**Pacific Islands Operating Room Nurses Association (PIORNA) IFPN Report**

**IFPN Board Meeting, York, August 2019**

**Introduction**

The Pacific Islands Operating Room Nurses Association (PIORNA) first started through its affiliation application to the IFPN in October 2018, in its working group workshop of establishment of its 2nd Pacific Perioperative Practice Bundle (PPPB) in Lautoka, Fiji. The idea of forming a Pacific OR nurses association was initially discussed on its 1st Implementation workshop on the 1st PPPB back in 2015 by the 14 Pacific Island Countries (PICs) OR nursing leaders in Suva, Fiji. Followed by IFPN approval, the PIORNA officially registered as an association in Apia, Samoa in February 2019.

Before the birth of PIORNA, their inter-island relationship initially started through a project funded by the collaborative efforts of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS), Australian College of Operating Room Nurses (ACORN), Health Education & Learning Partnerships (HE&LP) and Strengthening Clinical Services in the Pacific (SSCiP) now known as Pacific Community (SPC) based in Fiji as per origin history published in the *Journal of Perioperative Nursing in Australia, Volume 29, Number 2 Winter 2016*. From then the Pacific perioperative nurses were very eager to form an association to get more opportunities to further the Pacific perioperative nursing services.

Although the association is newly established, its development and achievement started way before the association through the greatest help and unwavering support of its proud sponsors and supporters:

1. Pacific Community (formerly known as SSCiP) – Australian agent for strengthening clinical services in the Pacific based in Fiji originated discussions of project with HE&LP through ACORN and IFPN.
2. World Health Organisation (WHO) – informed discussions on project need with RACS to address Safe surgery saves lives.
3. RACS – PIP (Lito de Silva; PIP Manager 2015) – supporting negotiations for standards development through ACORN.
4. ACORN (Jed Duff; President 2015) & IFPN (Ruth Melville; President 2015) – facilitating partnership between SSCSiP (Mabel Taoi; Project coordinator) and HE&LP (Menna Davies & Sally Sutherland) and started the project process up till now.

**PICs Developments**

As mentioned, the above sponsors continued to support the PICs with its development from the start up till now as listed:

1. **2015 up to date**: Mentoring Program for continuing strengthening of practice standard implementation in country.
2. **2018:** workshop on development of PPPB 2 on Patient Safety consisting of six standards: Surgical safety, Safe manual handling and positioning the surgical patient, Sharps safety, Managing accountable items, Handling specimens, Perioperative patient handover.
3. **2017:** Follow-up workshop for in-country implementation phase.
4. **2016:** Implementation workshop of the PPPB and Audit Assessment tools to 14 PICs leaders consist of Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga Tokelau, Tuvalu and Tuvalu and Vanuatu.
5. **2015:** Establishment of 1st Pacific Perioperative Practice Bundle (PPPB) with Audit tools on Infection Prevention consist of six standards of Hand hygiene, Perioperative Attire, Aseptic Technique, Protective Apparel, Scrubbing Gowning and Gloving, and Skin Preparation.

**PIORNA Achievements:**

1. 2019 February: PIORNA officially registered as an association in Apia Samoa.
2. 2018 October: PIORNA membership application to IFPN and officially approved in 2019.
3. The current PIORNA committee: President (Natasha Mamea – Samoa), Secretary – (Nerrie Raddie – Solomon Islands), Treasurer – (Heaven Isaia – Samoa); Executive members: Asinate Natini – Fiji (initially selected as rep of Palau), Teiraroi Bio – Kiribati, Shalvin Kumar – Fiji.

**PIORNA Additional achievements: Conferences attended by PIORNA nurses.**

1. Natasha Mamea & Matilda Nofoaiga; *Nursing Education & Learning: Preceptorship in Connecting Practice and Education – the current perspective in Samoa Hospital (*unpublished conference paper)*.* Presented at the 120th International Council of Nurses Congress, Marina Bay Sands, Singapore, June – July 2019.
2. ACORN Queensland Conference, TOWNSVILLE 2019 – Nerrie Raddie; *Standards Implementation Leading to Practice Improvements by Audit Data: Agents of Change in the Solomon Islands*
3. South Pacific Nurses Forum, Rarotonga, COOK ISLANDS 2018 – Heaven Isaia & Nerrie Raddie, Natasha Mamea, Teiraroi Bio, Asinate Naitini, Shalvin Kumar, Rouruina Taraare; *Advancement and Innovations in Pacific Perioperative Nursing Practice.*
4. ACORN & ASIORNA conference, Adelaide 2018 – Natasha Mamea, Nerrie Raddie, Teiraoi Bio, Faanimo Heaven Isaia, Asinate Naitini, Shalvin Kumar (NOVICE PAPER AWARD); *Coming of Age of the Pacific Perioperative Nurses.*

**PIORNA Future Plans**

1. PIORNA is currently discussing a 1st Pacific Perioperative Nurses Conference 2020. It is our pleasure as we are seeking more help through this first time Board meeting experience in other ways to develop the conference. The PIORNA wishes to welcome all our IFPN association members to witness the celebration of our first birthday as an association and achievements so far.
2. It is also the dream of PIORNA to seek more help on how we could develop an academic pathway for postgraduate courses to accredit our specialty as specialist nurses within our home countries. We believe that this may help enable nurse’s interest to serve in perioperative nursing to address universal health coverage contribution through safe surgery saves lives.

**PIORNA Challenges**

1. PIORNA have faced a lot of challenges many of which it due to our geographical scattered location. The internet access as our main source of communication is quite a major challenge in trying to make communication efficient for an agreement on urgent matters.
2. Limited skills and knowledge in association operation is another challenge and we are trying our best to learn and adapt as fast as we can. We still have not agreed on a membership subscription and we seek to understand in this meeting more efficient templates/ methods for professional handling of membership contributions and others.
3. The biggest challenge we faced as primary leaders of PIORNA is the sustainability of the association. Therefore we are deeply seeking experience on best strategies to motivate and inspire PIORNA nurses to keep going and strive for the best of perioperative services in the Pacific.

**Acknowledgement**

It is our great pleasure and gratitude to all the supporting sponsors for initiating the project that has bring light into the world of perioperative nursing in the Pacific Region. We had seen and experienced best outcomes as we slowly develop for more improvement.

Our special thanks to the three (3) pioneers that helped us a lot through guidance and mentoring us through our journey as a new association, Mabel Taoi, Menna Davies and Sally Sutherland. These ladies have guided us and met new friends and professors of associations which we are blessed to personally meet and build relationships with the ambassador of the Pacific Ruth Melville, President of IFPN Mona Guckian Fisher and IFPN Treasurer’s report Patrick E. Voight.

It is our biggest dream to strengthen networking with you all for service delivery improvement and building robust systems in the Pacific Region for the benefit of our populations. We wish a successful and fruitful Board meeting 2019 as it is a new and additional milestone for our history as Pacific nurses.

With warm regards.

Natasha Mamea

President of PIORNA.