ABOUT THE UTS WHO COLLABORATING CENTRE

The World Health Organization’s (WHO) Collaborating Centre for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Development at the University of Technology, Sydney was designated as a WHO Collaborating Centre in January 2008 and awarded redesignation status in January 2012 until 2016.

A WHO Collaborating Centre is an institute designated by the Director-General of the WHO to form part of an international collaborative network for a maximum of four years. The process for designation is not an easy one. Each institute is assessed for a variety of aspects including scientific and technical standing, and development of working relationships at a country, regional and global level.

The first four years of being a designated WHO Collaborating Centre saw 50 projects being undertaken in 25 countries. We have invested our time, effort and passion into building trusting relationships with our colleagues in the region. Nurturing these relationships continues in all our work and, we believe, is an important part of building sustainability into each project, regardless of how big or small.

Placed within the Faculty of Health, the WHO Collaborating Centre for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Development (WHO CC UTS) forms part of an international collaborative network. The Centre supports and undertakes projects in support of WHO programs at national, regional and international levels.

The WHO CC UTS aims to support WHO by:

> Improving health system outcomes by building capacity for innovative policy development and enhancement of quality of health care
> Strengthening cross-sectorial relationships to ensure supportive regulatory frameworks, research-based education, faculty development and quality of education to support improved service provision and population health outcomes.
> Promoting and supporting the national, regional and international development of nursing and midwifery health systems strengthening including human resources for health.
> Strengthening maternal and child health care standards and services by increasing the capacity of the maternal health workforce, including improved midwifery education and practice

RATIONALE

The need for enhanced geographic coverage for health development in the Western Pacific Region, specifically the South Pacific, Australia and New Zealand was identified at the South Pacific Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officers’ Alliance (SPCNMOA) Meeting in the Cook Islands in 2004.

WHO CC UTS Faculty of Health is internationally recognised within the profession, academia and the health services for its research, education, consultancy and policy development. It has an outstanding track record of supportive and productive working relationships with national and international health organisations. It is thus well placed to act as a hub for this regional work.

The Faculty of Health’s extensive history of regional work in human resources for health, education, regulation, policy and capacity building makes it well placed to carry out activities in support of WHO programs.

The WHO CC UTS collaborates with local, regional and global partners such as:

AusAID; Asian Development Bank; World Bank; Asia Pacific Emergency and Disaster Nursing Network; South Pacific Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officers Alliance; Pacific Human Resources for Health Alliance; Australian Council for International Development, Secretariat of Pacific Community, WHO Western Pacific Regional Office and South East Asia Regional Office, WHO headquarters, NZAID, National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility, Japan International Cooperation Agency, JTAI, Ministries of Health and WHO Collaborating Centres globally.
WHAT WE DO

The WHO CC UTS works to improve health, workforce, policy and service delivery throughout the Asia Pacific through project management, technical advice, rigorous research, policy analysis, consultancy, advocacy, training and skills development, monitoring and evaluation, capacity building and providing short courses.

We work on a number of projects to improve health outcomes by supporting nurses and midwives in the Asia-Pacific Region. Some of the centre’s key work includes:

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Throughout the diverse range of research, consultancy and projects, the WHO CC UTS maintains a core strength of project management. Whether short term consultancies or long term, impact-driven projects, we continue to focus on the relationships that are central to building and maintaining this work. The WHO CC UTS works on projects from $15,000 to $6 million with the team expanding as required to match project specific expertise, including in-country. The following projects are testament to the ongoing and complex project management undertaken by WHO CC UTS.

TECHNICAL ADVICE

Innovative approaches to education of health professionals are a focus of the WHO CC UTS. Technical advice is provided on several projects for the analysis of the needs of nursing and midwifery educators in developing countries regarding faculty development, research based education, and improvements to quality education to scaling up nursing and midwifery education and regulation.

After more than a decade in conducting short courses in low-income countries the WHO CC UTS is well placed to provide this expertise. Collaboration with other academic institutions and furthering established effective programs is an efficient use of resources and allows for up skilling of health professionals in maternal, neonatal and child health; faculty development; human resources for health, and leadership. Countries who have participated in recent years are China, Hong Kong, Laos, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Thailand, Timor Leste, Samoa and 16 Pacific Countries.

RESEARCH

A diverse range of health and workforce research and advice is a strength of the WHO CC UTS. Applied research that leads to recommendations and sustainable outcomes is central to our work. For instance, workforce movement has been explored in the Mobility of Health Professionals (MoHProf) research project aimed to generate a scientific evidence base for informed policy decisions on the mobility of health professionals. The Asian Research Team included researchers from India, Philippines and Australia (WHO CC UTS).

In collaboration with a working group of international experts, WHO CC UTS has also examined and analysed the current gaps in nursing and midwifery education in the Pacific through a faculty needs assessment.

