



IMPROVED ACCESSIBILITY THROUGH 24/7 SERVICE AT VALELEVU HEALTH CENTRE



SDMO Suva Dr Pablo Romakin with staff at Valelevu Health Centre.

The establishment of the 24 hours and 7 days a week service at the Valelevu Health Centre since January this year has increased the accessibility of health services to the general public. A brief evaluation of the 24/7 services by the Health Ministry reveals that on a monthly basis, an average of 28,655 patients are accessing the Valelevu Health Centre, after the rollout of 24/7 services as compared to 20,000 patients seen monthly before. The Minister for Health and Medical Services, Hon. Rosy Akbar says it's also encouraging to see that patients have opportunity to be seen at any point in time and which has also eased the load off at the CWMH. The Health Ministry has boosted the staffing numbers at the Valelevu Health Centres, with a total of 19 medical professionals including doctors and nurse practitioners currently managing the services. Apart from that, the Centre also has 5 locum doctors that has enabled the team to attend to more than more than 7100 patients' a week upon the establishment of 24/7 services. The utilisation of the Queue Management System (QMS) has also enabled the Valelevu Health Centre to reduce the patient waiting time, ensure streamlined, systematic flow and operations. With the QMS, the patients are served on the first come, first served basis and they are given electronically generated tickets as compared to the previous manual numbering system. Patients are able to view the numbers served and the consultation rooms they are

referred to through the television monitors displayed in the waiting area. The medical professionals are able to monitor the patients waiting outside as such they are able to plan their consultation time accordingly, which in turn enables timely flow of the services without patients having to wait for long to be served. The Valelevu Health Centre is also working towards incorporating the QMS into their x-ray and lab services. The QMS which is an evidence based tool helps to mobilise resources and support effective decision making and it was initially piloted at the Valelevu Health Centre in November 2016. The Valelevu Health Centre staff also have opportunities to enhance their customer care skills through the training opportunities provided by the Health Ministry. The medical professionals work closely with the Community Health Workers to conduct community outreach awareness on the public health programs to address the lifestyle diseases, namely the Non-Communicable Diseases and Communicable Diseases. A 56 year old resident of Kinoya, Mr Joseph Mallam has commended the Health Ministry for expanded services and wishes to see that these services are maintained at the Valelevu Health Centre. Valelevu Health Centre was established in 1982 and geographically covers Kinoya to Laqere areas, including those around Suva-Nausori corridor with an estimated population of about 200,000 people.

SIGATOKA HOSPITAL RATED BEST MOTHER AND NEW BORN SAFE HEALTH FACILITY



SDMO Sigatoka Dr. Amos Zibrán (fourth from left) with other medical staff at the Sigatoka Hospital.

The Sigatoka hospital has been identified as the best health facility in achieving Mother and new born safe hospital initiative after an external audit conducted in October this year including the central and Western Division. The aim of the audit is allow facilities to have certain level of preparedness to provide safe and quality maternal and newborn care. Sigatoka sub-divisional hospital has so far been consistent in their results scoring 75% adherence in 2016 and again the same score was recorded in the 2018 audit. This basically means that the facility had scored fully functional in 9 out of the 12 standards. The Ministry of Health and Medical Services has adapted 12 service delivery steps by WHO, "Mother-Baby Package." This initiative is called "Fiji Mother & New Born Safe Hospital Initiative" (MNSHI) and it focuses on strengthening supplies, training,

equipment and service delivery to name a few. An assessment criterion (MNSHI Audit tool) is used to audit hospitals using these 12 steps. This revelation has brought much satisfaction to the hospital staff as they felt that their hard work and dedication to their profession had been recognized. The team had, over the course of the past several months undoubtedly put in a lot of efforts to ensure a high clinical standard of the hospital was maintained at all times. This was through regular micro audits, ensuring availability of all necessary equipment and consumables, investing in staff training and strengthening on documentation. Sub-Divisional Medical Officer Nadroga, Dr Amos Zibrán congratulated the staff members for being very supportive and extremely hard working and has encouraged them to extend the limits of success despite all the challenges.

