

Developing competent health professionals in various specializations to improve Rural Health Services delivery in line with government aspirations and plans

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Faculty
OF Medicine &
Health Sciences

Vision

Promote quality Health Education in line with DWU Core values through excellence in Learning and Teaching, Research and Community Engagement

DWU – Core Values

- **Integrity** – commits us to realise Christian values and maintain the highest academic standards.
- **Academic Excellence** – commits us to provide quality in research, learning and teaching for every individual learner, underpinned by ethical values and personal discipline.
- **Community Engagement/Service** – commits us to follow the example of the Divine Word, to use our gifts, talents and abilities to advance the genuine wellbeing of people in our community and the nation.
- **Respect** – commits us to respect every person's dignity, background and potential, and appreciate and respect the right to express diverse ideas and freedom of academic inquiry.
- **Diversity** – commits us to foster a culture that is open and welcoming to people of diverse backgrounds and prepares students to live and work internationally in a global economy.
- **Hospitality** – commits us to attend to our daily duties with a spirit of openness and kindness that welcomes new ideas and people, in accordance with Christian and Melanesian values.
- **Learning for Life** – commits us to provide opportunities to staff and students for personal growth in an environment that supports the development of personal responsibility.
- **Social Responsibility** – commits us to equity, social justice, and serving as a resource for social, economic, educational, cultural, environmental and community development.

FMHS Mission Statement

Train competent Health Professionals for the needs of the nation and in particular for the rural majority (and urban disadvantaged) in accordance with the PNG National Health Plan 2011-2020 and PNG Vision 2050

DWU Focus on Human Resources for Health

- Staff: To prepare, mentor, and train quality human resources in health to meet the needs of the nation.
- Students: A gradual process of critical thinking and transformation involving academic, personal, social and Christian values from year 1 to 4 /5 levels.
- Staff/Students: Walk the Talk; be an example and role model for healthy living.

Relevance of the FMHS courses to PNG

- National goals
- Government directives (free health care policy)
- Current status of health in PNG
- Human resources for health

Challenge for PNG Health System

Train the right type of persons for the:

- management, care and support of the sick
- rehabilitation of those afflicted by illness, injury and disability
- providing appropriate intervention for prevention of disease and injury
- effective management of health systems

The FMHS *Undergraduate Programs* (*Full Time*)

1. Bachelor of Medicine / Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS)

- Recently established in 2016 in line with the National Health Plan 2011 - 2020.
- The 1st graduation in 2021 and will undertake the residency program in 2022.
- While the MBBS graduates will be prepared to take various roles in the PNG health system and capable to undertake various specialization paths, **the emphasis is placed on preparing them to work as general practitioners in district (rural) hospitals.**

National Partners

Hospitals: Modilon, Kundiawa, Tabubil, Angau, Wewak, Mt. Hagen, PMIH, Alexishafen, Gaubin, Braun, Migendi, and Yagaum

International Partners

- Caprine Hospital
- Overseas University in Australia, Poland, Italy, Fiji, and others.

Challenges

- Opposition from medical personnel
- Huge Financial expenses

Way Forward

1. The National Government through its agencies NDoH and PNG Medical Board to endorse and approve the MBBS program offered at DWU.

2. Bachelor of Health Sciences (Rural Health - HEO)

National Partners

Hospitals: Modilon and Tabubil

Health Centers: Various health centers in Madang, Morobe, Eastern Highlands, Chimbu, Jawaka, and Western Highlands Provinces

Others: PHA, CHS,

Challenges

- Staff: Student ratio in clinical settings
- Health Center segment

Way forward

- Re-establish Kainantu Rural Hospital for year 3 clinical placement program
- Reduce the number of intakes to 30 students per year

Other FMHS *Undergraduate Programs (Full Time)*

3. Bachelor of Rehabilitation Sciences (Physiotherapy)
4. Bachelor of Environmental Health
5. Bachelor of Health Management
6. Bachelor of Midwifery Nursing (SMSoN)
7. Diploma in General Nursing (SMSoN)

