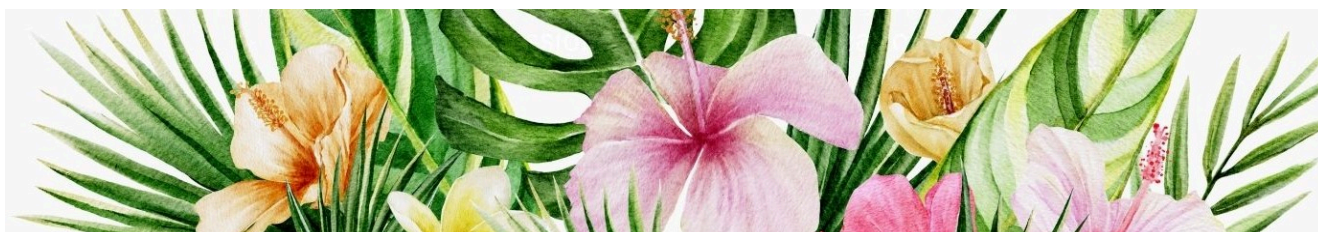




# Newsletter

## November 2024

A background image of a tropical beach with turquoise water, white sand, and a blue sky with clouds. A large white diamond shape is overlaid on the center.

  
*Save  
the date*  
**PSRH CONFERENCE  
IN TONGA  
14 - 18 SEPT  
2026**

# PSRH PACIFIC EMERGENCY MATERNAL AND NEONATAL TRAINING (PEMNET) WEBINAR



## 21ST NOVEMBER

5pm AU (AEST)

6pm AU (ADST)

5pm Port Moresby

6pm Vanuatu

7pm Fiji,

8pm NZ, Tonga 8pm Samoa *N.B. Day light savings in some countries*

**Register by clicking on the link**

*Certificates of attendance will be emailed once the evaluation is completed*

**[Click here to REGISTER for the Webinar](#)**

**View**



# Profile



**Dr Rebecca Mitchell,**  
**RANZCOG**  
**Representative to the**  
**PSRH Board**

## Can you briefly describe your career journey and your current role?

I grew up in a small town called Foster in South Gippsland in Victoria, Australia. My Dad is a rural general practitioner, and his work inspired me to study medicine. Having graduated from Monash University in Melbourne, my partner (now husband) and I moved to Queensland, and I was able to pursue specialty training in obstetrics & gynaecology. I mainly worked in Townsville and Cairns, and also had the opportunity to undertake volunteer roles in Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands. This initiated my strong connection with the Pacific, and led to my engagement with colleagues across the region. One highlight has been working with Dr Leanne Panisi and colleagues in Honiara to develop the O&G Standard Treatment Manual for Solomon Islands. I now live near Geelong in Victoria and have public and private clinical commitments, alongside my PSRH responsibilities.

## What inspired you to join the PSRH Board?

Pacific Islanders are some of the warmest and caring people I have ever met, and I really value the relationships and networks that I have built with Pacific colleagues over the years. This has provided strong motivation to continue working collaboratively on O&G capacity development projects in the Pacific. I am the RANZCOG representative on the PSRH Board, because I am Deputy Chair of the RANZCOG Global Health Committee. This provides a really important link between PSRH and RANZCOG. Most importantly, I love the work and find it extremely rewarding. I constantly feel energised by the passion and commitment that Pacific colleagues bring to their O&G practice and reproductive health development activities.

## What have been your main contributions to PSRH so far?

Outside of PSRH conferences, my main contribution to the organisation has been through the PEMNeT program. Along with Sharron, Amanda and the broader PSRH PEMNeT team, I have been able to support development and delivery of the training package. Highlights have been the opportunity to deliver the training in Tonga and Kiribati, as well as at PSRH meetings. It has been such a privilege to be invited to these countries, and work alongside local midwives, nurses and doctors to improve maternal healthcare capacity.

## What's one major challenge you've faced in your career and how did you handle it?

Balancing competing interests is a constant struggle. There is significant unmet need for reproductive health services across the Pacific, and sometimes it is hard to know where to focus your efforts. I have decided to concentrate on maternal obstetric training, particularly by developing relationships between PSRH and PROMPT, the global maternity emergency program. This is important to ensure that the what happens in the Pacific is contextualised to the region, but also aligns with global efforts.

## What do you hope to see in the future of reproductive health in the Pacific region?

I really hope that PSRH continues to grow as a strong, Pacific-led society that provides meaningful networking and resource-sharing functions for the regional reproductive health community. It is such a vital forum, and there is so much work to be done. By pursuing donor and grants funding, we will be able to further professionalise our work and ensure that it has a significant impact where it matters most.





# Improving Maternal and Neonatal Health in the Pacific:

## JOIN PEMNET TRAINING

Every day, three women in the Pacific die from pregnancy and childbirth-related causes.

You can help change this by attending the Pacific Emergency Maternal and Neonatal Training (PEMNeT) course at the PSRH Biennial Conference.

