



Disability Inclusive



Development Cook Islands

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2018

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

CIFWA & Disability Workshop Samoa	2
Just Play visit Hon Bill English	2
CIGWD Strategy Launch	3
International Day for PwDs, Dec 4	3
Meeting Engagements	3
Trade Day for CIWGD	4
Disability office purpose	4

Kia Orana. 2018 ushers us into an interesting and eventful year for everyone including persons with disabilities. I look forward to the many tasks that lay ahead for disability by working together with our stakeholders and persons with disabilities. After assuming the role of Senior Adviser for Disability in April 2017, I acknowledge the former Program, Research and Communications officer Ms Lanieta Matanatabu who coordinated the Disability Inclusive Development from 2014-2016. Although it's been sometime before releasing this newsletter, I am grateful for this opportunity to bring you past events where I have been involved since taking office.



Ms Pauline Rangī

In my role, I will continue to promote the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and strengthen the implementation of the National Disability Inclusive Development Policy 2014-2019. *"I look forward to a productive 2018 with more inclusive initiatives for and of persons with disabilities in our country"*.

Scoping study on establishing a National Human Rights Institution for the Cook Islands



Consultants with members of the Cook Islands Religious Advisory Council

At the request of the Government of the Cook Islands, a team of 3 from Office of High Commission for Human Right/United Nations Development Program, Regional Rights Resource Team and Asia Pacific Forum came to undertake a study on the feasibility of establishing a Human rights institution for the Cook Islands. There was a cross sectional consultation of stakeholders from both Government, NGOs and civil society including the island communities on Aitutaki and Mangaia. The responses received were both for and not in favor of the establishment with reasons given.

Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) - Tonga

A follow-up regional workshop on progress of CBR for the Polynesian countries was held in Tonga in April 2017.

The workshop provided a model to help strengthen Pacific Island governments in promoting, protecting and fulfilling the rights of person with disabilities as outlined in the CRPD. The Cook Islands was represented

by Mr Mataiti Mataiti, President of Cook Islands National disability Council, Donna Smith—Te Vaerua Community Rehabilitation Organization and Pauline Rangī from Ministry of Internal Affairs, Cook Islands.

A follow up of actions is envisaged of the team to conduct in order to ensure CBR is effectively continued in the Cook Islands.



Cook Islands participants at the Polynesian sub-regional CBR workshop in Tonga

CIFWA & Disability Family Planning workshop— Samoa 9-13 July 2017

The International *Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)* through the Pacific for Health (DFAT) program, conducted a training on Disability Inclusion and Sexual Reproductive Health education program in Samoa. Ms Tangi Ngere *Clinic Service Nurse* from Cook Islands Family Welfare Association (CIFWA) & Ms Pauline Rangi from Ministry of Internal Affairs attended the workshop. Hosted by the Samoa Family Planning Unit

(FPU) and facilitated by Jane Chivers & Helen Smith of Family Planning Australia. Samoa's FPU shared about the success of their outreach programs that has reached a lot of people in the community who has less access to Health care, education and employment. Another important subject of the workshop was on the human rights perspective of disability. These include, the Social model of disability, barriers to an inclusion and enabling

environment. Approaches would include effective communication, inclusion in a Humanitarian setting and planning inclusive services. The Cook Islands participants looks forward to work together to apply the knowledges gained from the workshop in their work plans and activities.



Just Play Program visit by former NZ Prime Minister Hon

Bill English

Just play program is an outreach program for children which has been an effective avenue to spread social and educational messages on respect, acceptance and inclusion in our society. As a party to an MOU with Cook Islands Football Association (CIFA) the Ministry of Internal Affairs enjoyed working together with the Just Play program in helping our children understand the important of being friendly, respectable, acceptable and living inclusively in their schools and communities.

The Just Play program has been ongoing on Rarotonga and also Pa Enua—outer islands since 2010 under the leadership of Mrs Michelle Paiti and her dedicated team.

Co-funded by NZAID, DFAT, AUSAID and UEFA.

The Just Play Program also provided an opportunity for children to be physically fit and at the same time hear healthy messages from Ministry of Health to *get physical and drink a lot of water*'

On Monday 13th June 2017, the former New Zealand Prime Minister Hon. Bill English along with Minister of Pacific Island Affairs Hon. Alfred Ngaro, a Cook Islander and the New Zealand High Commissioner to the Cook Islands HE Peter Marshall

visited the Just Play program at the Tupapa sports ground. Hon Bill English admired the team from INTAFF delivering the key messages on playing cool with one another giving respect for each other; accepting one another as they are and including each other without avoiding or rejecting one.

