

Nursing Leadership in Action: Enhancing Heat Safety for Vulnerable Populations in the Western Pacific through the ICN GNLI Project

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Background

The Western Pacific Region (WPRO) of the WHO is experiencing a rise in extreme heat events, posing serious public health risks. This trend reflects the global climate crisis, which worsens health challenges, particularly for vulnerable groups like older adults, children, those with chronic illnesses, outdoor workers, and resource-limited healthcare professionals. Nurses play a key role in mitigating these impacts, requiring stronger leadership and advocacy to shape policy and practice.



Objective

The ICN GNLI project aimed to empower healthcare professionals, particularly nurses, to mitigate the impact of extreme heat events proactively by developing standardized care regulations and guidelines.

Method

The project, led by ICN GNLI 2023 scholars from Australia, Malaysia, South Korea, and Taiwan, included a WPRO webinar in February 14 2025 with ICN experts sharing insights and outcomes. It also focused on creating evidence-based healthcare guidelines to protect vulnerable populations and launching heat safety campaigns to help healthcare professionals manage heat risks.

Expected Outcomes

The WPRO webinar highlighted the effectiveness of guidelines and increased awareness in supporting vulnerable populations. The project strengthened nurses' leadership, developed standardized care guidelines, and improved care for at-risk groups. Webinar insights were compiled into a position paper for the ICN and WHO, promoting broader impacts on nursing policy and practice.

Enhancing Heat Safety for Vulnerable Populations in the Western Pacific Region

Date: February 14, 2025, 15:00-17:00 (AEDT)
Format: Virtual. Please register in advance for the Zoom webinar:
https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register?WN_F8x71oLstBIVZnd1sWUDEA

TIME	ITEM	SPEAKERS	HOST
14:30-15:00	Registration	WPRO GNLI 2023 Team	Yao-Mei Chen, Associate Professor Mei-Ling Yeh, Distinguished Professor
15:00-15:15	Opening	Belynda Abbott, Nurse Lecturer	Mei-Ling Yeh, Distinguished Professor
15:15-15:45	Heat, health and cardiovascular disease: Protecting the Vulnerable Populations	Fiona Foo, Cardiologist (Sydney Cardiology Group and Macquarie University Hospital)	Sharifah Haji Mohidin, Professor
15:45-16:00	Q & A		
16:00-16:30	Advanced Nursing for Heat-Related Illnesses Among Vulnerable Populations in South Korea Amid Climate Change	Yoonsoo Jang, Associate Professor (Yonsei University College of Nursing)	Sunjoo Kang, Professor
16:30-16:45	Q & A		
16:45-17:00	Discussion & Closing		Yao-Mei Chen, Associate Professor

Organized by ICN-GNLI 2023 scholars:
Sharifah Haji Mohidin, Professor (Malaysia)
Mei-Ling Yeh, Distinguished Professor (Taiwan)
Yao-Mei Chen, Associate Professor (Taiwan)
Sunjoo Kang, Professor (Republic of Korea)
Belynda Abbott, Nurse Lecturer (Australia)
Funding assistance from ICN-GNLI grant



Conclusions

The "Nursing Leadership in Action" project addressed public health challenges from extreme heat in the WPRO region by equipping nurses with tools to implement preventive measures and advocate for heat-resilient policies. Its outcomes can benefit vulnerable populations in WPRO region and serve as a model for global nursing leadership and climate change mitigation initiatives.

