

Visit to the Seychelles January 2014.

Kate and Lesley received confirmation on the 11th December 2013 that The Seychelles wanted them to deliver a national standard setting programme week commencing 4th January 2014. The programme timetable had been drafted but as this was to be something new rather than programmes already prepared, Christmas was a rather scant affair with a lot of writing presentations and sourcing references taking precedence.

We had suggested that 25 delegates should attend for the week but due to service delivery issues, we were asked to accommodate half the delegates for the beginning of the week, and a second half during the latter end of the week. We added Saturday morning to ensure all the delegates attended for the same amount of time learning the technique of writing a standard and devising them on behalf of the country. So in total we were to have over 50 nurses attending the programme.

The tropical islands welcomed us with torrential, but warm rain which persisted all week along with high humidity. It was very nice to meet so many previous delegates from the island hospitals and clinics, wards and ITU and the dignitaries at the opening ceremony warmly welcomed FoAN back. We took gifts of books, clinical products and all the reference materials for them to keep.



Real work started on Monday morning where the first half of the delegates were introduced to the principles of developing standards and having been given a structure to work with, wrote a standard for 'making a cup of tea'. Having grasped the concept, we delivered short theoretical sessions as a reminder of the scope of each of the topics of the perioperative standards we hoped to create. Then they split into groups and facilitated by Kate and Lesley, created a different standard in each group. These were then presented by the groups to their peers, commented on, amended and agreed as working drafts.

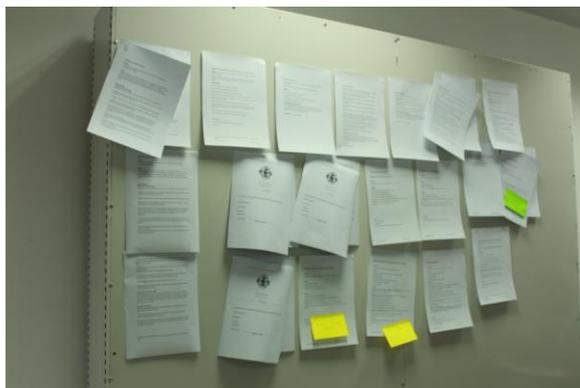
Each evening after a quick bite to eat, we typed up the standards created during the day and during the next morning, these were printed and displayed for comments and additions by the group.

So by the end of the week and with the two groups enthusiastically getting to grips with the work, we had created 30 national draft standards of perioperative care for the Seychelles.

During the week, the Nursing Council registrar and her assistant registrar had attended sessions along with the Theatre and CSSD managers. Main Theatres are being refurbished and should be ready for occupation in April and CSSD is being completely re-vamped with modern

automated equipment and a new Infection Control manual has been developed for the islands. We were shown round the temporary theatres currently in a part of A&E and asked to make comment on the Infection Control manual and advise on the new CSSD, so kept fully occupied when not training.

We were delighted to spend a pleasant Friday evening at the marina on Eden Island, in Victoria with the members of the Nursing Council and Saturday evening with the Minister of Health, her Special Advisor, the Chief Surgeon, members of Council and the theatre manager. During these evenings, future requirements were discussed and the Minister has asked that we run a third programme which will comprise several pieces of work. Lesley has been tasked with supporting the nurses in creating perioperative care plans whilst Kate assists in the education of CSSD staff in their new facility. Then we have been asked to audit the standards created this time across the islands operating theatres followed by a leadership course. This will probably take place in September 2014.



FoAN would like to thank the Seychelles Ministry of Health for supporting their flights and accommodation during this visit and agreeing the same for the next visit.

The delegates were asked to evaluate their learning and the following are a few of the comments that were made in answer to the question '*What will you do differently as a result of this education?*';

- *A change in working habit, apply evidence to practice*
- *It will allow me to think more critically about the care that I'm giving*
- *To put into practice what I have learned. Promote and deliver a better service in relation to personal and patient's safety. Ensure proper records and documentation.*
- *Practise efficiently to minimise risk and complications to my patients by maintaining safe and sterile environment at all times during and after surgery*
- *Ensuring that to my best of knowledge and ability that the standards written for perioperative practice are maintained in order to elevate nursing practice in the Seychelles.*

Lesley Fudge
January 2014