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| **Title of Innovation in policy and practice presentation** Emerging educational partnerships to equip Pacific islander health promotion professionals to face climate change |
| **Setting/problem**Climate change is imperilling health globally, with Pacific island countries at particular risk. Threats include sea level rise, extreme weather events, diminished freshwater availability, altered disease distribution, and fundamental disruptions to culture and economic relations. Small and developing economies, the tyranny of distance and international inaction impede adaptation to preserve health. Health promotion professionals in Pacific island countries will require both expert subject matter knowledge and the capacity to design novel solutions for unprecedented challenges. Adequately equipping health promotion professionals with these skills is the responsibility of public health educators. To meet this responsibility, educators must grasp the opportunities and avoid the pitfalls of a rapidly evolving global tertiary education sector. The Council of Academic Public Health Institutions Australasia (CAPHIA) represents university departments and programs which teach and research public health in Australia and New Zealand, and aims to strengthen these activities. There are strong cultural and historical connections between Australia, New Zealand and Pacific island countries like Papua New Guinea (PNG). CAPHIA is aware of the moral onus created by climate change, and believes greater cooperation with Pacific island tertiary institutions could be advantageous for all parties. **Intervention**With assistance from the Public Health Associations of Australia and New Zealand, CAPHIA initiated dialogue with a growing number of academic public health departments in Pacific island countries. CAPHIA is learning from colleagues in Pacific island countries how we can work together to equip the next generation of health promotion and other public health professionals.**Outcomes**Early discussion suggests that CAPHIA membership should be made available to Pacific island institutions at a substantially reduced rate to allow for an ongoing partnership. This would provide a basis for continued dialogue as all partners work to optimise cooperation. **Implications**CAPHIA is considering how its constitution could be amended to facilitate membership of Pacific island institutions.This presentation includes insights about the implications of this emerging partnership from CAPHIA, the Divine Word University in PNG, and the Public Health Association of Australia.**Preferred presentation format**Oral |