A research project on the Humanitarian Response to Disasters in the Pacific in collaboration with the Institute of Sustainable Futures, and funded by the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility will inform policy makers about how climate change will impact Australia’s capacity to respond to disasters in the Pacific region and how human resources for health impacts the disaster response systems.

Recently, working with the Australian Research Centre in Complementary and Integrative Medicine in collaboration with colleagues at University of Queensland (School of Social Science) a workshop program has been developed in research literacy and capacity building. Workshops and seminars are conducted to improve research literacy and skills, developing an evidence-base for practice, improving cross-sectoral relationships and communication between health professionals with regard to traditional medicine and mainstream biomedicine.

Several projects have been undertaken to gather international evidence and best practices, assessing potential/feasible national health worker incentives and mechanisms, and supporting the drafting of policy options, national guidelines or decrees on health workers incentives in Lao PDR and focussing on policy options for developing incentives to recruit, retain and motivate staff in rural/remote areas in Cambodia, Samoa and Vanuatu. This work is being used to inform policy development. Impacting maternal and child health is of paramount importance in developing countries. Poor maternal health services and limited access to reproductive health is often accompanied by an inadequate supply and skills mix of staff needed to deliver health care interventions, commodities and information necessary to achieve the Millennium Development Goals 5 (MDG 5).

To this end a study, funded by WHO Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research, Health Workforce Research and Advice seeks to address the knowledge gap by identifying evidence from task shifting experiences in small island developing states that have contributed to improved maternal health and access to reproductive health.

POLICY ANALYSIS

Informing governments and other institutions is a main part of our work at WHO CC UTS and is woven throughout most projects. Human resources for health policy analysis is undertaken in-country, regionally and globally.
Policy is also impacted indirectly, for instance, in collaboration with WHO Western Pacific Regional Office (WPRO), WHO CC UTS has facilitated the collection of nursing and midwifery data for the WHO WPROM Nursing Databanks from the Pacific Island countries. This information is used so country profiles can be maintained. The ongoing work of updating data on nursing and midwifery workforce, including a historical context, will inform policy directions for WHO and other workforce policy bodies.

CONSULTANCY

As part of the WHO CC UTS aim is to continue to strengthen relationships, consultancy is considered a vital component of our work. For instance, in collaboration with the National Department of Health Papua New Guinea (PNG), and the PNG Office of Higher Education, WHO CC UTS has conducted Nursing and Community Health Worker Training School Audits of the eight Schools of Nursing and eleven Community Health Worker Training Schools in PNG. The AusAID funded audits have resulted in recommendations to assist AusAID’s PNG Health and Education Programs with the aim of increasing the size and quality of PNG’s health workforce.

ADVOCACY

As Secretariat to the South Pacific Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officers’ Alliance (SPCNMOA), WHO CC UTS provides ongoing support including coordination of biennial meetings, reports, action plans and online conferences. This work actively supports leaders in nursing and midwifery, directly assisting the governments of 14 South Pacific Island Nations.

The WHO CC UTS is also an active participant and involved since formation of groups such as the WHO Asia Pacific Emergency and Disaster Nursing Network and the Pacific Human Resources for Health Alliance.

Through these many networks and because of our strong regional relationships WHO CC UTS is invited to attend and present at many regional and global conferences. We also work together with the Global Network of WHO Collaborating Centres.

TRAINING AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Central to WHO CC UTS work is training and skills development. For example, as nurses and midwives are often the first line responders and leaders during emergency and disaster situations, it was identified that a formalised training program be developed and subsequently provided in order to adequately prepare nurses/midwives for future emergency and disaster situations. This program has been implemented following the Sichuan earthquake in China in 2008, the Samoan tsunami of 2009, and for Papua New Guinea in 2009.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

WHO CC UTS undertakes monitoring and evaluation of not only their programs but other programs to provide an evidence base and recommendations for donor bodies such as AusAID. Recent monitoring and evaluation projects include the WHO PNG Maternal and Child Health Initiative where the WHO CC UTS and the WHO Representative Papua New Guinea are implementing a program funded by AusAID. The program recruited eight international midwives and two obstetricians to work closely with academic and clinical personnel on educational programmes in PNG. The initiative contributes to a long term strategy of increasing midwives in PNG through mentoring, continuous competency development, and evidence-based education and practice materials.

Monitoring and evaluation of the Reproductive Health Training Unit in PNG whose aim is to increase the quality of care in essential obstetric care, emergency obstetric care and family planning, will provide an evidence base to guide the program.

CAPACITY BUILDING

WHO CC UTS has been providing the Australian Awards Fellowships, funded by AusAID, since 2009. Two programs are offered focussed on leadership capacity building or faculty development for health workers across the Pacific. Through wide collaboration with the South Pacific Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officers Alliance, by the end of 2013, participants include 82 outstanding individuals from 15 different countries who are recognised as future health leaders.

