HEALTH FINANCING IN PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES

Presented by Sandra Hopkins

Abstract

There is increasing interest in improving the performance of health systems in order to achieve service delivery outcomes, and broad goals such as the Millennium Development Goals. The health financing system is an important building block of the overall health system as it raises adequate funds for health, in ways that ensure people can use needed services, and are protected from financial catastrophe or impoverishment associated with having to pay for them.

The principal source of information on health financing is collected through National Health Accounts (NHA). NHAs constitute a systematic, comprehensive, and consistent measurement of financial flows in a country’s health system for a given period. Many low income countries, including most of the Pacific Island Countries have not developed NHAs, making it difficult for policymakers to know how much is being spent by health providers (e.g. hospitals), and on what services (e.g. prevention), and to compare total health expenditures with countries at similar stages of development. This presentation describes the current Asian Development Bank technical project assisting Pacific Island Countries to develop, produce and institutionalise NHAs.

When: Friday 4 December 2009
Time: Presentation from 10.30-11.30 pm
Where: Health Sciences Boardroom 400:405
Tea and coffee will be provided.

About the Presenter

Professor Sandra Hopkins is the newly appointed Director of the Centre for International Health. Sandra has an honours degree from the University of Otago New Zealand, a Masters degree from UNSW and PhD from the University of Tasmania, all in economics.

Sandra previously worked in the School of Economics and Finance CBS. For five years she held the position of the Head of the Department of Economics, with responsibility for coordinating the activities of 15 academic staff and numerous sessional staff. From October 2006 to October 2008, she was employed as a health economist in the Health Division of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Paris. At the OECD, Sandra was the manager of a team of economists and statisticians revising the manual for the System of Health Accounts: a framework for the compilation of health expenditure data to ensure consistency and comparability both over time and across countries. Sandra’s research interests are health financing, health policy and health equity.