

COUNTRY: PAPUA NEW GUINEA

## Western Pacific Region Nursing/Midwifery Databank

### COUNTRY: PAPUA NEW GUINEA

#### 1. **Historical events in nursing and midwifery** (e.g. milestones in the development of nursing and midwifery)

1950s	Modern nursing was introduced in Papua New Guinea with the arrival of the missionary groups. The Maternal, Child Health and Midwifery three-years certificate courses was the first of the nurse programme.
1958	A three-year nursing programme was introduced called the T nurse (Territorial nurse) course
1961	Post basic certificate course in Midwifery was introduced in Rabaul and ceased in 1979..
1964	A three-year and four months nursing programme was introduced. The graduates from this programme were expected to become Nurse leaders who would have great influence on nursing development throughout the country.
1968	Nursing Council introduced the examination system.
1969	Psychiatric commenced at CAHS, Port Moresby
1970	The Nursing Council of Papua New Guinea took over the legal statutory role of enrolling and registering all category of nurses both churches and Government Health Services. All schools of nursing both Church and Government came under the control of the Nursing Council.
1971	Post-basic course in Paediatric commenced at CAHS, Port Moresby
1971	Introduction of the three tier Nursing Programmes; General Nurse programme, the Enrolled Hospital Nurse programme, and the Enrolled Community Health Nursing programme. All three courses were of three years duration's. Commencement of a one year Nurse Aide programme
1972	The Constitution for Papua New Guinea Nurses Association was registered with the Industrial Registrar. The PNGNA movement began among student nurses in the late 1960s. The National nurses started to fill senior nursing posts
1972	Post-basic course in O/Theatre commenced at CAHS, Port Moresby.
1973	Diploma in Nursing Education was commenced at College of Allied Health Science.
1974	A national nurse became in charge of nursing services in the country
1975	Diploma in Nursing Administration started at College of Allied Health Science. The course was stopped in 1990.
1976	A General Nurse certificate programme one tier nurse was developed which trained nurses for both hospital and community work. GN Programme was commenced in other schools of Nursing; Arawa, Vunapope, Dogura and Madang. Proposal made for changes of certain subject contents with increase hours in Obstetrics and Drug calculation.
1980	Bridging Programme of 6 months was conducted for those enrolled nurses who wish to become registered nurses.

**COUNTRY: PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

1982	Papua New Guinea Nurses Association was registered with Commonwealth Nurses Federation as part of the International Network of a professional group. National Department of Health responsibilities (hospital, medical, nursing, preventive and disease control services) decentralized to provincial function.
1983	A Curricula Development workshop was held to make awareness on introduction of develop General nurse programme to replace the 3 year tiered nursing curricular, (Registered, Enrolled Hospital and Community Health Nurses who were trained to work in the Rural Community Health Nursing lead themselves in the Urban Hospital Nursing Services for which they were not trained, hence the Generalist Program introduced addressed these defences.
1983	The Senior Nurses Advisory Committee was formed at national level in response to nurses from the provinces seeking professional and technical advice and to assist to find and use resources effectively. A Nursing Standard Committee was established in response to poor nursing care and low morale of nursing.
1984	General Nursing programme was revised to include a wide range of primary health care activities including expansion of obstetrical nursing and maternal child health. The three year and four months General Nurse Curriculum was introduced.
1987	General Nursing Education came under the office of Higher Education.
1987	The Chief Nursing Officer position in Department of Health abolished.
1989	A new two-year health worker category called Community Health Workers was introduced to replace Nurse Aide and Aide Post Orderly programme.
1990	The 5th South Pacific Nurses' Forum was held in Papua New Guinea for the first time.
1990	Special examination conducted by nursing council for bridging Enrolled Nurse to Registered Nurse ceased as there are only a few Enrolled Nurses left. The Diploma in Nursing Education was stopped in 1990.
1992	Review of current General Nurse Curriculum started.
1992	The first national PNGNA forum was held with the theme: "Nursing in PNG towards year 2000 and beyond". At this time, the nursing vision "Nursing Partnership with the Community" was formulated. <i>Standard of Patient Care</i> published by Department of Health.
1993	A Diploma course in Community Health Nurse Administration was started. The Nursing Act Review Committee started to review regulations for nurses, and prepare a separate Draft Nursing Act and By-laws. <i>Nurses Standard Procedure Manual</i> published by Department of Health
1993	A rationalisation process took place to cut down number of institutions, deployment of staff, resources, redirection of roles and responsibilities for better planning and management.
1994	A National Nursing Coordinating Office was established in DOH as focal point to coordinate all nursing functions and establish nursing policies and strategy direction for nurses further contributions to the health care system
1994	Review of paediatric and midwifery postbasic curriculum finalized. It is proposed to upgrade courses to Diploma in Advanced Clinical practice.
1995	<i>Situation Report on Nurse Workforce, Standards of Nursing Administration, and Infection Prevention Policy Guidelines for Health Facilities</i> published by Department of Health.
1996	Initiatives to form a Midwifery Association under PNGNA started.

