

Weekly Health updates

October 2016

MINISTRY of HEALTH & MEDICAL SERVICES
Shaping Fiji's Health



MINISTRY LOOKS AT NEW INITIATIVES TO ENHANCE SERVICES AT NADI HOSPITAL



(On left) Minister for Health and Medical Services, Hon. Rosy Akbar while visiting Nadi Hospital earlier this month

In the pursuit to reduce the waiting queues at Nadi Hospital, the Ministry of Health and Medical Services is pooling Locum doctors to assist during the peak operating hours.

Following her visit to Nadi Hospital earlier this month, the Minister for Health and Medical Services, Hon. Rosy Akbar met with the staff and management to see the best way forward in improving health services. The Ministry will also be undertaking renovation work to expand and uplift the service delivery provided at Nadi Hospital.

"We have got two more locum doctors to see how best we can ease the waiting queues. Currently, there are 80 or so nurses and 15 doctors at Nadi Hospital, which is shared with the Namaka Health Centre. Locums are paid for their services, general practitioners get \$50 per hour and for specialists we are going to pay them \$80 per hour. "We will refurbish the facilities and relook at areas that need improvement in the old hospital building at Nadi Hospital. In terms of other

facilities we have been in discussion with the hospital board to embark on renovation exercises which should be completed within 6 months. The construction work will start in the next 2 weeks and we hope to solve the issue of space shortages. I am impressed with the way this hospital is operating and if there is a problem then we need to find the solution as a means to better serve our Fijians," Minister Akbar elaborated.

Meanwhile, the Health Minister also plans to visit other hospital and health facilities around the country.

"The plan is to visit the divisional and subdivisional hospitals and talk to my senior management staff to pave the best way forward. Together, we should be able to uplift service delivery and we are seriously looking at ways to address doctor shortages and availability of medicine and basic provision of services. We have a plan in place to ensure that the needs of the communities remain a great priority," Minister Akbar said.

CELEBRATION ADVOCATES "MOVING ALL FIJIANS FORWARD IN UNITY"

The Fiji Day celebrations held in the northern division last week, emphasized the need for all Fijians to work in unity for national prosperity. The commemoration of Fiji Day, which marked the 46th anniversary of our nation's Independence, was celebrated nationwide on Saturday 8th October 2016.

The people of northern division also had the opportunity to celebrate the Fiji Day event at Naulumatua grounds in Nabouwalu, Bua. The event was officially opened by the Assistant Minister for Health and Medical Services, Honourable Alexander O'Connor.

In his opening address, Assistant Minister for Health reiterated the importance of this year's Fiji Day celebration theme, "Moving all Fijians Forward in Unity".

"It is based in the belief that we are stronger when we work together and when we find ways

to involve all of our people in our economic progress and advancement. We are strongest, when we celebrate our shared identity as Fijians, equal under the law and equally committed to moving our nation forward. That same theme is also deeply engrained in our Bill of Rights in the Constitution. There, the basic protections that level the playing field for our people are enshrined for all time. And that is very much worth celebrating as a major milestone in our history," Mr O'Connor said.

He emphasised that in the new Fiji, every member of the society is a part of the journey forward.

"That includes those of us who reside in isolated rural and maritime areas and those who are most vulnerable, women, children, the elderly, the infirm and the disabled. No matter who you are, no matter where you call home, you deserve to be involved in our success and have access to the same essential services as anyone else. So all of us can raise our flags proudly, and know with complete certainty that this nation and this Government belong to each one of us.

"The strength of the Fijian people has undoubtedly been

tested over the past year, but that same spirit of camaraderie and unity that we can celebrate today also carried us through those trying times. When Cyclone Winston ravaged our nation, causing vast destruction, taking lives and leaving many of our people on their knees, we came together, like never before, to care for those affected and rebuild the livelihoods that were lost. That work is still ongoing, and the resilient character of our people will help us reclaim what was taken, and emerge as an even stronger nation.

"So truly, whether facing challenges or revelling in victory, this past year has shown that there has never been a time where we can be more proud to call ourselves Fijian. Today we can celebrate, we give respect to those who have come before us, those who helped build our nation, and we look to the future, hopeful and confident of what we can achieve," Mr O'Connor said.



(in middle) the Assistant Minister for Health and Medical Services, Honourable Alexander O'Connor while officiating the Fiji Day celebrations 2016 at Nabouwalu Bua in Northern division

MINISTER VISITS HEALTH FACILITIES ON KORO ISLAND



(standing on left) Minister for Health and Medical Services, Hon. Rosy Akbar while visiting the Nabasovi Health Centre on Koro Island last week

The Minister for Health and Medical Services, Hon. Rosy Akbar took a tour of the health facilities around Koro Island in Lomaiviti Group on Friday last week.

On her first official visit to the Island of Koro, Minister Akbar was accompanied by the Ministry's wellness team that also provided free health screening and health checks to the communities gathered for the Fiji Day celebrations event held at Koro Island High School.

Minister Akbar also visited the three health centres based around the Koro Island and these are Nacamaki, Nabasovi and Nasau Health Centres. The objective of Minister Akbar's visit was to look at ways to enhance the services at the Koro Island health facilities.

"All in all it was a very good trip, it enabled the team to get firsthand experience and information on the ways to uplift health services. It was also an opportunity for the health team to provide

services like free health screening.

"From the nursing stations and health centres we visited on Koro Island, the nurses didn't complain about shortages of medicine, so the medicine supply has been consistent in these nursing stations and people are very appreciative of that. We intend to visit other maritime areas to see how best we can deliver the health services to the maritime communities," Minister Akbar said.

The Health Minister Akbar also alluded to the need for communities to be responsible for their own health.

"During this trip, we also encouraged villages on the need to maintain a healthy lifestyle. We are all responsible for our health, we must take appropriate measures to look after our health especially with the increasing cases of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD's)," Minister Akbar said.

DR KOROIVUETA ACKNOWLEDGES ORAL HEALTH SERVICES

This year's Oral Health Association annual conference discussed the enhancement of oral health services through knowledge sharing and up skilling dental practitioners.

Dental practitioners from various health facilities and private dental practitioners deliberated on the theme "Challenges in the Management of Oral Health Diseases in a Resource Constraint setting".

While speaking at the awards night, the acting Permanent Secretary for Health and Medical Services, Dr Josefa Koroivueta applauded the efforts of the dental practitioners for their timely collaboration to enhance the oral health services.

"I note with appreciation that your association has brought together dental practitioners from

both the private and public sector during this meeting to share knowledge and experiences with the aim to equip dental practitioners to provide quality oral health care to all Fijians", Dr Koroivueta said.

Dr Koroivueta also acknowledged the work done by the dental fraternity in managing resources and delivering oral health services successfully to patients.

Meanwhile, four members of the association received awards for their distinguished services in the dental arena, which have benefitted patients and the country as a whole.

Dr Koroivueta also assured the executives of the association that concerns they raised will be addressed by the Health Ministry.



Acting Permanent Secretary for health and medical services Dr Jo Koroivueta presenting the awards.

These detailed stories are also available on Ministry website: www.health.gov.fj



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