
Constitution of the South Pacific Nurses Forum

1. Name

- 1.1 The name of the Federation shall be the South Pacific Nurses Forum (SPNF).

2. Interpretation

- 2.1 'Conference' shall mean the meeting of representatives from member countries.
- 2.2 'Nurse' shall mean a person who has completed a program of basic nursing education and is qualified and authorised in her own country to practice nursing.
- 2.3 In this Constitution, any term implying the feminine gender shall be deemed to include the masculine.

3. Objectives

- 3.1 To assist each other in promoting and improving health services for the public.
- 3.2 To assist each other to ensure the establishment and maintenance of the optimum standards of professional nursing practice in the South Pacific supported by appropriate nursing education and research.
- 3.3 To encourage the establishment of national nurses' associations in those South Pacific countries where none exist, and to assist and advise nurses in the countries concerned in establishing such associations.
- 3.4 To assist each other in improving the professional, social and economic position of nurses.
- 3.5 To further the development of nurses and nursing internationally.
- 3.6 To effect closer links between nurses in the South Pacific as a means of providing mutual problem solving, help and support and facilitating personal contacts between nurses in the various countries.
- 3.7 To promote cooperation and coordinated activities between nurses in the South Pacific for the exchange of knowledge and the sharing of ideas. These activities are to include the organisation of conferences and seminars in the South Pacific.

4. Language

- 4.1 The official language of the Forum for the purpose of recording and documentation shall be English.

5. Powers

- 5.1 The Forum shall do all such lawful things as may be deemed incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objectives.

6. Membership

- 6.1 The national nurses' association in each country. Where more than one association exists, the one which represents the most nurses (as defined in 2.2) in the country.
- 6.2 Where no national nurses' association exists, any group of nurses who are working to establish an association.
- 6.3 Where a nurses' group representing the indigenous people exist in a country, the delegation from that country shall include the national nurses' organisation as defined in 6.1 and representatives from the indigenous nurses' group.

7. Meetings

- 7.1 A conference of members shall be held at least every two years, or as decided at the previous conference.
- 7.2 The chair of the conference shall be shared between all member countries.
- 7.3 Each country shall send up to four delegates to the conference. Observers may be admitted by arrangement with the host country.

8. Voting

- 8.1 Matters will be decided by reaching a consensus.
- 8.2 Where this is not possible, each country present shall have four (4) votes. Where there are four delegates, each delegate shall carry one vote. Where there are less than four delegates, each country shall determine how their votes are to be divided between the delegates.

9. Finance and Management

- 9.1 Each member country shall be responsible for expenses incurred by its members.
- 9.2 Each conference host country shall charge a conference registration fee to cover costs involved in hosting the conference.
- 9.3 Any surplus money following payment of expenses for the conference shall be passed to the next host country as seeding money.
- 9.4 Each conference host country shall appoint an auditor who shall be a qualified accountant who does not hold any other office in the national nurses' association.

10. Officers

- 10.1 The country which is hosting the next conference shall be responsible for providing the officers for the period from the closing of the previous conference to the closing of the one they are hosting.

11. Alteration of the Constitution

- 11.1 This constitution may be altered, added to, or rescinded only by resolution at a conference.
- 11.2 Written notice of any proposed amendment shall be forwarded to the host country prior to the conference. The host country shall circulate any such proposal to all member countries not less than one month prior to the date of the meeting.

12. Dissolution

- 12.1 The Forum may be dissolved at a conference or special meeting of the Forum.
- 12.2 Any assets belonging to the Forum shall be allocated as decided at that meeting.