

The Pacific Health Governance Research Network

2018 Pacific Update (5th – 6th July)

Development Policy Centre and USP School of Economics

Presenters: Dr Tess Newton Cain & Dr Donald Wilson

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Key Messages



Tess Newton Cain

- Introduction to the Pacific Health Governance Research Network (PHGRN).
- Objectives and future key outputs of the PHGRN.
- What has been achieved so far.

Donald Wilson

- How the School of Public Health at Fiji National University has participated in the PHGRN so far.
- How FNU plans to participate further to progress research, publications, and policy influence.

Health Governance Challenges in the Pacific



The Pacific island region is presently at the coalface of several major global changes and challenges to health:

- Climate change induced impacts on health,
- Food insecurity and nutritional/diet shifts,
- New and established infectious and non-communicable disease burdens,
- Water scarcity and insecurity,
- Health impacts on economy and development.

These challenges to health, including health systems and resources, are projected to intensify in coming decades and for part of the SDG agenda.

Our Approach



- Research and actions are informed by Pacific voices, to ensure integration of local knowledge into research and that research addresses practical local needs.
- We recognise that policies are not easily generalisable across the Pacific region.
- Governance is central to addressing these challenges and this will be the focus of the PHGRN.
- Our thematic groups are designed to intersect and overlap, which is reflective of the intersecting and overlapping nature of the SDGs.

Overview of the Pacific Health Governance Research Network



- Launched February 2018.
- Builds a network to facilitate research partnerships between Pacific researchers and stakeholders, with Australian and international counterparts.
- PHGRN aims to be a sustainable long-term driver of Pacific-orientated health policy and governance research leading to positive change in the Pacific.
- Focuses on health governance in relation to the SDG agenda, seeking to help the region meet goals and targets, and ensure that no-one is left behind.
- Has support from the Pacific Community (SPC).
- The PHGRN's research is grouped under five thematic pillars:
 - Health Security,
 - Health Systems and UHC,
 - Climate Change and Health,
 - Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH),
 - Non-Communicable Diseases.

Outcomes and Benefits



- Promotes the benefit of research to communities, national and regional policy-makers and enhances local expertise.
- Findings will be presented in accessible and non-traditional formats.
- Data will be shared to facilitate collaboration.
- Platform for connecting Pacific and international research partners for Pacific-related research – currently using Facebook & Twitter
- Focus on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and health governance-related research in the Pacific.

Our themes



- Health security
- Health systems
- Climate change and health
- Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)
- Non-communicable diseases (NCD)

Fiji National University School of Public Health & Primary Care

Theme 1: Health Security



- Rollout of newly revised undergraduate programmes – approved by FNU Senate in November 2017
- Following recommendation at regional “Climate Change and Health” meeting in Fiji in February, 2019, NEW Postgraduate Diploma in Climate Change and Human Health programme is under development, for approval of FNU Senate by November 2018. To go on offer from Semester 1 2019
- NEW Postgraduate Diploma and Masters in Sexual Reproductive Health for FNU Senate approval by November 2018. For offer from Semester 1, 2019. Will address gender-related insecurity in the context of health.
- Both new programmes apply relevant content from the International Health Regulations and other relevant regional instruments

Theme 2: Health Systems



- Undergraduate public health programmes, including the 14-week public health component of the MBBS programme provides selected content of Health Services Management (run by HSM team)
- Content covers global, regional and national policy contexts that inform investment in health systems and Universal Health Coverage.
- Masters in Health Services Management (M-HSM) programme covers this more extensively.
- 2-semester research component of M-HSM programme allows students to research various operational topics that are relevant at their workplace. Examples:
 - Expounding factors related to out-of-stock antibiotics at the national level
 - Intern nurses knowledge, attitudes and practices towards internship at Labasa Hospital
- HSM Team doing National Health Accounts for several Ministries of Health around the Pacific
- HSM Team mapping health services for several health programmes – in response to request from MoHMS Fiji

Theme 3: Climate Change and Health



- Climate change is a course on its own in the revised (2017) Bachelor of Environmental Health programme
- Postgraduate Diploma in Climate Change and Human Health to go on offer from Semester 1 2019
- NEW Masters in Environmental Health programme to go on offer from Semester 1 2019
- Upgrading academic qualifications of in-service Environmental Health Officers in Tonga & Kiribati, by offering in-country training

Theme 4: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)



- WASH is not specifically taught per se but courses in the 2nd year of in the 3year BEH programme include:
 - Water Quality Management
 - Waste Management
- Rolling out a Graduate Certificate in Waste Management in Sem 1, 2019
- Our Environmental Health team is partner on the RISE (Revitalization of Informal Settlements and their Environments) project, a large multi-million \$\$ community randomized control trial that utilizes the “water-sensitive cities” approach
 - Our lab will run the environmental health and human health sample analyses

Theme 5: Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)



- Revised Postgraduate Certificate in Food Safety
- MPH-NCD programme (“FNU’s academic response to the Pacific’s NCD crisis”)
 - Developed in conjunction with the WHO
 - 1st batch to graduate at the end of 2019
- NCD’s are covered in variable extents in all programmes of the SPHPC
- Some NCD research currently conducted by departments of the SPHPC
 - Descriptive study of Diabetic Lower Extremity Amputations (2010-2016)
 - Promoting Health in Primary School Settings (Preventing Childhood Obesity)
- C-POND (Pacific Research Centre for Prevention of Obesity and NCD’s) implements most work related to NCD’s (local, regional and international)
- Research regional environmental, behavioural and commercial determinants of NCD’s, such as tobacco and alcohol use, dietary shifts and physical inactivity.

Theme 5: Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)

C-POND
(Pacific Research Centre
for the Prevention of
Obesity and NCD's)

SALT-RELATED RESEARCH

Sodium In Fiji: Assessment of Intake- Fiji (CMNHS MPH student). WHO funded

Cost-effectiveness of salt reduction interventions in Fiji and Samoa (FSIA in Fiji)

- GACD/NHMRC grant (2013-2016)
- FNU, George Institute, Deakin University
- Phase 1: Baseline; Phase 2: Intervention; Phase 3: Monitoring of impact
- Work closely with FTTAG- Advisory for FSIA

Theme 5: Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)

C-POND
(Pacific Research Centre
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Obesity and NCD's)

- PACIFIC MANA DASHBOARD
 - Pacific Monitoring Alliance for NCD action
 - To create a sustainable, collaborative, responsive, high-quality Pacific platform for NCD monitoring, evaluation, capacity building, knowledge translation and action support for NCD reduction across the Pacific
 - CPOND in partnership with WHO, SPC & PIHOA – secretariat of Pacific MANA
 - Development of MANA Dashboard – baselines were presented at HoH in April 2018
 - Funded from NZ HRC to support C-POND contribution

Next Steps



1st to 2nd November 2018:
Workshop Two at Tanoa
International Hotel in Nadi, Fiji

Sponsored by Fiji National University, SPC and
University of Queensland School of Public Health

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