



THE INFORMER



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A MOTHER AND CHILD IS THE REASON WE EXIST

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WHPHA

A bi-monthly newsletter of the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority

WHPHA partners with PATH to strengthen primary health care services in WHP

The Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority will partner with a newly introduced health program funded by the Australian Government to strengthen primary health care services in the country.

The new program, Papua New Guinea-Australia Transition to Health (PATH) started operation in October and replaces the previous Health and HIV Implementing Service Provider (HHISP). PATH is a national program designed to support the PNG National Health Plan (2011-2020) with specific focus to strengthen primary health care at the provincial level.

PATH is specifically designed as an 'adaptive program' to implement a flexible approach that respond to changing circumstances in PNG, is informed by evidence and lessons from previous experience of what does or does not work.

According to the former Acting Secretary for Health, Dr Paison Dakulala, Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority will trial the new approaches under PATH and where effectiveness is demonstrated, these approaches could be adopted by other PHAs for implementation.

"PATH's specific new features include a much clearer and outcome-oriented approach to gender equality and social inclusion (GESI), especially through the Women in Leadership initiative and we are happy that this is part of the new program", Dr Dakulala said.

He added that PATH is a five-year (2020 - 2025) health program which demonstrates the commitment of the Australian government to continue to support health services in PNG. Dr Dakulala said that over many years much improvement are seen in health service delivery as a result of the strong partnership between PNG and Australia.

Chief Executive Officer for WHPHA, Mr David Vorst said he is happy that WHPHA was selected to partner with PATH to work towards improving rural health service delivery in the Western Highlands.



Nurses at the Mt Hagen Urban Clinic counselling mothers on family planning before vaccinating their babies.

Mr. Vorst said the former HHISP program supported the WHPHA strengthen and deliver key health care programs in the rural areas such as immunisation, tuberculosis, malaria and family planning and he is sure this would continue and be further improved under PATH.

With the establishment of the clinical network, the service improvements seen in the Mt Hagen Hospital were now being seen at our rural facilities, he said, and PATH would strengthen that effort to ensure that people living in the rural areas had quality services close to where they lived.



A CHW vaccinates two babies against polio as Sr Doris Kaiwa, the OIC of Mt Hagen Urban Clinic watches.

In this issue:

Page

WHPHA partners with PATH to strengthen primary health care services in WHP	1
BSP donates medical equipment and wash station to WHPHA	2
Filipino community in Mt Hagen donates face shields	3
Work progresses well on new Covid-19 quarantine and isolation unit	3
Long-serving staff of WHPHA retire from Public Service	4

BSP donates medical equipment and wash station to WHPHA

The Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority (WHPHA) this week received some much needed medical equipment from the Bank of South Pacific to help treat patients at Mt Hagen Hospital.

The Bank's Mt Hagen Branch donated ten oximeters valued at a total of K26,700 as well as a hand washing station which was set up at the front of Mt Hagen Urban Clinic and the Well Women's Clinic at Mt Hagen Hospital.

The presentation of the oximeters and the handing over of the fully-set-up hand washing station took place at the hospital premises on 28th October 2020 and was done as part of the bank's annual Community Projects Program.

Under this program, the bank provides community projects every year in areas it operates in throughout the country as well as in the neighbouring Pacific Island countries such as Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji, Tonga and Samoa.

Branch Manageress, Theresa Pilamp, Area Manager for the Highlands, Reuben Elizah and other senior officials were present to deliver the oximeters and the hand washing station.

Mrs Pilamp said the funding of the community projects was undertaken by the bank's 44 branches and sub-branches throughout the country and was an ongoing activity to give something back to the communities, particularly in the areas of health and education.

"This project and others that we have supported in the past show BSP's commitment not only as the best financial service provider in the country but also to ensure our customers and stakeholders are well looked after at the community level", she said.

Mrs Pilamp said this project was one of a number of projects the bank had carried out at the hospital including the donation of furniture for the Well Women's Clinic three years ago and urged the staff and patients to use the facilities and equipment wisely in order to benefit from them.

She added that with the presence of Covid-19, the bank as part of its contribution towards efforts to stop the spread of the virus has set up three hand washing stations in Mt Hagen City and Kagamuga for people to use to protect themselves from catching the virus.

Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority's Acting Director Clinical Network and Mt Hagen

Hospital Manager, Jane Holden thanked BSP for its continued support for Mt Hagen Hospital.

She said the oximeters were very useful for clinicians to use on patients to determine the appropriate treatment for them and she was happy for the bank's generous contribution. Oximeters are used to determine the amount of oxygen being carried in the blood.

"On behalf of the Chairman and Management of WHPHA, I thank BSP for its continued support and the staff who made this happen", she said.



Top - Jane Holden and BSP's area manager, Reuben Elizah cutting the ribbon to signal the official handover of the equipment. Above left - Theresa Pilamp and right, Jane Holden addressing the crowd. Right - Ms Holden receiving the oximeters from a BSP staff member as others and a nursing sister look on. Bottom left - WHPHA staff are being introduced to Mrs Pilamp by Ms Holden and right - OIC of Mt Hagen Urban Clinic, Doris Kaiwa showing a mother how to use the hand wash station, watched by Mrs Pilamp and Ms Holden.



