

## Primary Trauma Care Course- Arawa, Bougainville, PNG.

### Introduction

The Primary Trauma Care (PTC) course has been delivered in Papua New Guinea (PNG) since 2002 and there has been 60 courses conducted in all the 20 provinces in PNG with over 1800 participants and the majority of whom have been non- doctors. The course is designed at empowering all levels of health workers in resource poor environments to deliver a reasonable standard of care to acutely injured trauma patients.

### Logistics

Location:	Arawa, Autonomous Region of Bougainville, PNG.
Venue:	Arawa Women's Training Centre
Dates:	11 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> November 2012
Local Co-ordinator:	Mr. Peter Awin (Administrator- Arawa Health Centre)
Lead Instructor:	Dr. John Tsiperau (Emergency Physician- Port Moresby)
Other Instructors:	Dr. Colin Banks (Emergency Physician- Townsville, Australia) Dr. Alex Peawi (Emergency Physician- Port Moresby) Dr. Gary Nou (Emergency Medicine Registrar- Port Moresby)
Participants:	4 Health Extension Officers 9 Nursing Officers 6 Community Health Workers 3 Village Health Volunteers 1 High school student (as observer)
Funding:	Australian Aid (AusAid) through Health Education Cooperation Scheme (HECS)

### Comments

The course ran well with the 23 participants most of whom came from the local health facilities while a few came from health centres at least 100 km away. The course was delivered to health workers most of whom had never attended any refresher courses since their graduations.

Some of the challenges which were faced during the delivery of the course were that on the first day, there were only 3 instructors. This was due to the fact that one of the instructors had flight delays in Port Moresby. He eventually joined the team half way through the first day. The other major challenge was the data projector which was borrowed from the local health authorities and

which projected poor quality pictures so colour pictures were not possible. Some of the participants had to travel long distances to get to the venue of the course for the two days which meant that on the first day, some came late and also had to go off early missing some of the lectures. The second day was better in that all participants arrived on time and attended all the lectures with the culmination of presentations of certificates to the participants and taking of the group photo. Pre-PTC and post PTC MCQs were done and the average improved from 6.3/15 to 9.25/15. The highest mark improved from 10/15 to 14/15. In the pre- PTC test, only 23.5% scored over 50% while in the post PTC tests, this improved to 62.5%.

The course was well received by the participants and this was evident by the speeches they made at the end of the course which were filled with gratitude and appreciation to the instructors, the facilitators and the Primary Trauma Care Foundation. The participants while rating almost all the lectures, discussions and practicals as being delivered in high quality, they also echoed similar sentiments from previous courses in PNG that the course should be run over a longer period. This was because the participants who attended this course were from different levels and so some of their arguments were that some absorbed the course contents better than others during the two days. Overall, they were positive in their comments on the course evaluations.

Recommendations for future PTC courses in our region/ country would be that the participants who will be attending the course are known before the course is delivered so that the course contents can be tailored and focused towards these levels of health care professionals. Furthermore, the number of days could be extended to cater for the low cadre of health workers like the community health workers and village health volunteers who attended this course to give them a better chance to absorb more of the course. Improved communication is needed between the local coordinators and the facilitators of the course to better plan the timings to maximise the attendance for all sessions. A designated projector for the course should be obtained so that clearer images and pictures of the course are projected to the participants.

Dr. John R. Tsiperau

Emergency Physician- Port Moresby, PNG.

❖ 2012 Arawa PTC Course group photo.. instructors and participants



❖ Appreciation letter

Arawa Health Centre  
Central Bougainville  
A.R.O.B

14<sup>th</sup> 12. 2012

Dear Doctors,  
We have nothing big to give you compared to the useful skills and knowledge which you have imparted to us. Thankyou so much for your time spent in Arawa to facilitate this course on Primary Trauma Care  
We have this small token of appreciation for you all.

Thankyou and God bless.  
From Arawa H/Centre participants.