

Grow Healthy, Grow Strong Newsletter Issue #1 - March 2023



Photo from the Health Worker Training



FIRST ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING

On Friday, 3 March, the Nutrition Advocacy Committee meeting was held for the first time. A Terms of Reference was drafted and shared. The Committee agreed to meeting every second Tuesday of the Month to discuss project progress, accelerate local nutrition agenda and a platform for nutrition learnings.

WHAT IS THE GROW PROJECT?

The new Grow Health, Grow Strong project, known locally as GROW, is the outcome of research from the Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies studies run by the Burnet Institute. Research results indicated that almost half of children under 5 are stunted (low height-for-age). The GROW project aims to address these alarming rates by implementing local stunting reduction through capacity building of local health workers and community members with innovative tools. The project is funded through the Australian National Cooperation Program from July 2022 - June 2025 with generous support from the Jules McLean Family Fund.



HEALTH WORKER TRAINING

On 6-7 March, 15 health workers from our selected project sites: Vunapope Hospital, Rabual Provincial Hospital, Warangoi Rural Hospital, Rabaul Urban Health Facility and the Provincial Health Authority came to a training workshop led by Burnet Institute Nutrition Advisor, Shan Huang. The National Health Policy, the National Nutrition Policy and the Infant and Young Child Feeding policy were discussed in detail. Participants also use case studies to identify causes of stunting in the community and the WHO growth chart to plot stunting. At the end of the workshop, each health facility were able to develop a Nutrition Advocacy Plan of Action with key activities to undertake in their work places. Examples of activities to be actioned includes presenting at the local Ward meeting, briefing colleagues about nutrition policies at staff meetings and undertaking growth monitoring activities on health outreach days.

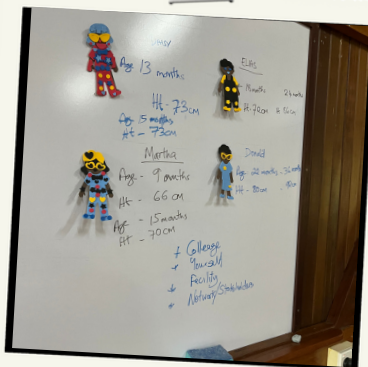


NUTRITION SNAKES AND LADDERS

One of the innovative tools the project is using is a game of 'Snakes and Ladders' hand stitched by Burnet Institute's Technical Advisor Lisa Davidson. This game uses key nutrition messages that rewards positive nutrition behaviours and discourages nutrition poor practices in a fun and interactive way. The health workers really enjoyed playing this at the workshop and can't wait to play this in the community!



Health workers completing training tasks at workshop



Case studies, using foam dolls made by workshop participants.



Testing a new height measurement device using ultrasound technology



Participants from the Warangoi Rural Hospital with the educational toys provided to them to trial with their patients