### About PEMNeT

PEMNeT is a key PSRH initiative aimed at reducing maternal and neonatal deaths in Pacific Island Countries that can enhance maternity healthcare outcomes by providing hands-on, in-service training to healthcare providers. We commend the efforts of Prof Aiono Alec Ekeroma, Matthews Matthai, Bronwyn Robinson, and the Pacific SRH clinicians and midwives in creating the original PEMNeT Manual and Facilitator's Guide. Since then, the PEMNeT Editorial Committee has added a 'How to Run PEMNeT Guide' and a Pacific Teamwork Module. We've also adopted the PROMPT Course Manual.

We expect our sports teams to practice. Our health teams also need regular practical training in emergency skills and teamwork to be effective. PEMNeT is a hands-on/simulation course, not just lectures.



### Why Attend PEMNeT?

**Develop Emergency Skills:** The course focuses on improving the ability of healthcare teams to handle obstetric and neonatal emergencies through practical training.

**Develop Teamwork Skills:** Mortality reviews repeatedly find that poor teamwork is a significant contributor to preventable deaths. PEMNeT provides the opportunity for teams to practice teamwork along with clinical skills together.

**Sustainable Impact:** Local healthcare providers receive training to lead local PEMNeT programmes, ensuring ongoing in-service training and maximum benefits.

### New Partnerships and Initiatives

PROMPT Collaboration: PEMNeT is collaborating with the PROMPT Maternity Foundation (PMF) adapting their PROMPT Global, evidence-based materials such as emergency checklists to enhance training. Watch the PROMPT video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w1Pu6WOu7Mc>

### Pacific SMILE Initiative

Pacific SMILE Initiative: PEMNeT is part of Pacific SMILE, which sets up simulation training in six midwifery and nursing schools across the region. Learn more about Pacific SMILE <https://burnet.edu.au>

### Pacific Society for Reproductive Health

PMF are pleased to announce that we are collaborating with the Pacific Society for Reproductive Health (PSRH) to support the adaptation and localisation of the new **PROMPT Global** training resources for use within their unique geographical area. PSRH is a non-governmental organisation which encourages the professional development of reproductive and neonatal health care workers across the diverse geography, economy and population of Pacific Island countries.



PMF = PROMPT Maternity Foundation

OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS THE PSRH NEWSLETTER WILL FEATURE A 'PEMNET COUNTRY SNAPSHOT'. WATCH OUT FOR TONGA IN OUR DECEMBER ISSUE

**Join PEMNeT and help make a difference in maternal and neonatal health in the Pacific.**



PROMPT Video  
[Click here](#)

Pacific SMILE  
[Click here](#)



ASIA & OCEANIA FEDERATION  
OF OBSTETRICS & GYNAECOLOGY

Free  
Registration

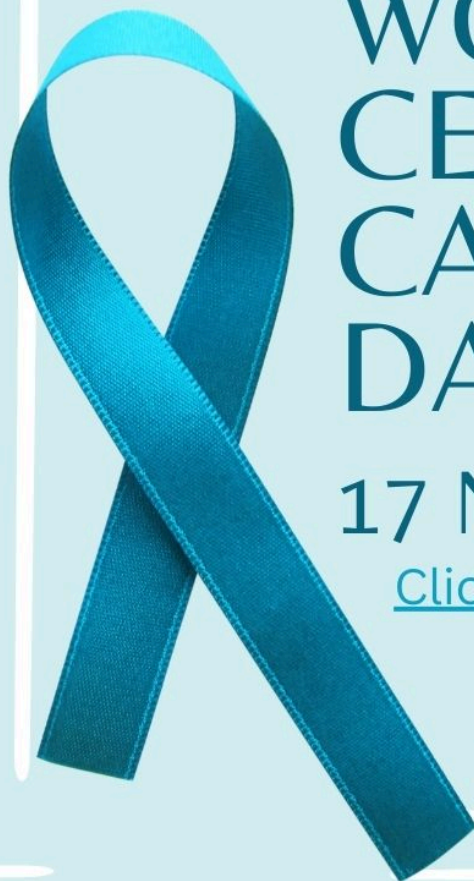


## Webinar: Update of Vulvar Cancer Management

Date: 9 Nov 2024 (HKT 08:20 – 12:15)

Organized by the Oncology Committee, AOFOG

Chairmen: Prof. S. Sampathkumari (Committee member), Dr. Ka Yu Tse (Chair)



# WORLD CERVICAL CANCER DAY

## 17 NOVEMBER

[Click here to read more  
from WHO on  
elimination day.](#)



*Thank you!*



Many thanks to  
Dr Alice Lee and  
the team for  
sharing their  
knowledge and  
an informative  
presentation on  
Hep B



Contact the secretariat team at  
[secretariat@psrh.org.nz](mailto:secretariat@psrh.org.nz).

Alternatively, you can contact  
[volunteerkj@psrh.org.nz](mailto:volunteerkj@psrh.org.nz) or the Head of  
Secretariat at [amanda.noovao-hill@psrh.org.nz](mailto:amanda.noovao-hill@psrh.org.nz)



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