



# PSRH Newsletter November 2025



## PNG O&G SOCIETY 2025 ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE.



It was an honour for PSRH to be part of the PNG O&G Society 2025 Annual Scientific Conference. *Theme: Honouring our Past, Healing the Present and Building our Future together.* PSRH would like to acknowledge and congratulate the newly elected PNG O&G society Executives:

**President: Dr Robert Jones**  
**V/President: Dr Francisca Kopunye**  
**Treasurer: Dr Gunzee Gawin**  
**Secretary: Dr Pauline Masta**

*Dr Nancy Hamura*



### Message from PNG O&G President

To our colleagues and friends of the Pacific Society of Reproductive Health,

The Papua New Guinea O&G Society is honored to serve as your newly elected executives. As a fellow advocate for the health of women and families, I believe our shared vision is to create a future where every woman in the Pacific has access to the highest standard of reproductive health care.

Challenges like preventable deaths and the lack of access to basic care require a coordinated regional response. We can achieve so much by working together and building each other up. The new executives look forward to partnering with the PSRH to make this vision a reality.

Blessings.

*Dr Robert Jones*

### Newly elected executives





Meet Dr Hilda Tanimia PSRH  
Country Coordinator,  
Papua New Guinea



I'm an Obstetrician and Gynaecologist from New Ireland PNG and work at PMGH. I am passionate about improving safe and respectful care for women and newborns. I work in the public hospital system, supporting clinical services, teaching, and mentoring junior staff across both urban and rural settings.

I hope to strengthen connections between PNG clinicians and our Pacific colleagues. My focus is on supporting training like EmOC or PEMNeT, encouraging young health professionals, and sharing PNG's experiences with the wider region.

Maternal and newborn deaths remain high, especially in remote areas where resources are limited. Strengthening teamwork, emergency skills, and access to essential supplies is vital. PSRH's support through training and advocacy makes a real difference.

We're all part of one Pacific family working toward safer births. Let's keep learning from each other, sharing ideas, and supporting one another — together we can make lasting change. Hopefully see you all in Tonga.



Soon I am going to run Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care simulation workshop in Rabaul bringing together midwives, nurses, and doctors. I am hoping that it will improved teamwork, confidence, and communication during emergencies. We have been lucky to gain funds from UniCEF.





# Meet Cherolyn Pokawin Polomon PSRH Papua New Guinea Coordinator



Cherolyn, from Manus Island in Papua New Guinea, has worked as a nurse midwife for over 20 years across several hospitals. From 2018–2022 she coordinated the Midwifery course at Pacific Adventist University and is now pursuing her PhD at the University of Technology Sydney through the Australia Awards program. She continues to mentor and support reproductive health workers across PNG and the Pacific.



Her vision is to strengthen national SRH policies, champion inclusive and youth-friendly services, and integrate gender-based violence support into reproductive health care. She also seeks to formalise the Midwifery Community of Practice (MidCoP) as part of PNG's health system to bridge rural and hospital care.

### Key challenges in PNG

- High maternal mortality
- Limited access to family planning and youth services
- Adolescent pregnancy
- High rates of gender-based violence
- Poor rural health infrastructure and menstrual health gaps

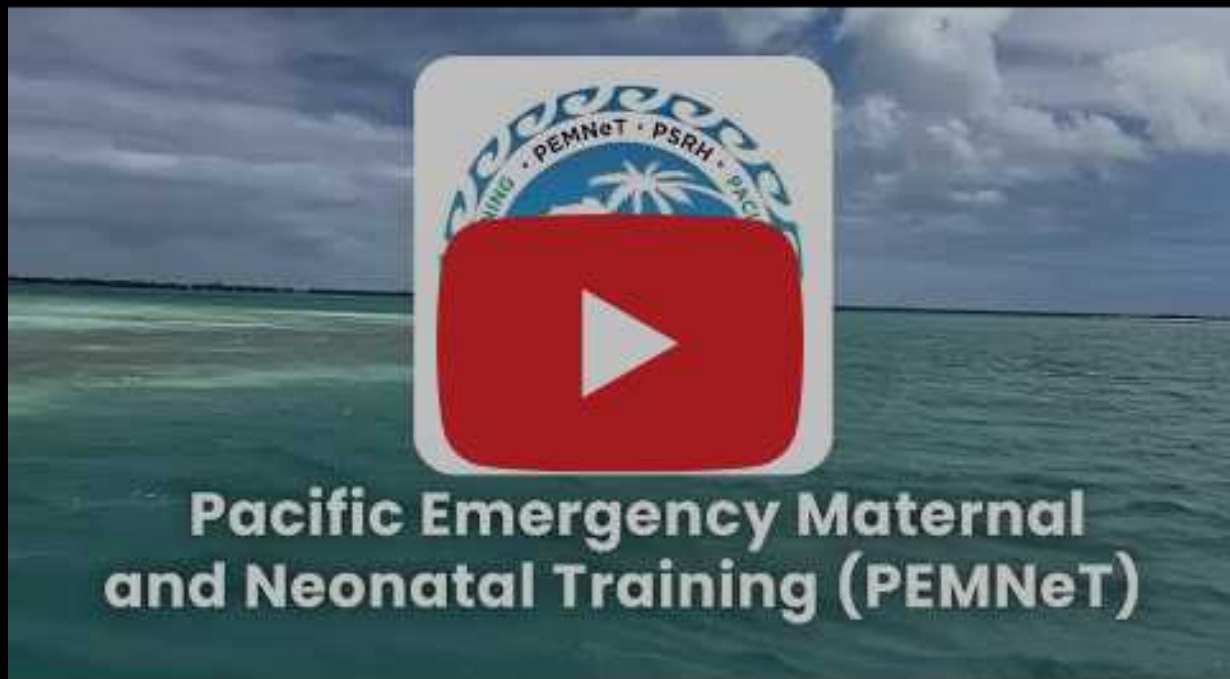
She sees PSRH's role as vital—through universal contraception access, skilled birth care, emergency obstetric training, policy advocacy, and community/youth engagement.