Filipino Community in Hagen donates face shields

The Filipino Community in Mt Hagen last week donated 100 face shields to the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority (WHPHA) for frontline health workers involved in the fight against Covid-19 to use.

Three leaders of the Filipino community who are also executives of their respective companies made the presentation last Thursday, 29th October 2020 at the WHPHA Board Room.

The executives were Osmond Santos from AGL Builders, a contractor involved in building community health posts and other infrastructure, Ralph Pacio from Kendo Ltd who are involved in groceries and Roberto Rubio from RJ Merchandise, suppliers of printing materials, banners and face masks/shields etc.

The leaders said the number of face shields that they donated was not enough but it was to show the support of the Filipino community in the fight against the spread of Covid-19 in the Western Highlands.

"We are happy to donate these shields on behalf of the Filipino Community and our companies. We will donate some more later to support WHPHA in its fight against this virus", they said.

Acting Director for Population Health, Dannex Kupamu when receiving the shields on behalf of the WHPHA said he was happy to receive them because they would help protect the staff who were involved in collecting swabs and other tests.

"On behalf of the Board and Management of the WHPHA I thank the Filipino Community and your companies for the kind donation and look forward to receiving more in the near future", he said.



Acting Director Population Health, Dannex Kupamu (centre) with the box of face shields, flanked by the Filipino leaders with one of their employees, all displaying the new shields.

Work progresses well on new Covid-19 quarantine and isolation unit

Construction of the new Covid-19 quarantine and isolation unit at Mt Hagen Hospital is gradually taking shape.

Work carried out by Kemele Constructions, the company contracted to carry out earth works and do the concrete slab is progressing well.

It has cleared and levelled the area and is now working on the concrete blocks where the steel frames would stand.

Once this is completed, hopefully in the next two weeks, pouring of the concrete slab would begin.

Work on the concrete slab would take about two more weeks and once all this is completed, PNG Springsmith would come in and put up the steel frames after which Kemele would put on the side walls and roofing iron, completing the project.

The project is being funded by the Western Highlands Provincial Covid-19 Task Force.



These pictures show the progress of work carried out so far on the new expanded Covid-19 quarantine and isolation unit.



Long-serving staff of WHPHA retire from Public Service

Twenty-six long-serving employees of the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority (WHPHA) have retired after many years of service to the nation.

The retirees, aged between 55 and 75 years were officially farewelled by the WHPHA and the Department of Personnel Management during a gathering at the Highlander Hotel in Mt Hagen on Friday, 11th December 2020.

Three of the employees had passed away while waiting for this occasion while the remaining 23 were all present to receive their retirement certificates and final entitlements.

Those who retired – both male and female - included nurses, community health workers, drivers and cleaners who had sacrificed their lives and worked long hours with little pay to save lives.

Chief Executive Officer, Mr David Vorst when congratulating the retirees said the WHPHA had the best health indicators nationally and this was a direct result of the consistency and the tireless efforts and energy that these employees and others had put in over the years.

He said as a result of such efforts, the WHPHA was now spreading its clinical governance into the rural facilities to provide better health care to all those who sought its care.

Mr Vorst said on top of this, UNICEF has made available K3.8 million to immunise children between nine and 14 years of age over the next three years and the WHPHA was grateful for this as it would be the first to carry out this program in the Pacific region.

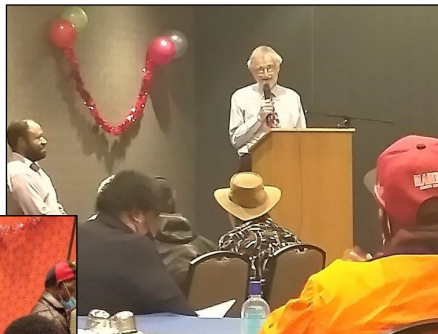
He also added that Tininga Group of Companies have incredibly continued to assist with

immunisation programs over the years and their efforts were also very much appreciated.

He said with such assistance coupled with the dedication and tireless efforts of the hardworking staff, health services in the province have improved and he was very happy for everyone's commitment.

To the retirees, he said it had been a long and hard road to get the Department of Personnel Management to make the money available for them and he urged them to use it wisely or invest it somewhere for the future benefit of themselves and their children.

The last time such a gathering was held was 15 years ago where a similar number and cadre of workers were paid their final entitlements and farewelled.



Pictured above - HR Manager, Vapol Pose calling the names of the retirees to go forward and pick up their certificates. Top - CEO David Vorst addressing the gathering. Top right, lower left and bottom left - The retirees waiting to receive their certificates and entitlements. Lower right - From left - DPM representative, Roselyn Wrakuavia, David Vorst and WHPHA Board Member, Margie Duckworth waiting to present certificates to the retirees. Bottom right - From left - Director Nursing, Sr Janet Yamu and Roselyn Wrakuavia cutting a cake to celebrate the day, watched by Vapol Pose.