Postgraduate Program (Flexible Learning)

- Postgraduate Diploma in Eye Care
- Advanced Diploma in Emergency Medicine

Undergraduate Programs (Flexible Learning)

- Diploma in Health Services Management
- Bachelor of Health Sciences [Rural Health] - Bridging Course
- OIC Health Facilitate Management Training
- Masters of Public Health (Health Service Management)

National Partners

Hospitals: Modilon, Kundiawa, Tabubil, Angau, Wewak, Mt. Hagen, PMGH, Kavieng, Nonga, Kimbe, Goroka (Physiotherapy)

Others: NDoH, PHAs, NGOs, Private Sector

International Partners

Fred Hollows Foundation for Eye Care, Calen Services International, Caprine Hospital, Bread for the World and Overseas University in Australia, Poland, Italy, Fiji, and others.

Challenges

Huge Practical placement costs for
Physiotherapy and Nursing programs

Employment for Environmental Health,
Health Management and Physiotherapy
graduates

Future Programs

Undergraduate programs

- Bachelor in Environmental Health [Bridging Course] (2020)
- Bachelor in Nursing (2022)

Postgraduate programs

- Master of Nursing (2026)

Department of Public Health, Leadership & Training

The main purpose of the department is to coordinate FMHS programs offered through flexible mode in particular to provide opportunities for health workers to update their knowledge and skills in the various specializations.

Diploma in Health Service Management

Challenges

- NDoH and other stakeholder assistance to support and fund the program

Bachelor of Health Sciences In-service Bridging Program for HEOs

Challenges

- Lack of fulltime sponsorship

The Master of Public Health – Health Services

- To prepare graduates to identify and appraise strategies to strengthen the people-centred health system at local, district, provincial and national level relevant to improving health outcomes as well as population health and wellbeing.
- To accomplish this, the MPH-HSM curriculum is based on a people-centred health systems strengthening approach to critically research health issues and act on appropriate solutions to improve access to health care of rural and urban disadvantaged populations in PNG.

Way Forward

Introduce the following programs in the next 5 years.

- 1.PGD in Occupational Health and Safety
- 2.Bachelor of Environmental Health Bridging program
- 3.Certificate/Diploma in Physiotherapy Technician
- 4.Bachelor in Occupational Therapy
- 5.Certificate in Community Eye Care
- 6.Certificate in Rural Laboratory Technicians.
- 7.Rural health facility management training (RHFMT)

FMHS - Operational Plan – 2017 -2021

KPI: Number of graduates by program

- Medicine: 30 / 20
- Rural Health: 40 / 200
- Environmental Health: 25 / 125
- Health Mgmt.& System Design: 25 / 125
- Rehabilitation Sciences: 20 / 100
- Nursing (Midwifery): 15 / 75
- Diploma of Nursing: 70 / 350
- Bachelor of Nursing: 30 / 20
- Dip. Health Service Mgmt.: 15 / 75
- Adv. Dip. Emergency Medicine: 15 /45
- Bridging Program for HEOs: 15 / 60
- Master's in Public Health: 15 / 30
- Bridging Program for EHOs:15 / 60
- PGD - Occupational Health & Safety: 15 / 60

Recommendations

CIMC recommends that the:

1. National Government through its agencies (NDoH and PNG Medical Board) endorse and approve the MBBS program offered at DWU.
2. National Government fund the expenditure budget (expenses) for the 3 clinical and 3 nursing programs offered at DWU campuses
3. National Government re-establish Kainantu Rural Hospital for year 3 Rural Health (HEO) clinical placement program
4. National Government through its agencies NDoH and DPM create positions for graduates of Environmental Health, Health Management and Physiotherapy programs

Conclusion

- In summary, through innovative learning and teaching strategies, research and community engagement, and the state of the art informatics and communication technologies at the Divine Word University, the Faculty aims at preparing students to play an important role in improving health indicators and quality of life of Papua New Guineans, with a particular emphasis on the education of women and care for rural populations.