



Independent State of Papua New Guinea

Ministry of Health

NATIONAL HEALTH PLAN 2001 – 2010

HEALTH VISION 2010

POLICY DIRECTIONS AND PRIORITIES

VOLUME I

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| MAP OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA | ii |
| FOREWORD | iii |
| ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS | v |
| INTRODUCTION | 1 |
| BASIS OF THE PLAN | 2 |
| Lessons from the Past | 2 |
| The Current Situation | 3 |
| The Political Directives | 4 |
| The Legislative Framework | 4 |
| The Foundations for Future Progress | 6 |
| THE WAY FORWARD | 8 |
| The Vision | 8 |
| The Mission | 9 |
| The Challenge | 9 |
| The Goal | 9 |
| The Policy and Strategic Framework | 9 |
| Policy Direction and Priorities | 10 |
| THE IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK | 18 |

FOREWORD

As Papua New Guinea enters the new millennium, it has taken the opportunity to assess its successes in meeting its obligation to promote and protect the health of its people. Health policies and priorities have been reviewed and the National Health Plan 2001–2010 developed with a view to putting Papua New Guinea on the path to progressively realising its obligations within the first decade of the new millennium.

The right to enjoy the highest attainable standard of health and to provide facilities for the treatment of illness and rehabilitation are fundamental human rights belonging to all citizens of Papua New Guinea. Under the National Constitution and international human rights instruments, the State has made a solemn commitment to the people of Papua New Guinea to respect, promote and protect their rights. Although progress has been achieved in some fronts there is much work to be done to fulfil our obligations and promises. In particular, priority must be placed on the health and development of our children, who are the future of our country and our most valuable resource.

The National Health Plan 2001–2010, of which this volume is a significant part, becomes the policy framework within which all health services must be planned and implemented. The Policy Directions and Priorities in this volume initiate the complex process of planning for health services that will be provided for all Papua New Guineans as we enter the new millennium.

The process was initiated following the National Executive Council directives for the National Department of Health to incorporate the recommendations of the mid-term review of the National Health Plan 1996-2000 into this Plan and to have it completed by the end of 1999.

The Plan is a result of collaborative effort between stakeholders within the health sector, other government agencies, churches and other non-government organisations, international partners, the corporate sector and community representatives.

The goal of the Plan is to improve the health of all Papua New Guineans through the development of a health system that is responsive, effective, affordable and accessible to the majority of our people. This goal is in line with the *National Goals and Directive Principles* as enshrined in the Constitution.

The priority during the Plan period will be to ensure that the people of Papua New Guinea, in particular women and children, attain good health. This will be achieved through access to health education, elimination of immunisable diseases, safe motherhood, control of priority diseases, good nutrition, safe water supply, quality patient care and effective collaboration with all partners.

Given the complexity of the issues, the enormity of the challenge and the scarcity of available resources, the policy framework and the priorities outlined in this Volume and detailed in Volume II of the Plan will guide provinces and districts to develop their 5–year strategic implementation plans.

The Plan clarifies the roles and responsibilities at all levels of governments. The challenge now is for all those levels of government to provide the leadership and resources required to implement the Plan. In order to ensure that health services are effective and sustainable, resource allocators and health service providers must be made accountable to the people they serve.

The people of Papua New Guinea must not merely be passive recipients of government services, but active participants. They must be empowered to take greater responsibility for their own health and to play a greater role in the design and implementation of programs that affect them.

I believe the identified priorities and objectives in the Plan can be successfully achieved through collaboration and in partnership with other government agencies, churches and other non-government organisations, the corporate sector, international development agencies and the community.

I look forward to attaining an improved level of health status for our people and a brighter and healthier future for our nation.

As Minister responsible for health, I have great pleasure in introducing the first National Health Plan for the new millennium.

May God bless our people and a united Papua New Guinea.

Hon. Ludger Mond, MP
Minister for Health

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This is the fifth National Health Plan developed since the first plan in 1974. Many lessons have been learnt over the years as well as valuable experiences which all contributed to the formulation of this excellent Plan, the first of the new millennium.

During the two years spent developing this Plan there has been an enormous amount of work by many individuals and organisations in a highly collaborative, consultative and professional manner.

I am extremely satisfied that the National Health Plan 2001–2010 is a home-grown, high quality and clear blueprint for health sector development for the next ten years.

To the many individuals and organizations who made meaningful contributions to the development of this Plan, I express my heartfelt thanks and gratitude. Many have contributed but those who deserve special recognition are:

- Members of the Ministerial Task Force;
- Members of the Secretariat and Working Committees;
- Central Agency Representatives;
- Provincial Administrators, Health Advisers and District Representatives;
- Chief Executive Officers of Public Hospitals;
- Papua New Guinea Institute of Medical Research Staff;
- Staff of School of Medicine and Health Sciences;
- Church Representatives;
- Health Workers' Union Representatives;
- AusAID Staff and Technical Advisers;
- WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA Representatives and Staff;
- Japanese International Cooperation Agency Representative.

I would like to express a special note of appreciation to AusAID for funding the consultative and training workshops, technical assistance, and the printing of the four volumes of the Plan, and for supporting the development of 5-year strategic implementation plans.

