Disaster preparedness of nurses and midwives is the focus of an international research study, currently being conducted in 14 countries across Asia and the Pacific. The aim of the study is to develop a detailed overview of the education, skills, competencies and perceived preparedness of nurses to respond to emergencies. Being conducted as a research capacity building activity of the Asia Pacific Emergency and Disaster Nursing Network (APEDNN), the study is being led by JCU’s WHO Collaborating Centre for Nursing and Midwifery Education and Research Capacity Building (WHOCC). Preliminary findings were presented at the recent APEDNN Meeting in Bangkok by a number of nurse researchers from Nepal, Bangladesh, Cambodia and Solomon Islands. Other countries are still collecting or analysing data for the study (more results to follow). Professor Kim Usher, who led the presentations, reports, “The results so far indicate a low to moderate level of disaster knowledge and skills and indicate the need for upskilling and professional development opportunities.” This important evidence will be used to lobby for additional resources to enhance the skills of nurses and midwives. Professor Usher explains, “the research results will also assist to develop a more accurate perspective of the preparedness of nurses in the region to assist with future disaster planning and disaster education activities”. Nurse researchers who reported their research findings at the APEDNN meeting were: Ms Jamuna Sayami (Nepal) and Mr Md Mofiz Ullah (Bangladesh), Mr George Pego (Solomon Islands) and Ms Muy Luk Seang (Cambodia). Congratulations to the research team!

Preparedness for Disaster: Survey Results Reported

James Cook University was represented by Professor Kim Usher at the 7th Asia Pacific Emergency and Disaster Nursing Network (APEDNN) meeting held in from in Bangkok, Thailand between September 18-20, 2013. Over 80 nursing, midwifery and disaster management leaders from 26 countries participated in the meeting which provided an opportunity for nurses and midwives to share their experience of emergencies and disaster preparedness with a focus on community resilience and lessons learnt. Professor Usher reports, “It has been a wonderful meeting, with many opportunities to learn from each other to improve our disaster preparedness and response.” In addition to the oral presentations, a Market Place for exhibits and posters was provided. Posters about WHOCC mental health projects and psychosocial impact of volcanic eruptions were presented by Prof Usher.

The contribution of retiring WHO Western Pacific Regional Adviser, Nursing Ms Kathleen Fritsch, was acknowledged in a special ceremony. The team at JCU’s WHO Collaborating Centre wish Kathy all the best.

Visit our Website
http://research.jcu.edu.au/whocc/or email
whocc@jcu.edu.au

Come and visit our NEW website!!
http://research.jcu.edu.au/whocc

Information about the WHO Collaborating Centre, the projects being undertaken and news and events

We welcome your feedback

Many thanks to Ms Amanda Baron for her hard work on this website.

* Profile Publication from the WHO Collaborating Centre *


This article led by WHOCC Adjunct, Dr Peter Massey, reports on practical progress being made to address tuberculosis in a remote part of Solomon Islands.

For more information, please email: Peter.Massey@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au

FOR FULL DETAILS OF PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS FROM WHOCC, PLEASE VISIT
http://research.jcu.edu.au/whocc

Photo: APEDNN meeting 2013 nursing, midwifery and disaster management leaders in Bangkok
Challenges for mental health nursing in Indonesia by Intanari Nurjannah

I am a nurse from Indonesia and have been working at the Gadjah Mada University in the School of Nursing since 1999. In 2011, I came to JCU Cairns to begin my PhD research. I am exploring the process of connecting care for people living with a mental health issue in Indonesia. People living with mental health issues need continuing support to recover after they are discharged from hospital. This continued provision of care for mental health clients in Indonesia had not been explored before this study commenced.

The purpose of my study was to explain the process of providing a collaborative model of care for individuals living with a mental health issue in Indonesia. In this grounded theory study, health professionals and non-health professionals were interviewed during three phases of data collection from 2011 to 2012. The results showed that care-giving takes time and energy and can be seen as a burden especially for families. Health care professionals make different decisions about the type of care to be provided by mental health patients, depending upon their professional background. Individuals living with mental health issues in Indonesia are at risk of human rights violations.

I am currently in one of the best phases of my professional life as I am undertaking research that will contribute to and develop the nursing profession, both in my country and internationally.

Update: Ichi in Indonesia

Sri Warsini (Ichi), Lecturer of Nursing at the University of Gadjah and PhD Candidate at JCU, recently visited Indonesia to speak with people devastated by the Merapi volcanic eruption in 2010 (above). Communities of people have been relocated, with small houses built very close together. New clinics have been built at disaster relocation sites (right). Sri Warsini is investigating the psychosocial impacts of the volcanic eruption.

Keeping fit Pacific style!

As in most Pacific Islands Countries and Territories, non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are on the rise in Solomon Islands. WHO estimates NCDs, including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, mellitus, chronic respiratory disease and cancer, are responsible for approximately 75% of deaths in the Pacific Island countries and for most premature deaths. NCDs have the potential to undermine labour supply, productivity, investment and education across the country. Interventions required to control NCDs exist outside the health sector and whole of government responses are required.

Mr Humpress Harrington, Principal of the College of Nursing at Atoifi Hospital, Solomon Islands and former Visiting Scholar to the WHOCC, decided to do something about NCDs. While with the WHOCC in Cairns, Mr Harrington witnessed a number of triathlons and it gave him an idea.

Upon Humpress’ return to Solomon Islands, the NCD team at Atoifi ran a triathlon in 2012 as part of a broad initiative to get people more active and thus address the rising rates of lifestyle diseases in the area. “In Solomon Islands, most people live in rural villages, which means public health initiatives need to be designed that are relevant and responsive to local contexts”, Mr Harrington reports. “Atoifi is located on the remote east coast of the island of Malaita where there are no bicycles and the only road is an eroded gravel track between the hospital and nearby grass airstrip”. Thus the triathlon was modified to be ‘South Pacific’ style - paddling dugout canoes, swimming in the lagoon and running on rough bush tracks.

“We have learnt that triathlon can be conducted at the grassroots level in the tropics with limited facilities and resources”, says Mr Harrington. The triathlon has now become an annual event. The challenges and successes of this triathlon will be reported by Mr Harrington and his JCU colleague, Dr David MacLaren at the upcoming ‘Science of Sport, Exercise & Physical Activity in the Tropics’ conference to be held at JCU, Cairns in November, 2013. Congratulations to Atoifi Hospital for encouraging good health in their community.

If you have questions or would like more information about anything you have read in this newsletter, please contact Professor Kim Usher, Director kim.usher@jcu.edu.au or Dr Caryn West, Deputy Director caryn.west@jcu.edu.au

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter please email whocc@jcu.edu.au

Inspiring excellence in the Pacific