



THE INFORMER



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A MOTHER AND CHILD IS THE REASON WE EXIST

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WHPHA

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NEW EMERGENCY CARE SYSTEM FOR MT HAGEN HOSPITAL

The Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority is embarking on an ambitious program which, when fully implemented, will see improvements in the flow and treatment of patients at the Emergency Department (ED) of Mt Hagen Hospital.

The Triage Program which is aimed at improving the emergency care system at the hospital is currently being developed by Emergency Physicians, Dr John Junior McKup and Dr Scotty Kandelyo, the Deputy Chief Emergency Physician for the Highlands and two consultant emergency physicians from Australia, Dr Rob Mitchell and Dr Colin Banks.

Two local registrars, Dr Lucas Kondi and Dr John Gabriel are also doing research projects on emergency care which will also help in putting together a final triage program for the hospital.

Triage is aimed at identifying which patients are the most urgent in need of treatment and those who are less urgent. The system has three levels or categories so clinicians know which patients must be seen first.

When patients present themselves at the emergency department, they are identified and grouped into these categories – category one for patients to be seen immediately within 5 minutes, category two for urgent patients to be seen within 15 minutes and category three for non-urgent ones.

The identification and grouping of patients into different categories for treatment helps to reduce the morbidity and mortality rates, according to Emergency Physician, Dr Rob Mitchell.

He said there were other associated activities as well such as the introduction of new registration forms for patients to help improve data collection which would then help improve the flow of patients through the Emergency Department.

The data collected would be coded and entered into an electronic database for easy access and identification of patients and their medical history, should they return with new complaints or simply for review.

Once the triage system is up and running, it will electronically capture all the Emergency Department's Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) which will make it the first of its kind in any public hospital emergency department in the country.

Mt Hagen Hospital's Emergency Department KPIs are designed to ensure patient care becomes a priority and the treatment provided is safe, appropriate and effective for all those that seek its care.

The triage system is supported by a Friendship Grant from the Australian

Government through the PNGAus Partnership.

Dr Mitchell said by August this year the team hoped to finalise everything and conduct training sessions for all emergency clinicians as well as others to enable the immediate rollout of the emergency care system.

He said it was hoped that by the end of this year, Mt Hagen Hospital's Emergency Department would have a fully functional triage system in place that would provide a better understanding of the needs of emergency patients and make it one of the most efficient EDs in the country.

The public are advised that the role of the Emergency Department is to assess and treat patients with acute and critical illness. Patients with chronic conditions are encouraged to attend the local health facility or clinic nearest to them.



The team behind the setting up of the triage system at Mt Hagen Hospital – from left, doctors Collin Banks, Scotty Kandelyo, John Junior McKup and Rob Mitchell.



The PNGAus Partnership Logo

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Nurses complete research methodology training

Senior nurses from the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority (WHPHA) can now do research into better ways and means of providing professional care and treatment for their patients.

This follows their successful completion of a five-day training course on research methodology conducted at the Mt Hagen Hospital Training Centre from 20th – 24th May 2019.

The thirty senior nurses who undertook this training have expressed great satisfaction at the opportunity to acquire valuable knowledge and skills which would help them find better ways and means of caring for their patients.

The research methodology training for nurses was conducted by Mr Thompson Telepo, the Deputy Dean of Nursing at the UPNG School of Medicine and Health Sciences at the request of the WHPHA management.

Chief Executive Officer of the WHPHA, Mr David Vorst said research methodology was an exciting new thing for the nursing profession which for a long time had not had the same opportunities to conduct research as medical officers and other clinical staff.

He said for the nurses to learn about research was a wonderful thing as it would help them to learn and practise new ideas that would help provide better quality care for patients.

"Research methodology is an exciting new thing and for you to learn and be equipped with the necessary skills is a wonderful thing. So make use of our internet system and learn more", he said.

Acting Director for Nursing Services, Sr. Janet Yamu praised Mr Vorst for making the training possible by making available the necessary funds.

She said it was the first time for such training to



The nurses are pictured with the CEO of WHPHA, David Vorst (standing second from right) and trainer, Thompson Telepo (standing far left) after receiving their certificates.

be provided for nurses and the support by the CEO motivated the nurses to put in extra effort to provide excellent patient care.