Key Messages: **RESPECT** one Another, **ACCEPT** each person as they are, **INCLUSION** respect + Accept = **Inclusion**.



Hon Bill English, Hon Alfred Ngaro & HE Peter Marshall with INTAFF team at the Tupapa Sports Ground—Just Play Program

Launch of the Cook Islands Women & Girls with Disabilities Strategic Plan 2018-2022

Disability International Day—4th December 2017

To commemorate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, the Rarotonga persons with disabilities and their organizations, families and supporters celebrated the day with the theme; *“Transformation towards sustainable and resilient society for all”*

To mark this memorable day, the Cook Islands Women and Girls with Disabilities (CIWGD) Strategic Plan was launched. This strategy will guide all activities of CIWGD for the next five years. The organization acknowledges DFAT under the Gender Empow-

erment project for the support



to the development of this strategy. Held at the Islander Hotel, this was a first time for most persons with disabilities to go there.

Included amongst the guest were

the members of Parliament for Tenganangi-Areora, Atiu Hon. Rose Brown & Hon. Tetangi Matapo of Tamarua, Mangaia.

The guest speaker for the day was Ms Laisa Vereti Qalo, Research & Development officer at Pacific Disability Forum based in Suva, Fiji who shared an inspiring speech on the historic and challenging journeys persons with disabilities have encountered and still is in some places. She stated, *‘One important thing, that persons with disabilities must do is to stand up and speak up for your rights as you have every right to voice your opinions when you think you have been treated unfairly.’*



Senior Disability Adviser meeting

engagements



Patchwork from Aitutaki

The Senior Adviser for Disability has been involved in a number of meetings with line ministries of government. The purpose of these meetings were to address the issue of disability in institutional policies, reports and programs.

1. Draft National Building Code— It has been over two decades when the National Building Code was enacted and there were requests made in the past to review it to align with the building standards of today. We are grateful to Infrastructure Cook Islands who had taken the initiative along with external support from New Zealand Volunteer services to carry the tasks of reviewing the Code.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs was consulted during the review process and the Disability office contributed to the review focusing on Accessibility (CRPD Article 9) and Disability Act Part 4 *Access to Buildings*. In order to enjoy a barrier free society, government must take necessary actions to ensure persons with disabilities have access to the physical environment, transportation etc on an equal basis with others ensuring that *‘no one is left behind’* in the tribe. The office is grateful that access to building by persons with disabilities is recognized in the code which forms Part ND3, *Access to Buildings* of the final Building Code.

2. Labour laws scoping exercise— A scoping exercise was conducted by the ILO Pacific office to examine the progress of the Cook Islands in compliant with the five ILO Conventions that the country has ratified. Amongst the number of government ministries, the Disability office was consulted in relation to persons with disabilities in employment.



For more Information.

Contact the Disability office

**Ministry of Internal Affairs
PO Box 98, Avarua
Rarotonga, COOK ISLANDS
Phone: +682 29370 ext. 237
Email: internalaffairs@cookislands.gov.ck**



The Disability office continue to work together with our community in promoting and protecting the rights of persons with Disabilities in the Cook Islands

Trade Day - A first for Cook Islands Women & Girls with Disability (CIWGD):

On 1st - 3rd August 2017, BTIB held a Trade Day for Pa Enuā & small businesses on Rarotonga including women entrepreneurs. This is an annual event and it is the first time for CIWGDs to join and showcase their handi-crafts.



Veronica George

According to Ms Teupoko Rota Project Officer for CIWGD, it was a great opportunity for the ladies to show their products and also promote the talents of Women & Girls with disabilities. It was a successful day with most products sold and there were demands for more by visitors and locals.

CIWGD would like to extend their appreciation to the Gender Unit of Ministry of Internal Affairs with support of the Australian government for the opportunity to participate in the 2017 Trade Day. *'Nothing about without Us'*



Teupoko Rota

We aspire to—

Strengthen partnerships with all stakeholders, governments, civil society, disabled persons organizations and development partners working in partnerships and recognizing that disability is an issue affecting all sectors of society.

[Pacific Regional Strategy on Disability]

Disability stakeholders contacts:

Te Vaerua Rehabilitation - tevaerua@gmail.com - Ph: 22426

CIWGD - ciwgdo@gmail.com - Ph: 20122

CIFWA—cookfwa@oyster.net.ck - Ph: 23420

Creative Centre - creative@oysters.net.ck - Ph: 20081

Te Kainga - tekainga@oyster.net.ck - Ph:20162.

CINDC - cindc14@oyster.net.ck - Ph:20122

DISABILITY INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT COOK ISLANDS