Cherolyn leads the Midwifery Community of Practice, connecting rural health workers with senior midwives, obstetricians, and partners such as UNFPA, UNICEF, and WHO. This platform has directly saved lives through faster referrals, shared resources, and real-time clinical support, giving rural midwives the confidence and backing they need.

*"I warmly invite colleagues across the Pacific to collaborate in building similar Midwifery Communities of Practice. Together, we can strengthen leadership, share culturally grounded practices, and advocate for better maternal and newborn care."*



[Click on the reel below to see what PEMNeT is all about!](#)





# Strengthening PEMNeT Through a New Framework



The Pacific Emergency Maternal and Neonatal Training (PEMNeT) programme has become a cornerstone of PSRH's work in strengthening emergency obstetric and newborn care across the Pacific. As PEMNeT grows, so does the need for consistency and transparency in how training is requested, approved, delivered, and reported.

To support this, PSRH has introduced a PEMNeT Framework—clear guidelines that ensure training is delivered safely, consistently, and in a coordinated way across Pacific Island Countries. The framework is not simply administrative—it reflects our commitment to governance, accountability, and alignment with national priorities. It ensures PEMNeT moves beyond ad hoc arrangements to become a sustainable programme within Pacific health systems.

The framework sets out:

- Clear governance structures – oversight by the PSRH Board, implementation by the PEMNeT Subcommittee, and strong in-country leadership from appointed coordinators.
- Alignment with country plans – training requests endorsed by Ministries of Health or facility leadership, directly linking PEMNeT to national priorities, including Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response (MPDSR) strategies.
- Transparent processes – requests submitted via a standard form on the PSRH website, reviewed by the Subcommittee, with funding sought for countries. The form is quick and simple to complete, designed to save time and strengthen communication. It is available online, making it easy for coordinators and Ministries to initiate requests.
- Accountability to funders and members – consistent documentation, evaluation, and reporting.

By standardising procedures, we strengthen the credibility of PEMNeT with partners and donors and make it easier for countries to integrate regular emergency training into their workforce development calendars. This is vital for sustainability: enabling national PEMNeT teams—midwifery and medical leads with local facilitators—to deliver training in their own facilities and support nearby health units. The PEMNeT Framework shows that PEMNeT is more than a course—it is a long-term programme. It builds health team skills, improves emergency preparedness, and helps save the lives of mothers and babies across our region.



## Pacific Society for Reproductive Health (PSRH)

Save the Date:  
14 - 18 September 2026, Tonga

*Fakakaukau ki he kaha'u  
Building and Sustaining Our Health  
Workforce*







# WEBINAR

## Respectful Care in O&G – Reflections from the Pacific

PSRH closes the year with an inspiring panel of Pacific practitioners reflecting on how culture, teamwork, and small changes in daily practice can shape respectful, woman-centred care.



**20 November 2025**

**5pm AUS (AEST), Port  
Moresby**

**6pm AUS (AEDT),  
Vanuatu & Solomon  
Islands**

**7pm Fiji**

**8pm New Zealand,  
Tonga & Samoa**

*Webinar is FREE but Registration is essential  
click here or the link below to register*

## COMING SOON

PSRH will be calling for abstracts for oral  
and poster presentations for the  
September 2026 Tonga Conference

***Theme: Fakakaukau ki he kaha'u  
Building and Sustaining Our Health Workforce***

Watch the newsletters and your emails for more  
information in coming weeks.





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Contact PSRH at:

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