"Research is a very powerful tool and we can use it with the resources we have such as the internet and we can find and use the information gathered to provide quality care to our patients", she said.

Sr. Yamu also thanked Mr Telepo for spending time with the nurses and imparting valuable knowledge which they would now use to improve the way they care for the patients.

She said other health organisations spent a lot of money to send their staff to universities to undertake such training but WHPHA was fortunate to have Mr Telepo conduct the training at its own campus.

Mr Telepo said research was new knowledge and it was the way to go during this time of rapid growth in new technology and clinical practice development. He said through research new knowledge could be acquired which would help provide improved health care to patients.

Hundreds celebrate WHPHA's 25 years of strong governance

Tambul Station in the Upper Kagul area of Western Highlands came alive on Friday, 7th June 2019 when hundreds of people joined the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority in celebrating its 25 years of strong governance to the community in Western Highlands.

People from all parts of the Tambul/Nebilyer District gathered at the station as early as 8am to view displays of posters on healthy living as well as to hear health messages from senior executives of the WHPHA and other invited guests.

Non-Government Organisation partners such as Susu Mamas, Marie Stopes and Anglicare also set up their own stalls to inform the public about the services they provided and where they could access them.

Staff from the various sections of the WHPHA also set up stalls inside a big tent and screened those who sought their advice and assistance. The Health Promotion team also displayed

posters on healthy living and held audiences with the public on community health issues and what they should do to protect themselves from catching preventable diseases such as typhoid and pneumonia.

A major part of the celebrations was the screening of various health documentaries inside the tent which attracted a huge audience, especially children.

Chief Executive Officer of the WHPHA, David Vorst thanked all those who turned up to celebrate with the authority and added that the health authority wanted to work closely with the Tambul/Nebilyer District Development Authority to provide what people needed.

He told the people that the WHPHA had a commitment to complete the construction of the Tambul, Kotna and Tinsley District Hospitals so that they could receive vital health services at their doorsteps.

He added that the Chairman of the WHPHA Board, David Guinn has been having talks with the Australian High Commissioner to PNG and there have been positive indications of these projects being completed with funding provided by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

"We will continue to work closely with you all to provide what you need", he said, attracting a big

roar and applause from the audience.

Community leaders who spoke at the celebrations said health workers were life savers on this earth and they must commit themselves fully to their jobs. They said on some occasions staff never turned up for work and patients had to



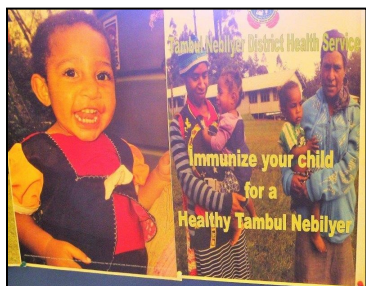
Part of the crowd that turned up to celebrate with the staff of the WHPHA

look for them in their houses which should never happen.

WHPHA's acting Director for Population Health, Dr Madison Dat urged the people to take ownership of their own health and avoid getting sick from preventable diseases.

"Health is not about medicine or injection – it is about looking after yourself and eating the right foods and keeping healthy", he said.

Tambul is the second venue for the celebrations to be held after Tinsley. The next venue will be Nunga in Dei District on 20th June followed by Hagen Central towards the end of June where the celebrations will end.



A health promotion display

Measles-Rubella and Polio Vaccination Campaign

The Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority (WHPHA) was among other health institutions in the country who officially launched the measles-rubella and polio vaccination campaign this week.

The supplementary immunisation campaign will be carried out by respective health institutions throughout the country from 11th June to 7th July 2019. Under the program those in age group six months to under five years will receive the measles and rubella injection as well as the polio drop while those new born to under six months will only receive the polio drop.

The program in the Western Highlands was launched at the Queen's Park in Mt Hagen City on Tuesday, 11th June following a police-escorted drive around the city streets by a convoy of provincial health authority vehicles and others decorated with posters of children being immunised against these diseases.



The crowd at Queen's Park, the venue of the launch

A live band had also played a song composed for the immunisation program with the key message of having children immunised against measles-rubella and polio during the launch at the Queen's Park.

