



Australian College of Neonatal Nurses Inc. Low Resource Countries Special Interest Group

www.acnn.org.au
ABN 62 075 234 048

The Australian College of Neonatal Nurses Low Resource Settings Initiative Proposal to deliver Helping Babies Breathe program in Papua New Guinea

The Australian College of Neonatal Nurses (ACNN) is a national, not-for-profit organisation that serves as the peak professional body for neonatal nurses in all states of Australia. The Australian College of Neonatal Nurses is a member of the **Council of International Neonatal Nurses** (COINN). COINN is an international collaboration of National Neonatal Nursing Associations and individuals who represent nurses specialising in the care of newborn infants and their families and/or those who have a special interest in this area of nursing. As recognised global leaders in neonatal nursing care, COINN are committed to fostering excellence in neonatal nursing in both high and low resource countries and promoting: the development of neonatal nursing as a recognized global specialty; high standards of neonatal care; the enhancement of quality of care for our patients and families; activities which address decreasing health disparities and improved healthcare outcomes. ACNN shares COINN's mission.

Our Vision

ACNN is a vibrant, dynamic association of nurses specialising in the care of neonates and their families. We are committed to the promotion of excellence in the care of neonates and their families throughout Australasia and worldwide by providing education and training opportunities.

Our Mission

To inspire action and create ongoing education, clinical practice and research opportunities for nurses and health care workers who care for neonates through a global network of members and international partnerships.

Values

- ❖ Human rights for all
- ❖ Global peace and international goodwill
- ❖ Advancing nurse's potential
- ❖ Integrity and democratic decision making
- ❖ Volunteering, diversity and friendship

The Australian College of Neonatal Nurses is committed to:

- ❖ Providing a service to local, national and international communities
- ❖ Providing and promoting forums at regional, national and international levels, for the exchange of information and ideas pertaining to neonatal care.
- ❖ Enhancing the professional development of neonatal nurses in relation to education and research
- ❖ Providing expert advice to, and professional communication with government bodies and other professional associations on matters pertaining to neonatal nursing
- ❖ Fostering international liaisons which promote neonatal nursing

It is the policy of ACNN to be concerned with national and international issues that relate to its objects and programs. On matters of party politics and political controversy between nations, and of sectarian religion, ACNN maintains a position of strict neutrality.



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Project: Helping Babies Breathe

The Low Resource Settings Initiative is a project of the Low Resource Countries Special Interest Group of ACNN who's primary focus is Millennium Development Goal 4, specifically addressing newborn mortality in the under 5 age group, throughout Australia's neighbouring low resource countries within South East Asia and Sovereign Oceania regions.

One of the primary causes of mortality in the newborn period is the failure of neonatal care, partly due to the lack of skilled birth attendants to deliver appropriate resuscitation and care at birth within the first 24 hours of life. The **World Health Organization** estimates that one million babies die each year from birth asphyxia (e.g. inability to breathe immediately after delivery). The Helping Babies Breathe (HBB) program addresses this challenge as well as helping to move forward Millennium Development Goal 4 reducing child mortality by two thirds from 1990 to 2015.

This project will initially be located in Papua New Guinea (PNG) focusing on hospitals and clinics at Goroka and the highlands and later involving other areas of PNG including Port Moresby, Lae and Ramu and outlying Aid Posts, as needed or requested by local authorities.

Helping Babies Breathe – information courtesy of <http://www.helpingbabiesbreathe.org/>

Helping Babies Breathe (HBB) is an evidence-based educational program to teach neonatal resuscitation techniques in resource-limited areas. It was developed on the premise that assessment at birth and simple newborn care are things that every baby deserves. The initial steps taught in HBB can save lives and give a much better start to many babies who struggle to breathe at birth. The focus is to meet the needs of every baby born.

Helping Babies Breathe is an initiative of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), US Agency for International Development (USAID), Saving Newborn Lives, the National Institute of Child Health and Development, and a number of other global health organizations.

The objective of HBB is to train birth attendants in developing countries in the essential skills of newborn resuscitation, with the goal of having at least one person who is skilled in neonatal resuscitation at the birth of every baby

A key concept of HBB is **The Golden Minute**®: Within one minute of birth, a baby should be breathing well or should be ventilated with a bag and mask. The Golden Minute identifies the steps that a birth attendant must take immediately after birth to evaluate the baby and stimulate breathing.

The HBB curriculum is designed to be used as part of a coordinated educational approach to early neonatal care and can be effectively combined with other curricula. It can be locally taught to birth attendants in diverse venues and locations. HBB focuses on practices that all persons who care for babies at birth can learn to care for healthy babies and/or assist babies who do not breathe on their own.

Objectives of the low resource settings project

To reduce the risk of neonatal mortality by improving skills of healthcare workers who work with newborns (doctors, nurses, midwives, health extension officers, nursing, midwifery and medical



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students), community healthcare workers and birth attendants. This will be accomplished by providing helping babies breathe program.

