

Folder eCC_00010427 is in stage Annual_Report_Due

Name of the University, Hospital, Research Institute, Academy or Ministry

Queensland Children's Medical Research Institute, University of Queensland

Name of the Division, Department, Unit, Section or Area

Department of Children's Health and Environment

City Herston **Reference Number** AUS-111

Title WHO Collaborating Centre for Children's Health and the Environment

Report Year 10-2014 to 10-2015

1. Please briefly describe the progress made in the implementation of your agreed workplan as WHO collaborating centre during the past 12 months (or the reporting period listed above). Please report on how each workplan activity was implemented, if any outputs have been delivered, if any results have been achieved and if any difficulties have been encountered during this time. If an activity has previously been completed, has not started yet, or been placed on hold, please indicate this.

Activity 1

Title: Capacity building for research on children's environmental health through collaborative projects in low-income or developing countries.

Description: A series of capacity-building collaborative research projects are currently underway or being planned. These projects will involve training researchers in low- and middle-income countries and include:

1. Training researchers in CEH
2. Training researchers in methodology for measuring lung function and in neurobehavioural assessments.
3. Training researchers in integrated environmental health risk assessments.

Training workshops in CEH and in Integrated Environmental Health Risk Assessments have been conducted for participants of the International Conference of the Pacific Basin Consortium for Environment and Health, held in September 2013 in Honolulu, USA and in August 2015 in Depok, Indonesia. Participants came mainly from low income countries around the Pacific Rim.

A short course in CEH is run in November each year in Brisbane, in conjunction with the School of Public Health, The University of Queensland.

Several training sessions in measuring lung function have been undertaken in Australia, Europe and the USA.

Activity 2

Title: Develop and co-ordinate the Network of Collaborating Centres for Children's Environmental Health.

Description: Peter and Leith Sly are involved in advising WHO on developing a network of Collaborating Centres in CEH and on how to get the most from this network, as was discussed in the working meeting held at WHO HQ in Geneva on 20/06/2012. Peter Sly organised and Co-chaired (with Dr Maria Neira, WHO) a steering committee meeting to be held in Geneva on 29/10/2012 to further this process. Leith Sly will investigate methods for increasing communication using modern electronic communications and face to face meetings.

The Network of Collaborating Centres has been established and is currently co-chaired by Peter Sly and Bill Suk (NIEHS Collaborating Centre). A website has been established and bi-monthly teleconferences are being held, despite the difficulties with time zones!

Activity 3

Title: Capacity building and setting a research agenda in the impacts of eWaste on Children's Environmental Health.

Description: This activity will be conducted as part of the priority activities of the Network of Collaborating Centres in Children's Environmental Health. Specific activities planned as part of this activity include describing the health impacts of children's exposure to eWaste, including in both informal and formal recycling setting, including:

- o Systematic review of the current evidence
- o Working meeting with experts and representatives of WHO, UNEP, ILO and other International agencies
- o State of the Art publication following the working meeting.
- o Developing a WHO Training module on the impacts of eWaste on CEH, including integrated environmental health risk assessment.
- o A session on eWaste at the Pacific Basin Consortium for Environment and Health conference to be held in September 2013
- o The 4th International Conference in CEH, with a focus on eWaste, to be held in Bangkok in 2014.

The WHO E-Waste program was officially launched in a session at the International Conference of the Pacific Basin Consortium for Environment and Health in September 2013. Activities since then have included: scholarly publications (3 currently submitted), a session at the 2015 International Conference of the Pacific Basin Consortium for Environment and Health, Depok, Indonesia and a workshop held after the conference in Depok. Meeting reports and a road map for action are currently being prepared.

Activity 4

Title: Develop communication strategies to increase awareness about prevention of environmental exposures and environmentally-related diseases in children

Description: A number of communication strategies, involving use of websites, list serves, email alerts and other mechanisms will be investigated as effective methods for communicating with a wide group of recipient's from the general public, environmental health and science professionals, health professionals and other interested parties. Examples of work currently being undertaken or planned under this activity include:

- Healthy Environments for Children Alliance (HECA) newsletter;
- WHO leaflets written in plain language and aimed at parents on CEH issues;
- a newsletter specifically addressing eWaste.

We plan to expand these activities to include a regional focus in the Western Pacific and Asian regions, including specifically targeting issues of regional interest, eg the health effect of e-Waste, and highlight regional activities and achievements.

Activities here have included:

- the monthly HECA newsletter produced on behalf of WHO and UNEP
- updating the WHO Atlas in CEH, which will include leaflets aimed at a) policy makers, b) the academic community and c) the general public
- the workshop report on e-Waste will be distilled into simple leaflets suitable for communicating to the general public

Activity 5

Title: Develop and deliver high quality education on Children's Environmental Health

Description: The initial WHO training modules of CEH are outdated and need to be updated. We will systematically review and update these modules where required. In addition, we will produce educational materials aimed directly at children and collate teaching materials for use in elementary and high schools.

The updating of several modules has been undertaken and are awaiting verification by WHO

Activity 6

Title: Organize and participate in WHO training workshops in CEH

Description: Training workshops will be conducted in conjunction with WHO for health care professionals, environmental health officers and other relevant parties. These will be held in conjunction with appropriate national and international conferences in Australia, within the Western Pacific and Asian region and in developing countries elsewhere.

The output from this activity is described above.

2. Please briefly describe your collaboration with WHO in regards to the activities of the WHO collaborating centre during the past 12 months (e.g. means of communication, frequency of contact, visits to or from WHO). Please feel free to mention any difficulties encountered (if any) and to provide suggestions for increased or improved communication (if applicable).

Collaboration with WHO has included:

- participation in the first regional forum of the WHO Western Pacific region
- participating in the initial meetings and steering committee (Boston November 2014, Geneva February 2015) to develop a joint WHO-DOHAD project on early life environmental contributions to chronic non-communicable diseases
- developing a session at International Conference of the Pacific Basin Consortium for Environment and Health, Depok, Indonesia August 2015 on with WHO Geneva, SEARO and WPRO on WHO programs in South-east Asia and the Western Pacific.
- frequent telephones (2-4 weekly on average all year) from WHO Geneva to provide consultation and advice on the CEH program
- Field work with the WHO Fiji office on leptospirosis projects

3. Please briefly describe any interactions or collaborations with other WHO collaborating centres in the context of the implementation of the above activities (if any). If you are part of a network of WHO collaborating centres, please also mention the name of the network, and describe any involvement in the network during the last 12 months.

The Centre is a member of the WHO Network in Children's Environmental Health. This network consists of CCs in Australia, USA (3), Japan, South Korea, Thailand, Mexico, Uruguay with a centre in Brazil in the final stages of designation and one in Canada about to submit an application to WHO. Network activities to date have concentrated on establishing the network and developing a website. Projects anticipated in the next 12 month include: health effects of e-Waste in children; Children's environmental health indicators in the post 20156 SDG era, further work in reduction of lead exposure and expanding teh network to otehr groups involved in CEH

4. Please briefly describe any type of technical, programmatic, advisory or other support received from WHO during the past 12 months for the implementation of the agreed activities listed above (if any).

In kind support has been received from WHO for travelling WHO staff to conferences and workshops.