SUCCESSFUL PUBLIC HEALTH ROADSHOW IN THE NADI HIGHLANDS



Health staff demonstrating handwashing skills to School children

The Public Health team from Nadi Health Subdivision joined the Public Road show last week in Bukuya and Magodro in the interior of Vitilevu to create awareness on the safe health practices to reduce the burden of diseases amongst the people. The aim of this campaign was to reduce the risk of NCD's and CD's and educating people on maintaining a healthy lifestyle given the difficult conditions they live in particularly in the interior highlands. The medical team including doctors, dietician and physiotherapist from Nadi hospital, nurses from Bukuya and Nanoko Health centres and health inspectors from Nadi Health Office provided general screening, dental checkup and health awareness talks

on communicable diseases and non-communicable diseases. The highlight of this campaign was the distribution of hand washing soap to the schools and relay the basic and important message about hand washing and general hygiene practices to the school students. It is often observed that children become victims of the avoidable communicable diseases with failure to safe hygiene practices and awareness such as this assists best in addressing these issues. The Divisional Medical officer Western Dr Susana Nakalevu confirmed that the public participation was very encouraging and the medical team was able to accomplish their objective with a hope to reduce the burden of diseases in the sub-division.

PATIENTS RECEIVE NEW LEASE OF LIFE THROUGH THE FOOTCARE PROGRAM



Staff Nurse Neelam Naidu with Patients at the Wainibokasi Hospital.

The footcare program coordinated by the Wainibokasi Hospital has given new lease of life to some patients who through proper treatment and care have been able to prevent the amputation of their limbs. Acting Medical Officer in charge at Wanibokasi Hospital Dr Kositino Turaga says that since 2016, the foot care clinic team at the Wainibokasi has been able to saved up to 16 limbs from getting amputation. The footcare team at the hospital has worked actively to treat and heal the infected diabetic wounds and lesion. From August 2017 to July 2018, the team has also assisted 14 diabetic patients to save their limbs from amputation. The foot care team continues to monitor these cases and conducts outreach awareness program on the prevention of Non-Communicable Diseases like diabetes. Dr Turaga said that they also encourage all the diabetic patients to seek early treatment to avoid any complications. Regular information and advice is also provided to diabetic patients and their families on proper dressing of diabetic wounds and they also on their dietary requirements and monitored of their progress accordingly. The Wainibokasi hospital foot care team have also worked proactively to form a diabetic patients group that works collaboratively to help raise awareness on the prevention of diabetes. A 72 year old Pratap Chand has praised the work of the Wainibokasi Hospital in helping me save his leg from getting amputated. Mr Chand said if it wasn't

for the staff nurses and the treatment they gave, he wouldn't have been able to walk on his feet. An emotional Mr Chand shared how the medical professionals at Wainibokasi Hospital footcare clinic took their time out to do the dressing of the diabetic wounds which healed eventually. The wounds have worsened to a stage where Mr Chand had given hope that it would ever heal, but the support and compassionate service by the nurses gave him a new hope and a brand new life. With the healed legs, Mr Chand is able to work around at his family farm and is able to live an active life. Expressing similar sentiments, Mr Jese Tute who has been a diabetic patient for the last 5 years have been able to save his legs from amputation through the treatment provided at Wainibokasi Hospital footcare clinic. He said that through proper treatment his diabetic wounds have healed and for which he is greatly appreciative towards staff Neelam for the assistance. The staff and management at the Wainibokasi Hospital have also established NCD (Non-Communicable Diseases) work environment that challenges the team to live a healthy life. The staff also engage in regular sporting activities and physical activities and the dietician has also assisted the staff with their diet plan. They also monitor their weight, blood sugar and blood pressure to ensure that the team takes all the appropriate measures to remain NCD free.

