

Media Release



The Sydney
children's
Hospitals Network

care, advocacy, research, education

28 February 2016

Improving Children's Health Globally

The Diploma of Child Health/International Postgraduate Paediatric Certificate is celebrating its 25th year of providing high quality, accessible education to health professionals.

What began as a program to educate doctors at Royal Alexandria Hospital for Children, now The Children's Hospital at Westmead, expanded throughout Australia, including remote areas, and is now available in 19 countries worldwide.

The one year paediatric training course has a significant impact on paediatric education and the health of children globally. In 2015, 1130 graduated from this course bringing Alumni numbers to 6132.

Content is delivered by 112 webcasts, online resources and, in international sites, tutorials from local paediatric experts who provide additional face to face teaching to give a regional context. The course provides doctors, nurses and allied health professionals with accessible, current and relevant knowledge and skills to treat children and young people. It provides a comprehensive overview of evidence based current best practice in paediatrics, covering all sub-specialty areas from neonates to adolescents.

The DCH/IPPC is available throughout Australia and 18 other countries around the world including Bangladesh, India, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Myanmar, Vietnam, Cambodia, the Solomon Islands, Tonga and Mongolia. The international program began in Hong Kong in 2005.

"Training just one doctor or nurse who treats 50 children a day can improve the quality of consultations for 15,000 children a year" said Executive Principal, Adjunct Associate Professor Kathryn Currow. "Feedback from our participants, tutors and alumni is that they have enhanced knowledge, confidence and skills of high relevance in daily practice. "

In Zimbabwe, for example, there is a serious lack of paediatric professionals, training opportunities were virtually non-existent, the child morbidity rate is raising and the economy failing. So when the first cohort of 25 doctors and nurses graduated it was a significant milestone. There are now 71 graduates.

"Being a GP who lives quite remotely, having everything available on line to undertake at my leisure was fantastic," said Dr Emma Keeler from Western Australia.

"In a short time we walked through a wonderful pathway opening doors to the world of paediatrics," said Dr Jeevani Gunatilake, from the Seychelles. "If I could make a difference to save a child's life then I have achieved a lot and this course made me a better doctor."

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2015 Graduation Ceremony and launch of the 25th Anniversary of DCH/IPPC will be held on 5 February. The Diploma in Child Health and the International Postgraduate Paediatric Certificate are awarded in conjunction with the Sydney Children's Hospitals Network and the Sydney Medical School of the University of Sydney.

The Sydney Children's Hospitals Network incorporates The Children's Hospital at Westmead, Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick, Bear Cottage, the Newborn and paediatric Emergency Transport Service (NETS), the Pregnancy and newborn Services Network (PSN) and the Children's Court Clinic.

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