

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 10-2015 to 10-2016

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.

We have conducted training workshops in CEH and integrated environmental health risk assessment in Depok, Indonesia; Delhi, India and Naples, Italy in the past 12 months.

In addition we have been investigating delivering educational materials online via Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCS). A needs analysis has been done and shows that there is a need for such courses. The proposal has been discussed with WHO and the Network of WHOCCs in CEH. This will also be discussed at a WHO training meeting to be held in Florence in October 2016

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 in CEH has been established and hold quarterly meetings by teleconference. A website, hosted by NIEHS, is up and running.

Representatives of 3 CCs that are part of the network conducted a training session on CEH for Pediatricians at an International Paediatric congress held in Naples, Italy.

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.

A chapter on eWaste exposure has been written by our staff for inclusion in a WHO Atlas of CEH due to be published before the end of 2016. The training module on eWaste has been completed and used in training workshops.

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.

We continue to write the HECA newsletter on behalf of WHO and have included a specific focus on eWaste in this. It was decided with WHO that this was preferable to producing a separate eWaste newsletter.

A plain language summary of the new WHO environmental contribution to global burden of disease concentrating on CEH is being written with an expected completion date of January 2017.

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 training modules "Children are not little adults", "Why Children" and "Mercury exposure" are currently being updated. Anticipated completion date January 2017.

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.

Training workshops have been held in Indonesia and Italy. The next workshops are scheduled to be held in Delhi in March 2017.

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).

The CC Director has frequent phone conferences with WHO Geneva to provide advice on CEH matters. Our staff wrote the first draft of the Atlas on CEH and have been in frequent contact with WHO over editing the document

Fiona Goldizen, Program Coordinator for CHEP and the CC spend 2 weeks in Geneva in February working on the Atlas and will attend the WHO Training meeting in Florence in October 2016.

We have developed an internship program in CEH in Brisbane, in conjunction with WHO. Interns will be encouraged to also spend time at WHO in Geneva. We have our first 2 interns currently and one anticipates going to Geneva early in 2017.

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.

This CC is an integral part of the WHO Network of CCs in CEH and participate in the quarterly teleconferences. A face to face meeting is planned for November 2016 in Bangkok.

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).

We have not received any direct support from WHO in the past 12 months but have received advice on project direction.