PNG Government Commitment and Responsibilities

Government approval of ACNN to facilitate and deliver the HBB program
In-kind support of the HBB training country-wide
Promote the training within PNG

Provincial Health Authority Commitment and Responsibilities

In-kind support to deliver the HBB program
Promote the HBB program within the province
Facilitate a training area
Promote and support the attendance of healthcare workers, community healthcare workers and birth attendants to the training sessions
Facilitate on-site hospital accommodation or other local accommodation

ACNN Commitment and Responsibilities

ACNN will provide training if a minimum of 12 attendees can be guaranteed for any one training session
ACNN will provide training free of charge
ACNN will provide attendees a per diem allowance, and for those attendees who require to travel to Goroka: road transport costs and accommodation to a maximum of two (2) nights. Meals will be provided for all personnel during training. The per diem allowance will be to a maximum equivalent of the attendee's daily wage.
ACNN will provide a master trainer to oversee all training programs
ACNN will provide members to assist with training, who have been trained to deliver the HBB program
ACNN members will be volunteering their time and funding their flight to PNG

Consultation

In the past six months we have liaised with:

- AusAID,
- Professor Pat Brodie AM, Midwifery Advisor and Mentor, PNG Maternal and Child Health Initiative, WHO Collaborating Centre for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Development, Faculty of Nursing, Midwifery and Health,
- Clinical Midwifery Facilitators, WHO PNG Maternal and Child Health Initiative (Funded by AusAID) WHO Collaborating Centre for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Development Faculty of Nursing, Midwifery and Health University of Technology, Sydney,
- Mary Kililo Technical Advisor, Human Resource Training, Curriculum Development & Staff Development at PNG National Department of Health,
- Roland Barnabas, Paediatrician, Port Moresby General Hospital, PNG,
- Ms Maria Goma, Nurse Consultant, Goroka Hospital
- Sonia Korowi, Director of Nursing at Goroka Hospital,



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- Maggie Kenyon, Clinical Midwifery Facilitator WHO PNG Maternal and Child Health Initiative (Funded by AusAID) WHO Collaborating Centre for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Development Faculty of Nursing, Midwifery and Health University of Technology, Sydney.
- Helping babies breathe – AAP training consultants.

Consultation is proceeding with Saving Newborn Lives, Every Newborn Initiative, and Laerdal Global Health and Rotary Australia to provide HBB training equipment and other NGO organisations who have expressed interest in partnership with this grass roots project. All of these organisations have expressed great interest in providing training to ensure that a skilled birth attendant is available for all births.

Deliverables to healthcare workers and birth attendants in PNG

- Deliver HBB program at least twice a year for a period of 5 years, dependent upon agreement between ACNN and local authorities and government support, and ACNN having the funding capacity.
- Our goal would be to provide HBB training for up to 80% of healthcare workers and birthing attendants in Goroka province over 5 years who would be competent to deliver early resuscitation and newborn interventions (warmth, infection control, early breastfeeding), dependent upon securing funding.
- Provide HBB training resources to allow for low dose, high frequency practice.
- To create a sustainable and capacity building program for HBB.
- Our goal would be to train up to ten local healthcare workers and/or birth attendants to become trainers for HBB over a number of years.
- Provide sponsorships/grants to attend the Australian College of Neonatal Nurses Annual Conference. The scholarship will cover the travel, accommodation and living costs to attend the conference.
- To provide ongoing professional support to nurses and midwives in PNG.
- Contribute to the development of and promote Standards of Care for neonatal nurses and midwives in PNG.
- Assist and support PNG neonatal nurses to establish a professional association, at their request.

Implementation Plan

First half of 2014

- Site visit to PNG (Goroka Hospital) to conduct a needs assessment in conjunction with local staff and discuss a plan for engaging healthcare workers and birth attendants. This site visit will include discussing general logistics such as potential training venues, accommodation alternatives, transport, advertising methods, and liaison and contact personnel.

Second half of 2014

- Undertake up to a 7 day visit to Goroka, PNG. During this visit we will plan to undertake training days for a minimum of 12 people up to a maximum of 40 people per training day.



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This proposed schedule is flexible, is a guide only and will be adapted as required.

Proposed schedule

Day 1 – arrive in Goroka

Day 2 – set up for training, visit hospital and health authorities and other institutions as requested.

Day 3 – conduct training 1 (10 am – 3 pm)

Day 4 – conduct training 2 (10 am – 3 pm)

Day 5 – conduct training 3 (10 am – 3 pm)

Day 6 – conduct training 4 if required (10 am – 3 pm)

Day 7 – pack up, sightseeing, depart Goroka

Evaluation and Sustainability

The program will be evaluated after each training day and on an ongoing basis, using HBB evaluation and ACNN survey tools. We will collect data on the number of people trained and other data that might be relevant and agreed upon by all parties such as maternal and infant outcomes.

We hope to maintain long term sustainability by having continued ongoing training and by establishing a robust collaboration between ACNN and healthcare workers and birth attendants in PNG. ACNN has approximately 700 members, with many members expressing a strong desire to contribute to global health initiatives and who wish to take part in facilitating the HBB program in Australia's neighbouring countries.

Reporting

We will report to the Australian College of Neonatal Nurses National Executive, The Council of Neonatal Nurses board and the Goroka Hospital Board and the PNG National Department of Health, the successes of the project and consider future planning to maintain similar sustainable programs throughout PNG.

Project Facilitator is Dr Karen New, the Professional Officer of ACNN,
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