Other capacity building courses such as simulation training to individually and collectively analyse the integration of simulation technologies in the educational setting; understand clinical teaching and learning strategies; and practice strategies for building capacity in others as well as emergency and disaster training for nurses to be able to train others in emergency care are conducted to increase the capacity of nurses in the region.

SHORT COURSES

Drawing on the vast expertise of the Faculty of Health and the many centres at UTS, short courses are consistently run through the WHO CC UTS and have recently included a focus on:

> Human resources for health
> Emergency and disaster training
> Maternity emergency
> Leadership
> Faculty development
> Simulation, and
> Needs focussed training to impact maternal and child health
WHO CC UTS works collaboratively with the following centres within UTS to ensure the appropriate expertise is applied to all projects.

- **Faculty of Health**: on leadership capacity development to improve health service outcomes; innovative approaches to education of health professionals; and human resources for health policy analysis.
- **Centre for Midwifery, Child and Family Health**
- **Australian Research Centre in Complementary and Integrative Medicine**
- **Centre for Cardiovascular and Chronic Care**
- **Centre for Health Services Management**
- **Institute of Sustainable Futures**

**OUR TEAM**

**Centre Staff**
The WHO CC UTS works on a small core staff, however, with each project/event we are able to draw on the skills and expertise of staff from: UTS and Faculty of Health: UTS, SPCNMOA and relevant WHO Collaborating Centres regionally and globally. We collaborate with regional and global partners in a range of institutions within the health industry, as well as academics, researchers, and health care professionals affiliated with the WHO CC UTS.

**Professor John Daly** is Head of the WHO CC UTS, and Dean of the Faculty of Health (Appointed May, 2008). Professor Daly has extensive experience as an educational administrator and leader in nursing and health. He is an active researcher and has published widely on a range of issues including leadership in nursing and health, nursing education, and cardiovascular health. He is currently Editor in Chief of Collegian, the refereed journal of the Royal College of Nursing, Australia.

**Michele Rumsey** is Director of Operations and Development of WHO CC UTS. Ms Rumsey is an experienced international health care consultant and policy expert. She has expertise in nursing ethics, capacity building, human resources for health, consumer participation and nursing regulation.

**Professor Caroline Homer** is the Director of the Centre for Midwifery, Child and Family Health in the Faculty of Health at UTS. Professor Homer has led research into the development and implementation of innovative models of midwifery care and the development of midwifery practice and education. She is also involved in teaching midwifery students, both clinically and through UTS.

**Professor Debra Jackson** has been an academic nurse for over 15 years. Professor Jackson has a strong international profile including leading two research programs in women’s and family health and workforce development and adversity. Professor Jackson has published widely, and is an active Editor and Editorial Board member and peer reviewer for Australian and international journals and funding bodies.

**Professor James Buchan** has over twenty years’ experience of practice, consultancy and policy research on health care human resources. Professor Buchan specializes in policy advice to Ministries of Health/governments on the human resource implications of health sector planning and reform.

**Adjunct Professor Pat Brodie** is a midwifery advisor and consultant on midwifery projects. She has been engaged in all aspects of the development of maternity services locally and nationally for over three decades, including being state and national president of the Australian College of Midwives. In June 2012, she was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the Queen’s Birthday honours list for her services to midwifery and her contributions to professional associations.

**Associate Professor Linette Lock** has worked for many years as a lecturer in nursing and midwifery. She has extensive knowledge and experience in the health sector in developing countries in particular Indonesia following the 2004 tsunami and Papua New Guinea.

**Amanda Neil** has a Masters in International Social Development project, administration and budget support.

**Felicity Copeland** has a Masters in Midwifery in qualitative research and is committed to improving midwifery services in developing nations. Other projects include documentary filmmaking on a variety of midwifery issues including maternal health in PNG.

**Stephanie Fletcher** is a Research Officer for the WHO CC UTS. Stephanie has worked for over fifteen years in the field of Public Health. She brings her research, project management and analytical skills gained in various roles in the Caribbean and Australia to the dynamic environment of the WHO CC UTS.

**Monica Sanderson** is a Project Officer for the WHO CC UTS working across all the centre’s projects.

**Jodi Thiessen** is a Project Officer for the WHO CC UTS. Jodi has worked for more than 10 years in the humanitarian and development field for several United Nations agencies.

**Advisory Board**: The Centre’s advisory board comprises of UTS Health staff, Chief Nursing Officers from Samoa, Cook Islands, New Zealand and Australia and representatives from donor organisations. Our core partnership with the SPCNMOA informs our network of collaborators which include: Pacific Forum; AusAID; NZAID; Department of Health & Ageing (Commonwealth of Australia); Global Network of WHO CCs; International Council of Nurses; Asia – Pacific Action Alliance on Human Resources for Health (AAAH); other national, international, and regional bodies.

**FURTHER INFORMATION**
For more information about our projects, or to find out more about the Centre, please visit our website or contact us. Email us and sign up to our Regional Update, e-newsletter keeping you informed about recent WHO CC activities as well as important regional information.

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