



South Pacific Nurses Forum Communiqué

Nurse Leaders form National Nursing Associations (NNAs) call on governments in the Pacific, health funders, policy planners, health educators, economists and chief nursing officers to invest in nursing.

1. Nurse leaders from National Nursing Associations (NNAs) from eight countries¹ at the 18th South Pacific Nurses Forum (SPNF) held in Honiara, Solomon Islands, Monday 31 October 2016 to Friday 4 November 2016 call on governments in the Pacific, health funders, policy planners, health educators, economists and chief nursing officers to invest in nursing.
2. The Forum highlighted initiatives relevant to improving the role of nurses and the contribution of the nursing profession toward Nursing Excellence for Universal (Pacific) Health.

The key themes emerging through the Forum included the importance of investing in:

- a) Adoption of policies to achieve universal health coverage underpinned by public health approaches, with a focus on prevention, health promotion and early intervention, to ensure the well-being of populations.
- b) Adoption of policies to achieve the United Nations, Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3, to ensure health lives and promote health well-being for all at all ages, including addressing social determinants of health, poverty etc.
- c) Sharing best practice and innovative nursing service delivery across NNAs.
- d) Nursing leadership and governance to mobilise nursing resources for better health outcomes.
- e) NNA capability and sustainability to influence at all levels of policy, nursing education with a primary health care focus and health strategic planning including the development of nursing.
- f) Investment in nursing workforce development, including entry to practice programs for new nurses, recognising the value of nursing contributions for long term economic and health benefits.
- g) Development of information technology and internet connectivity to support nurse education and delivery of culturally appropriate nursing care to individuals, families and communities.

¹ Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, Vanuatu.

- h) Policies for tackling the causes of climate change and its effects on health and economies, in addition to emergency and disaster preparation procedures.
- i) Improving regulatory and legislative frameworks to ensure public safety and enable improved access to nursing services, including exchange of nurses and students for clinical placements to gain clinical experience on a formal basis.
- j) Development of policies to respond to global (and particularly regional) migration, including displaced populations.
- k) Education, training and professional development for all nurses.

The Forum considered and passed the following resolutions:

1. Consistent with SPNF's goal for NNAs to have influence at all levels of health policy, nursing education and health strategic planning, member NNAs in collaboration with relevant stakeholders commit to progressing the development of nursing education in their country.
2. SPNF support and request consistency of programmes for nurses' exchange or 'hands on' clinical experience between different countries through-out the Pacific and require the support of regulatory bodies including other stakeholders in each country with access to indemnity insurance cover.

And that each NNA report back on progress at the next Biennial General Meeting (BGM) to be held in the Cook Islands in 2018.

3. That the SPNF Steering Committee prepares a draft five year Strategic Plan for SPNF and an action plan with implementation timelines for consideration and ratification at the next BGM.

SPNF and SPCNMOA Joint Resolution

In addition, a joint resolution between the SPNF and the South Pacific Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officers Alliance (SPCNMOA) was considered and passed:

1. That the SPCNMOA work with SPNF to explore a concept for South Pacific nursing and midwifery health systems strengthening by establishing two working groups that include NNAs, CNMOs, regulators and educators in their membership to examine:
 - Opportunities to align regional regulatory frameworks,
 - Post graduate education requirements in line with health workforce needs.
2. That SPCNMOA and SPNF nominate appropriate subject matter experts to the two working groups by 31 December 2016.

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