

PICNet:
TERMS OF REFERENCE



March 2024



PICNet: Pacific Infection Control Network

1. Introduction

The Pacific Infection Control Network (PICNet) is one of the six services of the Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN). Its role is to provide a platform for Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) officers and to support information sharing between Pacific IPC focal points as well as regional development partners. The overall aim of PICNet is to provide regional ownership of, and a means to strengthen capacity in IPC program strengthening, outbreak preparedness and response and healthcare associated infection surveillance with the ultimate goal to reduce healthcare associated infections and antimicrobial resistance in the the Pacific Region.

2. Responsibilities

Within the framework of the PPHSN:

- To set the minimum standards for Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) in Pacific Island Countries Territories (PICTs), with adapted evidence-based/best practices
- Make recommendations on key IPC priority issues, and strategic directions in the region.
- To strengthen IPC systems and program capacity in PICTs.
- Provide a mechanism for information sharing and transfer of best practises between countries.
- To share IPC experiences and strengthen partnerships towards addressing IPC priorities in PICTs.
- Provide and encourage a mechanism for networking between PICTs, development partners, service providers and coordinate with other services of the PPHSN programs.
- To develop and maintain standardized healthcare associated infection (HAI) surveillance and response mechanisms in collaboration with the laboratory (microbiology).
- Strengthen IPC profile visibility and advocacy with key stakeholders.

3. Meeting Chair

To ensure the meeting (once every 2 years) conducts its business in an efficient and effective manner it is proposed the following be adopted with regard to chairing the meeting.

3.1 Chairperson

The country hosting the Pacific Health Ministers Meeting chairs the PICNet meeting.

3.2 Deputy Chairperson

The Deputy Chair will be the country hosting the last Pacific Health Ministers Meeting.

This will ensure that a strong link with the Pacific Heads of Health meeting is maintained and continuity in sharing institutional knowledge from one outgoing to incumbent chairpersons.



4. **Members**

Members of the PICNet will consist of the IPC focal points from PICTs. Development partners and stakeholders will be invited as observers and facilitators.

4.1 **Core**

All health professionals with interest in IPC with 1 national focal point for each SPC member country.

4.2 **Allied**

- Health professionals with interest in infection control from Australia and New Zealand
- International organizations: World Health Organization (WHO), Pacific Community (SPC), Pacific Islands Health Officer's Association (PIHOA) etc.
- Training institutions, incl. Schools of Nursing, Schools of Medicine, Schools of Oral Health
- Partners

5. **Meeting Schedule**

The PPHSN PICNet will meet bi-annually (once every 2 years) face to face.

6. **Secretariat Arrangements**

Secretariat services for the PICNet will be provided by the Pacific Community (SPC).

7. **Review of Terms of Reference**

The ToR 'review and amendment of the TOR will be decided upon/confirmed at PICNet meetings.

8. **Technical Working Group**

The technical working group consists of the following representatives:

- WHO (1)
- SPC (1)
- PIHOA (1)
- FNU
- 3 core-member representatives, from Fiji, Palau and Samoa. This composition will be subsequently reviewed and adapted to have a subregional representation, like the PPHSN Coordinating Body. The core members will be rotated every 3 years.

Role:

- Facilitate and monitor the achievements of objectives.
- Maintain records of PICNet meetings/workshops, incl. recommendations and plans of action, and disseminate them to relevant bodies for appropriate action.
- Internal communication: e-mail, with meeting or teleconference twice a year
- Responsibility is look for funding for the meeting.
- To provide technical advice and support for IPC.
- Develop and facilitate the implementation of action plan for PICNet that will address key priority areas recommended through PICNet.



9. Focal Point

The focal point of PICNet is the PPHSN Coordination Body Focal Point.

Role:

- Develop and maintain the network communication with core and allied members and external linkages.
 - Provide technical assistance in collaboration with other agencies/members.
 - Facilitate and monitor the achievements of objectives.
 - Maintain records of PICNet meetings/workshops, incl. recommendations and plans of action, and disseminate them to relevant bodies for appropriate action.
 - Internal communication: e-mail, with meeting or teleconference twice a year
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