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Nurse and health worker TI forum first of many

More than 40 people attended the first combined forum for Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area health workers and nurses on Thursday Island in early November.

Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service Executive Director Primary Health Care Vonda Moar-Malone said the forum would be the first of many.

“This inaugural forum proved so successful and so well received that we intend to hold regular forums in the future for the Torres Strait region,” she said.

“We have already scheduled the next one for March 2016.

“The forum was a great way of getting nurses and health workers to come together for professional development, as well as building stronger and more effective teams for the delivery of improved primary health care.

“Both the health workers and nurses gained greater awareness and understanding of the critical roles they played within their respective primary health centres to improve primary health outcomes for the communities of the Torres Strait islands and Northern Peninsula Area.”

Ms Moar-Malone said nurses and health workers worked very closely together in the Torres Strait island and Northern Peninsula Area communities.

“But they haven’t in the past shared close professional development and networking opportunities.

“Nurses have had their own separate forums and gatherings, as have health workers.

“But for two groups that work so closely together every single day, we thought it would make sense to bring them together for a combined meeting at which they could collectively discuss shared clinical and professional issues.”

The forum, which was held at the Community Wellness Centre on Thursday Island from 2–6 November focused on a number of key areas, including:

- Acknowledgement of roles and responsibilities
- Continuous Quality Improvements (CQI)
- Improving operational efficiencies
- Recognising potential areas of growth
- Mandatory Training including First Aid and CPR

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