**COUNTRY: PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

1997	Pre-Service Diploma Programme approved by National Department of health for implementation. Nursing Co-ordinating Office under the leadership of Chief Nursing Advisor was established.
1998	Introduction of Advanced Diploma Programs, in midwifery, Paediatric, Acute Care and Mental Health was validated by UPNG. The four (4) courses under the label replaced the Post-Basic Programs, an upgrading from certificate to Diploma.
1999	Introduction of Diploma in General Nurse by two (2) schools of nursing. An upgrading from certificate to Diploma accredited by Nursing Council and validated by Universities.
2002 - 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nursing competencies adopted to guide practice of nursing. Advocacy and training from the NDoH and the PNG Nursing Council to incorporate nursing competencies into nursing curriculums.</li> <li>Papua New Guinea Specialist Nursing Competency Standards developed for Midwifery &amp; Paediatric/Child Health</li> <li>Double Major, combination of Midwifery and Child Health Training conducted by UPNG, PAU &amp; Goroka Hospital (1 year, Bachelor degree), only Lutheran School of Nursing conducted the Midwifery <b>only</b> program</li> <li>Development of the National FrameWork For the Accreditation, Monitoring and Evaluation of Nursing and Midwifery Education Programs developed by Nursing Council of Papua New Guinea</li> </ul>
2006 - 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of the Double Major Bachelor of Midwifery and Child Health Program by WHO and NDoH</li> <li>Development of a Standard Midwifery Curriculum in collaboration with WHO and NDoH.</li> </ul>
2010	NDoH instructed Lutheran School of Nursing , Pacific Adventist University, University of PNG and University of Goroka to implement the Stanard Midwifery Curriculum

**2. Regulations and Laws****2.1 Act or Law**

Type of regulations	Nurse categories	Title of Act or Law	Year	Regulatory authority
Registration & Licensure	RN	Medical Act	1980	Nursing Council
	Registered midwives	Health Practitioners Bill	1984	Nursing Council

**COUNTRY: PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

## 2.2 Regulatory authority

Authority	Address	Phone number	Fax number	e-mail address
Ms Laitte Moses Nursing Council of PNG	P.O. Box 841 Port Moresby, NCD, PNG	(675) 301 3803		Laitte_moses@ health.gov.pg

## 3. Nursing and/or Midwifery Associations

Name of Association	Address	Phone number	Fax number	E-mail address
PNG Nurse's Association	P.O. Box 6206, Boroko NCD, PNG	675 325 4203		
Catholic Church Nurse's and Health Workers Association	P.O. Box 6384, Boroko, NCD, PNG			

## 4. Nurse and Midwife leaders and/or focal points

Name and position title	Organization and Address	Phone number	Fax number	E-mail address
(non-health person) Technical Advisor Human Resource Planning & Policy HRDt	Department of Health P.O. Box 807 Waigani, NCD Papua New Guinea	675 3248600	675 3213821	
Ms Mary Kililo Samor Principal Advisor Technical Advisor, Health Training & CD and Staff Development.	Department of Health P.O. Box 807 Waigani, NCD	301 3931		
(Medical Officer) Technical Officer Family Health Technical Health Services	Department of Health P.O. Box 807 Waigani, NCD	301 3717		
Ms Laitte Moses Registrar Nursing Council	Nursing Council P.O. Box 841 Port Moresby, NCD	301 3803		

**COUNTRY: PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

Mrs Estelle Jojoga Dean Faculty of Allied Health Sciences Taurama Campus	College of Allied Health Sciences P.O. Box 1034 Boroko, NCD	325 3472	323 0903	
Mrs Thelma-Ali Asimi Technical Advisor Nursing & Allied Health Curative Health Services	Department of Health P.O. Box 807 Waigani, NCD	301 3835	323 1640	

### 5. Category and functions of nurses and midwives

Category	Entry requirement	Length of training	Level/Credential	Description
Registered Nurses	10-12 yrs education	4 yrs 3 years	Bachelor of Nursing Diploma in nursing	Two schools run a bachelor of nursing program in PNG now; Pacific Adventist University (PAU) and Lutheran School of Nursing. Only PAU, Lutheran SON, PAU, UPNG and UOG run the Bachelor of Midwifery
Enrolled Nurses	Ceased training			A doctor's order in the hospital. Nurses assume extended roles in the rural areas and urban clinics. Health Extension Officers coordinate.
Nurse Aides	On the job training		N/A	and supervise all categories of nursing personnel in the Health Centers. Registered nurses have basic midwifery skills.
Midwives	RN	50-52 weeks	Degree	Degree level qualification in midwifery is available through four schools in PNG. Lutheran, UPNG, UOG and PAU

### 6. Nursing and Midwifery Education (include a diagrammatic illustration if available and the total number of nursing and midwifery schools)

Post Basic Certificate Programmes:

Midwifery – commenced in 1961 in Rabaul and ceased in 1979. Port Moresby commenced in 1971 and is continuing.