School children from the nearby Hagen T Primary School marched with a banner emphasising the importance of the immunisation program as well while the WHPHA set up a vaccination stall at the park and vaccinated children.

Many of the speakers who addressed the crowd spoke of the importance of having young children immunised against these diseases to avoid death and life-long paralysis.

They said all these diseases had no cure if contracted and added that the only way to protect the children from catching these dangerous diseases was through vaccination.

A Senior Education Officer representing the Department of Western Highlands, Rose Johns thanked staff of the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority and other partners for spearheading the fight against these deadly diseases.

She said children were vulnerable to such diseases and it was the responsibility of all parents to ensure their children were immunised.



Children from Hagen T Primary School marching with a banner emphasising the importance of the immunisation program.

Ms Johns added that she would make it her business to advise all schools in the province, especially elementary and kindergarten schools to ensure their children were immunised against these diseases.

World Health Organisation consultant, Dr Lei and UNICEF consultant, Dr Shailesh who were also present told the crowd that these diseases were dangerous and that all children under five years must be vaccinated.

Dr Shailesh asked the crowd to make a commitment that they would go back to their respective communities and pass on this information to the parents to bring children under 5 years to the nearest health centre or clinic point for vaccination and the crowd responded with a big roar of "yes we will do it".

Power Voltage Stabiliser for Mt Hagen Hospital

Constant power blackouts resulting in damage to vital and expensive medical equipment and other electrical appliances at Mt Hagen Hospital should now be a thing of the past.

The Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority (WHPHA) after continuously spending significant funds to have equipment repaired has decided this situation should not continue any more.

It has purchased and installed a new 500KVA power voltage stabiliser at the hospital, aimed at putting an end to the incidences of equipment breakdowns and protect them from further damage.

The power voltage stabiliser has been supplied and installed by a local electrical contractor, Masip Electrical and went into operation on Monday, 13th May 2019 following its commissioning by the Chief Executive Officer of the WHPHA, Mr David Vorst.

The stabiliser which was purchased at a discounted price of over K100,000 is the first to be installed in any hospital in the Highlands and according to the supplier, it is quite reliable as it was operating well at some major airport terminals in the country where it has been installed.

The machine helps to reduce incoming power supply when it goes beyond the normal supply of 240 volts and increases the voltage when it drops so that the power supply is constant at all times during power blackouts when standby generators come on automatically.

The stabiliser although expensive will save the WHPHA a lot of money in repair costs, especially

for equipment control boards which cost in excess of K50,000 every time they are damaged during blackouts.

Mr Vorst said the purchase and installation of such a machine was in the Mt Hagen Hospital Redevelopment Plan but it had to be bought early because of the constant power blackouts and the excessive repair costs of expensive medical equipment.

"My experience in the Solomons taught me to do something like this and is in the plan for the redevelopment but we need it now to protect our equipment

for patient care which must continue to function.

"We spend roughly K50,000 to repair control boards every time they break down which is expensive. As we buy more expensive equipment, we need this to safeguard them so thank you all for a great effort", he told the Masip and WHPHA electrical engineering team which installed the machine.



Masip's director engineering, Timothy Kapak (left) with Mr Vorst and WHPHA's electrician, Enoch Steven in front of the stabiliser during the commissioning.

"We spend hundreds of thousands of kina to repair medical equipment every year and this machine will help us save this money".

Mr Vorst said once the stabiliser functions normally, there will be less or no breakdown of equipment and the clinicians will continue to work without realising that something has happened.

More Village Health Volunteers Graduate

The Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority (WHPHA) has graduated another group of Village Health Volunteers (VHV) who will provide professional assistance to expecting mothers in their respective villages to deliver safely.

The month-long training which involved both theory and practical sessions has been funded by the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) as part of its ongoing efforts to help reduce child mortality in the country.

The 21 women, all from the Tambul/Nebilyer District of Western Highlands, have been trained on how to help expecting mothers when they go into labour and later take them to the nearest health facility to deliver.

The training which ended on Friday, 10th May 2019 was conducted by WHPHA trainers at the Mt Hagen Hospital campus where the women were accommodated and fed and also did their practical training.

