

# Weekly Health updates

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MINISTRY of HEALTH & MEDICAL SERVICES  
Shaping Fiji's Health



## RENOVATIONS AT ST GILES HOSPITAL TO IMPROVE SERVICES



(Pictured second from right) Minister for Health and Medical Services Hon. Rosy Akbar with the St Giles Hospital Board of Visitors during the launch of World Mental Health Day commemorated at St Giles Hospital last week.

The recent renovations carried by the Ministry of Health and Medical Services at the St Giles Hospital is aimed at improving the patient care and comfort. This has been revealed through the Minister for Health and Medical Services, Hon. Rosy Akbar recent visit to St Giles Hospital to inspect the refurbishment works around the facility last week. During the visitations, Minister Akbar inspected the renovation works at the hospital's kitchen which has been done through the \$50,000 budget allocation provided by the Health Ministry. She said the kitchen renovations have improved the catering environment, thereby enabling the staff to prepare healthy and nutritious meals for 85 inpatients currently receiving treatment at the St Giles Hospital. Female ward restrooms and showers have also been repaired and hot water solar systems have been installed. Minister Akbar said these renovations will enhance the overall service and care provided at the St Giles Hospital. The Health Ministry is also scoping the work plans to renovate the men's ward as well. Elaborating about the significant achievements of the St Giles Hospital, Senior Medical Officer Dr Elizabeth Koroivuki spoke about the community outreach

programs "It empowers them to develop their skills and venture into employment opportunities to develop an independent life. The outreach team works collaboratively with other agencies to run public awareness programs, provide free counselling services and also promote a non-discriminatory and barrier free society for those living with mental illness. "Through the Community Recovery Outreach Program we continue to assist the St Giles patients to develop their skills and find jobs into areas of painting and other vocational activities. Our community mental health team also conducts clinics at the health facilities in Samabula, Nausori and Valelevu Health Centres. They also work closely with the Stress Management Wards in the divisional hospitals to provide the mental health services. "We continue to include the families of the patients, to try and help them address the challenges they face, to ensure that the patients are treated and integrated into their families and communities," Dr Koroivuki said.

## NEW BEDS AT CWMH BRINGS COMFORT AND CARE



(Pictured on the left) Minister for Health and Medical Services, Hon. Rosy Akbar while visiting the mothers at the CWMH maternity wards that has been furnished with new beds.

The Fijian Government's ongoing efforts to modernize and enhance the health services has seen a total of 430 new beds being provided to the wards at Colonial War Memorial Hospital (CWMH). The new beds which has been installed last month has replaced the old beds. The Ministry of Health and Medical Services is adamant to provide enhanced infrastructure not just in CWMH but other health facilities around Fiji. It is the first time for the Ministry of Health and Medical Services to procure this number of new beds for the CWMH. The Health Minister, Hon. Rosy Akbar also recently visited the CWMH and spoke to the patients regarding the improved services. The patients have expressed their appreciation to the Health Ministry for providing the new beds at CWMH. One of the expectant mother, Mrs Kinisimere Adi

who was admitted at the CWMH's maternity ward said the new beds provide great comfort. "It's a good initiative by the Ministry of Health to provide these new set of beds and we thank them for this positive change," Mrs Adi said. Mrs Sannah Hassan, an expectant mother at CWMH said the new beds bring comfort to both the mothers and the new born. "These new beds are indeed very comfortable and much better than the old ones. Such developments will bring much care and comfort to the patients and we thank the Ministry for this initiative," Mrs Hassan said. Similar sentiments have been expressed by the other patients who were impressed with the quality of comfort provided through the new beds at CWMH.

## LOCAL HEALTH TEAM LEAVES FOR GOLAN HEIGHTS



Some of Fiji's Medical Corps who will participate in the Peacekeeping operations and provide medical and surgical support to the Infantry Battalion Hospital in Golan Heights.

The 6th Battalion of Fiji's Medical Corps is ready to depart Fiji next week for Golan Heights to participate in the Peacekeeping operations and provide medical and surgical support to the Infantry Battalion Hospital in Golan Heights. The Golan Height Peacekeeping mission is supported by the Republic of Fiji Military Forces (RFMF). The purpose of the Medical Corps is to supervise, monitor and manage the general health and well-being of United Nations Disengagement Observer Force Staff. Each year Fijian soldiers' with medical personal from the Ministry of Health and Medical Services are deployed to the Golan Heights to be part of UNDOF. A group of 6 medical team consists of Medical Officers, Surgeons, Anesthetist, and Specialist Nurses, staff Nurses, Nurse Practitioners, Lab technicians, Medical Imaging Technologist, Physiotherapist, Biomedical Technician and an Anesthetic Technician. The twenty-two (22) staff selected are part of the Fiji Emergency Medical Assistance Team (FEMAT) who are trained to respond to emergencies and sudden onset disasters. The members had volunteered through an expression of interest, and have been selected based on merit

and professional capability for the mission. The Fiji Emergency Medical Assistance Team (FEMAT) is a Ministry of Health and Medical Services initiative which is mandated to organize medical assistance, resources and medical teams for deployment at the direction of Fijian Government in response to requests for health assistance in major emergency situations nationally and internationally. FEMAT is currently undergoing a World Health Organization (WHO) verification process and will soon be able to respond to domestic and even overseas medical deployments when required. The Ministry of Health and Medical Service has been providing medical corps for the RFMF Golan Deployment since 2013. The Batt 6 health staff has been undergoing military training and fitness tests for last two months to ensure that they are able to cope in their mission. A small function was held at Ministry of Health and Medical Service Headquarters on Monday 8th October this week to farewell the departing medical staff. The staff will be on deployment for a period of 14 months.

## MINISTRY TARGETS YOUTHS ON MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

The Ministry of Health and Medical Services has commenced awareness programmes on mental health issues through targeting the empowerment of youths. The major focus for this year's World Mental Health Day to emphasise on the importance of awareness raising through engaging the youths to champion mental health awareness. The key components of public awareness involves messages on prevention, early interventions, resilience and platforms available to support the development of healthy future for our young people. The awareness is provided in response to increase in mental illness and suicide cases where 50 percent of mental illness cases are seen with people as young as 14 years. The Ministry is of the view that with increased accessibility to services and information, more young people will be able to access the information and treatment that could significantly help lessen the severity of the mental health issues. In Fiji this year National World Mental Health Day will be celebrated on 12th of October, at Civic Centre in Labasa, and other Divisions/ Sub-Divisions will also be celebrating this event throughout the month as October is observed as the mental health month. This year's theme "Young People and Mental Health in a Changing World" fits quite well as the Ministry focuses on the empowerment of younger generation, to transform them into better and productive citizens of the country. The overall objective of this program is to raise awareness on the mental health wellness and issues gripping our people and mobilizing efforts in support of mental health. This day also provides an opportunity for all stakeholders working on mental health issues to talk about their work, and what more needs to be done to make mental health more accessible for the people. The sub-divisions is also organizing activities throughout the month to mark this event which will involve mental health awareness for the general public, while the major focus is around the empowerment of young people.



The Health Ministry's awareness programs on mental health focus on community engagement and empowers young people to be the voice for positive change.

