



PSRH Newsletter March 2026

Are you coming to Tonga?

PSRH Conference is the 14 - 18 September 2026

Abstracts - deadline 15 March

Members Full Travel scholarships - deadline 31 March

Early Bird registration - deadline 30 April

All the information and registration is on the PSRH website



16TH PSRH BIENNIAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE



*Building and sustaining the Pacific SRH
workforce through strengthened regional collaboration
Fakaka'ukau ki he kaha'u*

14-18 September 2026, Nuku'alofa, Tonga

KEY DATES

- 14-15 Sept 2026 – Pre-Conference Workshops
- 16-18 Sept 2026 – Main Conference
- 18 Sept 2026 – Biennial General Meeting
- 15 Jan 2026 – Abstract Submissions Open
- 15 Mar 2026 – Abstract Submissions Close
- 15 Jan 2026 – Registrations Open (Early Bird)

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

- Pre-conference clinical and professional development workshops
- Keynote sessions, plenaries, panels, and debates
- Research presentations: oral, panel, and poster formats
- Partner and sponsor exhibition space

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Face-to-face event only
- Registration required for all delegates
- Travel, accommodation, visas & insurance at own arrangement
- Scholarships available for PSRH Members

HOSPITALITY & WELLBEING

- 16 Sept 2026 – Sunrise Waterfront Walk
- 17 Sept 2026 – Breakfast Masterclass, Conference, PSRH Cultural Night & Conference Dinner
- 18th Sept 2026 - Conference



Submit an abstract



Conference registration



Join PSRH



any issues please email the Secretariat at info@prsh.org.nz

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS



The PSRH organizing committee invites you to submit an abstract for our upcoming conference theme is "**Fakakaukau ki he kaha'u**" "**Building and sustaining the Pacific SRH workforce through strengthened regional collaboration**", focusing on innovative and evidence based practices in reproductive health and sustainable workforce approaches and practices. We welcome submissions from researchers, practitioners, and students to share their latest work.



Tonga
14 - 18 September 2026



Fakakaukau ki he kaha'u ***Building and sustaining the Pacific SRH workforce through strengthened regional collaboration***

PSRH invites abstracts that reflect the conference theme. Presentation formats will include 15-minute oral sessions, 3-5-minute 'Three Minute Thesis' style talks, panel discussions, and poster presentations

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Abstract: maximum 300 words (English only, excluding title & references)
- Must include: title, author(s), and affiliation(s)
- Clearly state: research question, methodology, key findings, outcomes and implications
- Nominate one presenter: include a short bio (max. 80 words)
- Complete the application form, '**submit an abstract**' on the 2026 PSRH Conference website page

Deadline: 5pm (Fiji), 15 March 2026



WWW.PSRH.ORG.NZ



INFO@PSRH.ORG.NZ



PSRH SCHOLARSHIP 16TH PSRH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

Building and sustaining the Pacific SRH workforce through strengthened regional collaboration

PSRH are offering two scholarships to Pacific based health Professionals to attend the Biennial Conference in:

Nuku'alofa, Tonga 14–18 September 2026

*The scholarships are proudly supported by the
St Vincent's Pacific Health Fund.*



SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS:

- Flights
- Accommodation
- Conference registration
- Participation in the full conference programme

ELIGIBILITY:

- Current PSRH membership
- Pacific based health professional
- Agree and abide by the conditions of the scholarship, complete the application in the PSRH - Members Lounge

Applications close: 31 March 2026

Notifications by: 15 April 2026

www.psrh.org.nz

secretariat@psrh.org.nz



How to Apply:

Members: Log into the PSRH Members' Lounge and complete the application form.

Non-Members: You must first become a PSRH member, then complete the application within the Members' Lounge.



Meet the Nauru Coordinator

Vae Keppa



What has shaped your leadership journey?

My leadership journey has been shaped by frontline nursing, crisis management, and guiding staff through complex transitions. These experiences taught me the value of calm decisionmaking, clear communication, and empathy. Working with diverse teams and communities strengthened my commitment to fairness, unity, and highquality care, shaping me into a leader who supports others and drives meaningful change.

One contribution you are most proud of?

I am most proud of supporting mothers who truly needed guidance that made a real difference for them and their newborns. I also value my contribution to the maternity team, especially stepping in during busy periods like multiple simultaneous deliveries, ensuring safe, timely care when it mattered most.

WHAT FIRST DREW YOU TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH?

I was drawn to reproductive health after witnessing how informed, respectful care transforms the lives of women and families. Supporting choice, dignity, and access inspired me to contribute to a field where education, empowerment, and culturally grounded practice directly improve community wellbeing and longterm health outcomes.

WHAT DOES THE PACIFIC SRH WORKFORCE NEED NEXT?

The Pacific SRH workforce needs stronger training pathways, consistent mentorship, and better resourcing to deliver quality, culturally grounded care. Strengthening data systems, investing in communitybased education, and supporting leaders at all levels will help build a confident, resilient workforce capable of meeting evolving reproductive health needs.

Contact Vae at nrccordinator1@psrh.org.nz



Expanding Subspecialty Networks: SOMANZ–PSRH Collaboration

Subspecialty network forums have strengthened peer discussion, case review and regional access to specialist input. Building on this model, PSRH is launching a pilot educational collaboration with the Society of Obstetric Medicine of Australia and New Zealand (SOMANZ), extending structured regional learning into obstetric medicine.

The first session will be held on **Thursday 26 March 2026**, with monthly virtual, case-based discussions to follow. Topics reflect Pacific clinical priorities, and participation is free for Pacific health professionals.

Discussions will be collegial in nature. Clinical responsibility remains with local treating teams. Registration **opening soon** – **free** for Pacific health professionals.



MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARIAT

Across the Pacific, sustaining and strengthening the reproductive health workforce requires more than isolated training events. It requires structured subspecialty networks, practical skills development, regional collaboration, and investment in future leaders.

This month's updates reflect that approach in action — from expanding obstetric medicine collaboration and continuing our Gynae Oncology MDT forums, to strengthening gender-based violence response through Veilomani, advancing emergency maternal care through PEMNeT, and preparing for our 2026 regional gathering in Tonga.

Each initiative is grounded in the same principle: building Pacific capability through partnership, peer learning, and long-term workforce support.

Veilomani 2026 Strengthening Health Worker Response to GBV

The 2026 Veilomani Training commenced in February under the SPACE Project (Strengthening Pacific Women's Access to Health and Safety), delivered using the Project ECHO model — "moving knowledge, not people."

The SPACE Project is led by Fiji National University (FNU), through the Fiji Institute of Pacific Health Research, in partnership with the Pacific Society for Reproductive Health (PSRH), St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne, and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The programme receives funding and technical support from Pacific Women Lead at SPC, supported by the Australian Government.

Veilomani — a Fijian concept reflecting love, peace, and constructive collaboration — brings Pacific health and community workers together to strengthen health-system responses to gender-based violence.

Delivered online and free of charge, the 15-week programme runs **weekly on Thursdays (1–2pm Suva time) and will conclude on 28 May 2026**. Sessions focus on identification and documentation of GBV, referral pathways, collaborative practice and risk management, disability inclusion, cultural perspectives, disaster contexts, and health worker self-care.

Veilomani 2026 continues to strengthen regional capacity, supporting a confident and coordinated Pacific workforce response to gender-based violence.





Contact PSRH at:

 info@psrh.org.nz

 www.psrh.org.nz



[View email in browser](#)

[update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)