Early this year, 17 women from the same district were put through the same training and they are now reported to be doing well in helping expectant mothers in their respective villages to deliver safely in health facilities.

A third course for the same district will be conducted later this year before it is rolled out to the other three districts of the province namely Dei, Mul/Baiyer and Hagen Central.

A Senior Medical Officer in Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Mt Hagen Hospital, Dr Joseph Kuk told the graduating women that for them to carry out their work effectively, their husbands and fathers needed to support them.



The VHVs are pictured with their trainers and members of the WHPHA management after their graduation.

"We need to help each other and work in partnership in order to help our pregnant mothers to deliver safely. I thank all you husbands and fathers who are here today to witness your wives graduate for allowing them to leave home for four weeks to undergo this training", he said.

Dr Kuk said as VHVs, the women were now recognised as staff of the WHPHA and as such they would enjoy the same privilege as other staff and receive free medical treatment for themselves and their immediate family members at any health facility in the province.

WHPHA's Acting Director for Population Health, Dr Maddison Dat congratulated the 21 women for

successfully completing the training course and thanked UNICEF for sponsoring it by meeting all the expenses.

He also revealed that UNICEF would also set up wind mills to generate water and solar systems to generate power at all health facilities to further improve the health of our people.

The participants said they were thankful for the training they had received and would do their best to help their womenfolk deliver safely. They were also presented with certificates as well as CUG mobile phones, coats, boots, umbrellas and solar lights/torches to help them carry out their work effectively.

Twenty-five years of strong governance to the community in Western Highlands



Part of the crowd that sought medical advice from clinicians

Celebrations marking 25 years of strong governance by the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority to the community of Western Highlands last week have been hailed as a great success.

The celebrations which were held on the grounds of the Tinsley District Hospital at Baiyer River in the Mul/Baiyer District had attracted a huge crowd, mostly people with health issues who wanted to know where they could seek medical advice and assistance.

Mul/Baiyer is the first district in the province for the celebrations to be held, followed by the other

three districts of Tambul/Nebilyer, Dei and Hagen Central respectively next month. The two-day celebrations at Tinsley were held from the 23rd – 24th May 2019.

Staff from the various sections of the WHPHA set up stalls inside a big tent and screened those who sought their advice and assistance.

The Health Promotion team also displayed posters on healthy living and held audiences with the public on community health issues and what they should do to protect themselves from catching preventable diseases such as malaria, typhoid and diarrhoea.

Health partners such as Marie Stopes were also present to talk to the people about the services that they provided, enabling everyone to know about whom they should see or go to for medical advice and assistance whenever they needed it.

WHPHA's Acting Director for Clinical Network and Mt Hagen Hospital Manager, Jane Holden told the people that the authority was working to ensure good systems were put in place for supplies of drugs and services to reach the districts.

She added that nurses at Mt Hagen Hospital and those in the districts were also being rotated to give them more skills to do more in the facilities they worked in. Ms Holden said it would

also improve referrals between WHPHA facilities.

Chief Executive Officer, Mr. David Vorst thanked all the staff that were doing screening in their respective stalls in the tent, saying that what they were doing was important as it would help the people to know exactly what to do and where to go to for further assistance.

He said the WHPHA's aim was to ensure the population in Western Highlands was healthy and he said WHPHA had a strong focus on maternal and child health. He said women in particular were important because they played such a significant role in the economy of the province particularly through agriculture.

Deputy Chairman of the WHPHA Board, Mr Michael Pundia thanked donor agencies and churches for partnering with the WHPHA to provide much needed health services in the province.

He said donor agencies such as the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Asian Development Bank through the Rural Primary Health Services Delivery Project had funded many infrastructure development projects and he was grateful for their support.

Mr Pundia said he was also thankful to church health services such as the Baptist Union of PNG and the Catholic and Lutheran Churches as well as others who provided health services in some of the remote parts of the province where WHPHA could not reach.

He also praised the workforce saying, "Our workforce has been very committed to their duties and responsibilities in ensuring all those who seek our care are attended to and I thank all our staff and the management team for their commitment".