

## **INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND GRANT**

### **BRADY TASSICKER – FINAL REPORT**

#### **Specialised Training Program for Emergency Nurses in Tungaru Central Hospital (TCH), Tarawa, Kiribati**

Date: 30 November 2017

The project is completed, in the specified time frame, and within budget.

Specifically, the following have been achieved:

- ACEN approved course and manual have been completed. This incorporated the newly-developed WHO Basic Emergency Care course, with a large number of site-specific modules tailored to meet the local learning needs.
- Selection of appropriate nurses by the Ministry of Health was completed, with close liaison with the nurse unit managers for both Tungaru Central Hospital (TCH) and Betio Hospital (BH).
- The course was delivered as planned
  - One week of intensive preparation and liaison with key stake holders
  - Three full days per week for three weeks, with remaining days spent on-the-floor in the emergency department.
  - One week of mentoring and on the floor education
- 18 Nurses have been trained in the course material
  - 12 nurses from TCH emergency department
  - 4 nurse from BH (general nurses who cover the emergency department and the ward.
  - 2 nurse educators from the Kiribati Nursing School
- The sixteen trained nurses from the hospitals have been specifically allocated to remain within the emergency departments, and are being groomed by the Ministry of Health to provide education to the nurses practising independently in the outer-island clinics.
- The trained nurses from the School of Nursing are the educational leads for the emergency topics for future nursing students.

#### **Evaluation of the project**

- Attendance at the course was 100%
- All nurses obtained either distinction or high-distinction in the end-of-course exam, a dramatic improvement from the pre-course performance.
- Feedback from participants was glowing – both formal written comments and informal
- High level support was displayed by the Ministry of Health, with personal attendance by the Permanent Secretary at the graduation.
- Spontaneous written support for the project was received from the Director of Nursing, Sister Helen Murdoch, many weeks after the project finished.
- A visiting nursing team from New Zealand, several months after the course, expressed their strong regard for the skills of the emergency nurses to hospital hierarchy.

Outcome expected	Achieved?
To provide a core group of nurses with an understanding of the Initial Assessment process using an ABCDE algorithm and the skills to enable recognition of deterioration in adult and paediatric patients.	Achieved. Sustainability of this still to be determined.
Preparation for implementation of a structured triage system at the hospital, including the development of systems and processes that assist in patient flow and the delivery of care	Partially achieved. An awareness of the importance of triage and prioritisation has been disseminated, but not established. Patient flow remains difficult.
Foster the development of a dedicated TCH emergency team enabling medical and nursing staff to work effectively in partnership under local conditions and constraints	Commenced. At a recent follow-up visit in September, a closer working relationship between doctors and nurses was observed. A sense of team is present among the nurses
On-going support and mentoring to develop capacity building at TCH.	Ongoing
Entrance of ACEN into the professional development of nurses in the Pacific.	Achieved. The extent of the ongoing involvement remains to be determined. Another project is in the planning phase.
Accreditation of emergency nursing as a specialty by the Ministry of Health	Not yet achieved. There is a current ministerial review into nursing structures which may progress this issue.

The course has been delivered within budget (see attached figures).

Discussions about further training requirements and relationships are ongoing. There have been requests from other countries for the course to be delivered there.

#### Lessons learnt

- This project would have struggled to progress without very strong local connections, both by the applicant, and by the nurses who delivered the project. Having run it in one site, it will be easier to establish in other sites without the local connections being quite as strong.
- The gravitas lent to the project by ACEN accreditation was essential for ministerial support
- The scheduling demands placed by the running of the course placed significant demands on the department. This introduced some clinical risk. Without the highest level of ministerial support, it would be foolhardy to attempt running such a project.
- There are uncertainties about how and when we can run phase II of the project (triage education after construction of the new emergency department and triage/waiting area). Funding will be a barrier, although other barriers remain