provide a forum for development support, networking opportunities for nurses and midwives working as leaders within governments of the South Pacific nations identified above. However, this constitution recognizes the essential contribution of nurse educators in developing, researching and evaluating policy and practice and provides for full membership to the alliance of representatives of any academic institution as so determined by the chief nursing and midwifery officers in membership of the alliance.

2. SPCNMOA Vision

Effective partnerships and coordinated approaches for strengthening nursing and midwifery to improve Pacific health in an equitable and sustainable manner.

3. SPCNMOA Mission

Strengthening nursing and midwifery capacity as a key priority for Pacific health systems development through country ownership and leadership.

4. VALUES

The SPCNMOA recognises these important values within its working relationships:

- Collegial generosity;
- Advocacy;
- Reciprocity; and
- Inclusiveness and partnerships.

5. SPCNMOA Objectives

The objectives of SPCNMOA are to:

- a. Promote and maintain communication, networking mechanisms and mentoring for Chief Nursing and/or Midwifery Officers;
- b. Discuss matters confronting nurses, midwives and health systems in member jurisdictions and to examine solutions and resolutions to identified issues and challenges;
- c. Expand knowledge, improve management, leadership and evaluation skills, and undertake capacity building projects to facilitate effective leadership and management of identified issues and problems affecting nursing, midwifery, human resources for health and health systems;
- d. Initiate, participate in and provide support for research and development at regional, sub-regional, national and international levels on issues of importance to nursing, midwifery, human resources for health and health systems;
- e. Develop and implement regional, sub-regional and national strategic plans for issues of importance to nursing, midwifery, human resources for health and health systems;
- f. Improve the quality and relevance of nursing and midwifery education through planning and implementing innovative curricula, education and training programmes and workshops, and the development of educational standards; and

- g. Engage and communicate with key stakeholders in line with the objectives of the alliance.

6. SPCNMOA working principles

The SPCNMOA and any projects that it initiates or facilitates are supportive of member countries' to self-determine their own priorities. The work of the SPCNMOA is guided by the following **principles**:

- *Inclusiveness and partnerships*: the SPCNMOA is actively seeking the involvement and contribution of all stakeholders that wish to contribute to the aims and activities of the Alliance.
- *Realistic*: its structure and processes should be straightforward and practical and its work plans realistic with achievable goals and outcomes.
- *Adaptability and Flexibility*: it operates in a way that is flexible, adaptable and responsive to the needs of member countries.
- *Sustainability and Mutual support* – it acknowledges the contributions and support from development partners, technical and donor agencies in addressing nursing and midwifery issues in the Pacific and the expected need for continued support in future.

7 SPCNMOA membership

7.1 The SPCNMOA will have two categories of membership:

- (a) Regular Membership; and
- (b) Co-opted Membership

7.2 A Regular Member means a Chief Nurse and/or Midwife from the South Pacific Nations and representatives of education institutions as agreed by the chief nurse/midwife members.

7.3 A Co-opted Member means a representative of any organization which regular members of the Alliance feel will contribute to the objectives of the Alliance.

8. Alliance steering committee

8.1 The steering committee will be composed of five members drawn from the Alliance's regular membership, including the current and designated chairpersons. Additional members of the steering committee will include the secretariat and the World Health Organization. The steering committee will meet twice yearly by any means and any other time as determined by the chairperson, in consultation with the secretariat.

9. SPCNMOA Secretariat

9.1 The WHO Nursing, Midwifery and Health Development Collaborating Centre at the University of Technology Sydney, Faculty of Nursing, Midwifery and Health, as Secretariat, is the administrative component of the SPCNMOA responsible for facilitating and providing support to member countries and for coordinating efforts to address issues raised by the members of the Alliance.

9.2 The Secretariat will work with the steering committee and report to the members of the SPCNMOA on an agreed format and timeframe as required and/or specified in the SPCNMOA Work Plan. The Secretariat will be responsible for ensuring that all correspondences and reporting is undertaken as per members request. As such, the Secretariat will also act as the conduit for information flow to and from the SPCNMOA.

9.3 The Secretariat in collaboration with the steering committee will ensure the production and dissemination of meeting reports, as well as monitoring and evaluation of the SPCNMOA's action plan.

10. Decision Making

10.1 Any matters for consideration by the Alliance will be determined by consensus of the Regular Members. Where this is not possible, then decisions will be by simple majority in a vote. Where there are an equal number of votes, the Chairperson shall have the casting vote.

10.2 A matter of procedure at a meeting of the Alliance is to be determined, in so far as it is consistent with these Terms of Reference, in accordance with NE Renton's "Guide for Meetings".

11. Funding support and management of funds

11.1 It is also envisioned that funding support for the Alliance and its work plan will be sought from development partners who may or may not be members of the Alliance. The eventual aim of the Alliance is to achieve a position of self-sustainability.

11.2 Co-opted Members from time to time shall contribute an amount, as determined from time to time by the Alliance, as biennial dues. However, as approved by the Alliance, Co-opted Members may provide in-kind contributions in lieu of biennial dues.