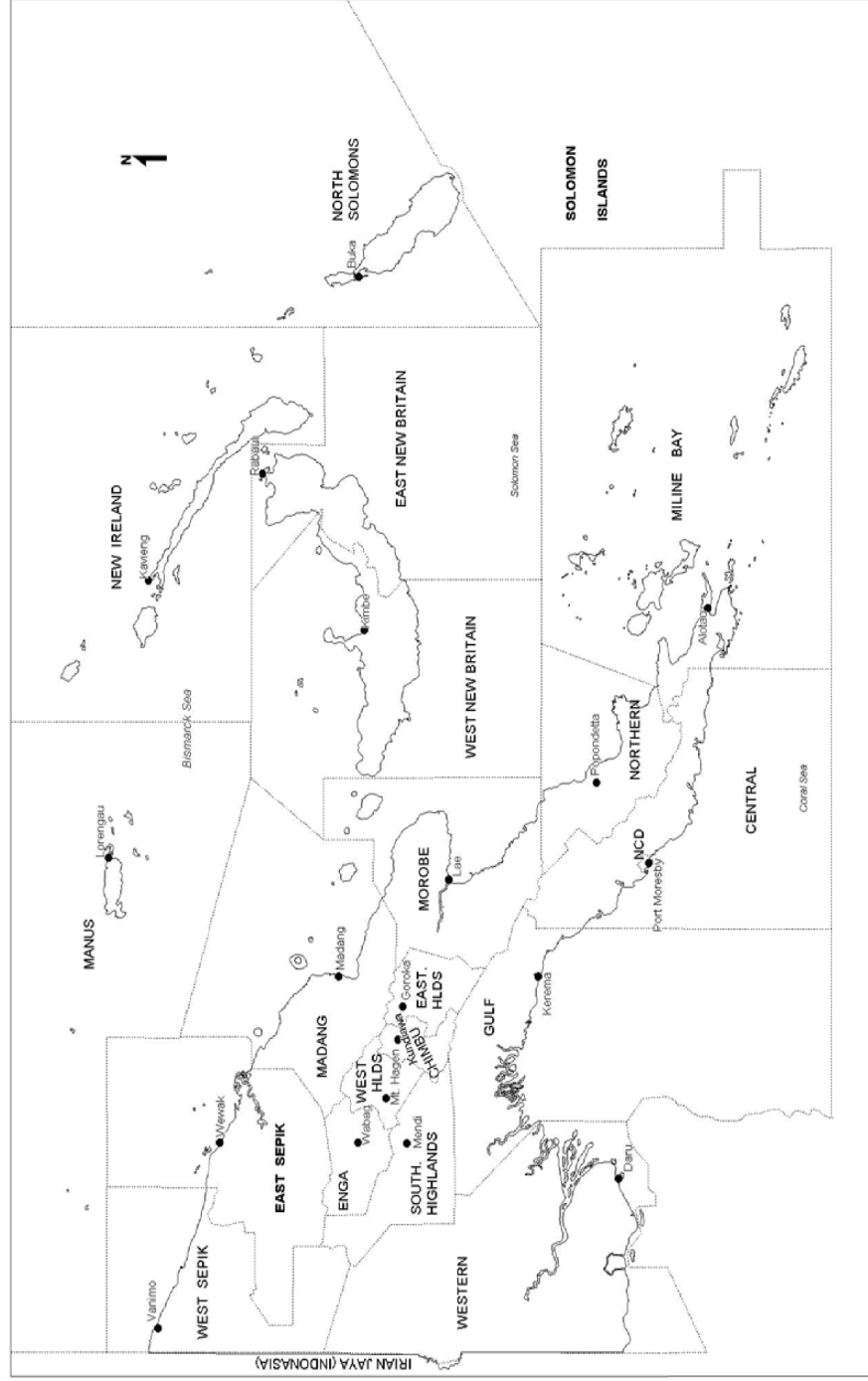
A special note of appreciation also goes to the World Health Organization for providing technical assistance throughout the process.

With God's grace and leading, this monumental and important task was completed.

I join the Minister for Health in commending this Plan to the people of Papua New Guinea.

Puka I. Temu (Dr.)
Secretary for Health

MAP OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA



INTRODUCTION

The National Health Plan 2001–2010 comprises four volumes. This volume of the Plan outlines the overall policy directions and priorities for the health sector over the next ten years. Volume II contains details of the specific program policies and strategies. Volume III is presented in 2 parts. Part 1 provides national health statistics and comparative tables while Part 2 provides disease statistics, levels of program coverage and information on staff and facilities by province and district. Volume IV provides the guideline for strategic implementation planning at all levels.

This volume outlines the basis of the Plan and prescribes the way forward through a shared vision, a single goal and clear policy direction and priorities. It further defines the implementation framework for resourcing, monitoring and evaluating the Plan.

Priorities identified in this volume are based on the overall health situation and were agreed upon at the consultative workshops. Resources for health in Papua New Guinea are limited. To address priority health concerns cost-effective interventions have been identified in the Plan. If implemented fully these will bring about the widest possible health outcomes in a sustainable manner.

Priorities identified below deserve the most attention, given the scarcity of available resources and the priority health concerns of the country. These are:

- health promotion;
- family health, with a focus on women's and children's health;
- elimination, eradication and control of priority diseases;
- health protection;
- human resource management;
- strengthening district health and hospital services;
- improving access to medicines and medical supplies;
- strengthening partnerships.

The Plan also allows for greater flexibility to develop and implement programs based on future trends and local health priorities.

Given the strong political commitment to the health sector, the legislative framework under which the health services will be administered and the clear policies and priorities, Papua New Guinea has all the necessary ingredients for attaining further progress in the health sector over the next 10 years. Many positive health sector achievements have been realised over the last five years. This has built a firm foundation on which further sustainable progress will be made.

The first decade of this new millennium gives us the opportunity to address the many health challenges in a systematic and sustainable manner. The implementation of the policies and priority health programs outlined in the Plan will guarantee further progress towards the goal of improving the health of Papua New Guineans.