Psychiatric – commenced in 1969 at CAHS, Port Moresby

Paediatric – commenced in 1971 at CAHS, Port Moresby

O/Theatre – commenced in 1972 at CAHS, Port Moresby

**COUNTRY: PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

A revised Advanced Diploma in Clinical Nursing with majors in Acute Care, Mental Health, Midwifery and Paediatrics is to be offered through University of Papua New Guinea by 1998/1999.

**Post Basic Diploma Programmes:**

Diploma in Nursing Education and Administration were started in 1973 and 1975 at College of Allied Health Science in Port Moresby. Diploma in Nursing Education stopped in 1990. Diploma of Community Health Nursing Administration was started in 1993.

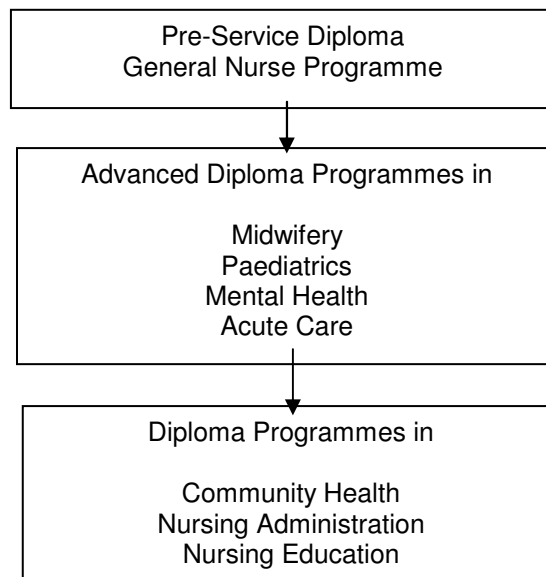
**Basic Education Aim/Curriculum**

The General Nurse Curriculum was revised in 1994. It has been upgraded to diploma level programme, is competency based, and is approved by the Department of Health and the Nursing Council for implementation from 1999/2000, at Lutheran School of Nursing Madang...Goroka will follow suit when they are ready.

Sopas developed a curriculum in 1997. It has been upgraded to Diploma Level Programme, it is competency based and approved by Nursing Council for implementation in 1999.

Registration after successfully completing an exam set by the Nursing Council. Annual renewal of the license is required.

**System of Nursing Education**



COUNTRY: PAPUA NEW GUINEA

**7. Resources available** (e.g. practice guidelines, standards, policies on nursing/midwifery workforce)

Subject/Title	Year published	Description	Contact (Name, Address, Telephone No., Fax No., E-mail, etc.)
Standard of Patient Care	1992		Department of Health Box 807 Waigani, NCD, PNG Tel: 675 325 4203 Fax: 675 3213821
Nurses Standard Procedure Manual	1993		A/A
Standards of Nursing Administration	1995		A/A
Infection Prevention Policy Guidelines for Health Facilities	1995		A/A

**8. Main nursing issues/priorities**

- Lack of CPD programs to up skill clinical nurses.
- Lack of resources for schools (human, financial and material).
- Teaching and Learning resources

**Main midwifery issues/priorities**

- Placements for midwifery students have been difficult.
- Lack of midwifery educators in schools.
- Clinical attachments difficult due to increase in the enrolments

**9. Important policies or strategies needed**

- Nursing and Midwifery competency awareness and training on use for evaluation and review of practitioners are required, particularly in rural areas. Currently done through preceptorship program, however, advocacy at all levels of service delivery is required.

**10. Does your country have a National Health Plan and or Human Resources for Health Strategy? How have Nursing and Midwifery workforce policies been integrated into this plan/s?**

- NDoH has a health plan 2011-2020. The 2010 NHP had a policy direction to have a midwife in every health centre. This has been taken on board in the 2011-2020 NHP in KRA'Strengthen Health Systems through Health Workforce, Financing, ICT, Infrastructure, Drug and Medical Supplies & Leadership and governance. There is a healthworkforce plan, with establishment of a technical team to implement the workforce plan and there are two parts to the plan: arrest plan or emergency plan due to the critical shortage & the long term plan. Currently, focus is on increasing the number of nurses to increase the number of midwives.