



# COMMONWEALTH NURSES FEDERATION

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## CHPA MEETS COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY GENERAL ABOUT THREAT TO HEALTH



<http://www.medicalaidfilms.org>

Representatives of the Commonwealth Health Professions Alliance, of which the CNF is a founding member and the secretary, met with the Commonwealth Secretary General on 24 September 2012 to discuss the proposals outlined in a Discussion Paper and a follow-up Scoping Paper about a strategic plan for the Commonwealth Secretariat 2013-2016 in which the Secretary General proposed to disband the Division within the Commonwealth Secretariat that has responsibility for health, education and gender and make 'health' an area of 'diminished focus and external spin off'. This means that the Commonwealth Secretariat would no longer put any resources toward health (or education); that there would be no staff within the Commonwealth Secretariat with health as an area of responsibility; and that responsibility for health at a Commonwealth level would be abrogated to unnamed external organisations. The proposed strategic plan listed two main areas of focus: democracy and development.

The Scoping Paper, while mentioning the importance of universal coverage for health; the Millennium Development Goals; and the need for the Commonwealth Secretariat to be involved in setting targets post the MDGs; still stated that health would no longer be an area of responsibility within the Commonwealth Secretariat.

At the meeting with the Secretary General, the CHPA argued that good health is the cornerstone of, and essential to, a country's development. An unhealthy population not only places an economic burden on a country's health system, but unhealthy people cannot contribute economically to their country or participate in the development process. Neither can they advocate for or participate in the democratic government of their country. Good health is the fundamental foundation on which democracy and development is built. CHPA members gave the Secretary General specific examples of where the Commonwealth Secretariat had successfully led the way in health initiatives that no other organisation would have been able to achieve.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Secretary General encouraged the CHPA to make a further submission. A copy of the CHPA submission and a letter sent by the President of the CNF to the Secretary General can be found on the CNF website: <http://www.commonwealthnurses.org>. A copy of the Discussion Paper and the Scoping Paper can be found on the website of the CHPA: <http://www.chpa.co>.

In the submission, the CHPA has sought the retention of health as a priority area for the Commonwealth Secretariat in the strategic plan 2013-2016; staff who have health as their area of responsibility; and resources to ensure that health activities can be continued. The CHPA has also listed in its submission a range of health projects where the CHPA and the Commonwealth Secretariat could work in partnership to improve the health of citizens of the Commonwealth.

Medical Aid Films (MAF) produces innovative training and education films on maternal, infant and child health. The films are very clear, easy to download, accurate, and informative. The short animated films can be downloaded free from the internet to computers, mobile phones and other digital media. Some of the wonderful films produced by MAF are outlined below but there are many others. Their website is well worth a visit and CNF can highly recommend their films which CNF intends to use in all future maternal and child health training. Films are also available in French and Swahili.



### Prevention and Management of Primary Postpartum Haemorrhage

As well as explaining how a healthy childbirth should occur, this film teaches what PPH is, how to diagnose it and the steps to follow to prevent maternal death from PPH. It also provides information about how predict a PPH, and how to prevent it.



### Ten Steps to Safe Delivery

This film follows Neema, a village birth attendant, while she helps to deliver a baby in a rural setting where there is no access to trained health workers. It teaches 10 key steps that will lead to a safe delivery, including cutting the cord with a new clean razor blade.



### Neonatal Resuscitation

This film teaches the essential steps to safely and effectively perform neonatal resuscitation.



### Warning Signs in Pregnancy

This film discusses simple procedures such as basic hygiene, knowing and recognising the importance of timely referral, and preventing deaths from sepsis and tetanus.



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## COMING EVENTS



SOUTH PACIFIC  
NURSES FORUM

### 16th South Pacific Nurses Forum

*The future of nursing and midwifery: where are we heading?*

Monday 19 - Thursday 22 November 2012  
Leonda By The Yarra Hawthorn, Victoria, Australia

For more information go to: <http://www.spnf.org.au>



10<sup>th</sup> CNF Europe Region Conference

*Advancing nursing and midwifery through evidence based practice*  
15-16 March 2013 Larnaca Cyprus

### CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Closing date for abstracts: Friday 14 December 2012  
For more information go to: <http://www.cyna.org>



### ICN 25th Quadrennial Congress

*Equity and Access to Health Care*

18-23 May 2013 Melbourne Australia

**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN**

Go to: <http://www.icn2013.ch/en/>

## TANZANIA DEVELOPS NATIONAL CPD PROGRAM

Tanzania was one of six countries awarded a Year 2 ARC (African Regulatory Collaborative) grant in 2012. Tanzania's proposal was to develop a national continuing education program for nurses and midwives. Tanzania already had a clause in their legislation which required nurses and midwives to undertake CPD in order to renew their practising license however no formal program had been developed by the Tanzania Nursing and Midwifery Council. The ARC grant provided the funding and the opportunity for the Tanzania ARC Team to develop the national program. The Tanzania Team consisted of the Tanzania Nursing and Midwifery Council, the Tanzania Chief Nurse, The Tanzania National Nursing Association, and a representative from the nursing and midwifery education sector. The CNF provided technical assistance in the development of the program.



## ARC VISITS DENOSA

The first learning session for the six countries awarded ARC grants in Year 2 of the initiative (Botswana, Kenya, Tanzania, Swaziland, Uganda, and Zimbabwe), was held in September in Pretoria, South Africa. In addition to listening to experts, sharing experiences, and networking, participants had the opportunity to visit the offices of DENOSA (Democratic Nursing Organisation of South Africa) where they were warmly welcomed by staff with gifts and refreshments. DENOSA General Secretary, Thembeke Gwagwa discussed the relationship between a professional nursing association and a trade union and the advantages to and challenges for DENOSA in having both professional and industrial responsibilities covered by the one organisation. ARC participants rated the visit to DENOSA as the highlight of their learning session and their visit to Pretoria.



Thembeke Gwagwa, DENOSA General Secretary

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