

Weekly Health updates

February 2018

MINISTRY of HEALTH & MEDICAL SERVICES
Shaping Fiji's Health



OPERATION THEATRES AT SIGATOKA HOSPITAL WILL GET MAJOR FACELIFT



(Pictured second from left) Minister for Health and Medical Services Hon. Rosy Akbar with the Board of Visitors and Health Ministry staff during the recent visit to the Sigatoka hospital

Plans are under way for the renovations of the operation theatres at the Sigatoka Sub-Divisional Hospital which will be financed by the Coral Coast Fiji Hoteliers Association- Charity Golf Day collection. Association President and General Manager of Outrigger Resort Mr Peter Hopgood met with the Health Minister Hon. Rosy Akbar earlier this month and outlined the action plans for the development of the Operating Theatres (OT). Currently, there is only one OT and it needs urgent maintenance while there is a need to construct a post anaesthetic recovery unit where patients will be receiving further medical attention after the surgeries. With a population of 51,902, it is absolutely necessary to have a fully equipped and modern

Operation Theatre for the sub-division to further strengthen the health services. It is also envisaged that the planned development will also assist the foreign groups who visit our shores and offer free medical services as they would need the appropriate medical equipment and infrastructure to best deliver the services. The Minister for Health and Medical Services Hon. Rosy Akbar welcomed this timely initiative adding that such collaboration and great effort will greatly assist the patients in the Nadroga Province. Meanwhile, a premier House Guest at Outrigger Resort is undertaking a Project to donate quality Medical Equipment from some of the top Sydney Hospitals for Sigatoka Hospital & also all other health centres and nursing stations in Nadroga/Navosa.

MAKOI MATERNITY FACILITY TO OPEN SOON



New Makoi Maternity Ward

The new Makoi Maternity Unit is expected to open soon. This will bring a sigh of relief to pregnant mothers in Makoi and surrounding areas as the Ministry has established maternity services closer to their doorsteps. This project is within the fundamental agenda of the Fijian Government whereby services are delivered closer to the reach of the Fijian people. It is envisaged that the service demand at the CWM Maternity Hospital would be lessened and that would promote a more clinical, enabling and care environment to high risk pregnancies. It will have a broad range of outpatient maternity services which will include Antenatal clinics, Family planning, Post-delivery clinics in Maternal and Child Health and Immunization. There will be 16 beds for these in patient services. As such the Makoi facility will reduce crowding in CWM hospital and allow the CWM facility to put more effort in caring for high risk pregnancy. The benefits

will also include better infection control and comfort for mothers in both facilities. Given that the Makoi facility is in a highly populated area, this facility will allow many low risk mothers to have delivery services provided closer to home. The facility will also provide high risk antenatal and pregnancy ultrasound services. The main focus will be on mothers who are at medium level risk and require frequent clinics. They make up at least 50% of our high risk clinics so we expect some relief in terms of space constraints in the antenatal area of CWM Hospital. A number of arrangements will be in place to facilitate easier access to specialist services in CWM hospital. There is an initial phase of 6 months when the Ministry will focus on providing outpatient services. The in-patient services will be phased in with improvements in human resource and transport logistics support.

FAMILY PLANNING UNIT INTENSIFIES COMMUNITY OUTREACH



(Pictured above) Assistant Minister for Health and Medical Services, Hon. Alex O'Connor with the Family Planning Unit staff during one of the community outreach programmes.

Family Planning Unit of the Health Ministry is intensifying community awareness through all its service outlets (that is hospitals, health centres and nursing stations). Officers (both doctors and nurses) are well trained to be able to provide this services. The Ministry works with other agencies to ensure a steady supply of Family Planning commodities for use nationally. The Unit aims to promote, protect and provide for the health needs of our women, children and adolescents, meeting health needs for our target population nationally, and also to meet international obligations. The main purpose of encouraging the use of

Family planning commodities is to allow for birth spacing for the women or couple, it is also aimed at reducing complications that would arise. The unit also provides the following services out in the communities in Fiji.

- Free screening
- Free treatment
- Free follow up
- Diagnostic services – confirmation of HIV, screening for other STI & Hepatitis
- Laboratory follow up services for Viral load testing
- Professionally trained medical officers and nurses
- Raising awareness at any opportunity

HEALTH MINISTRY RECEIVES PORTABLE NEBULIZERS



(Pictured at the centre) Mr Ivan Lal presents the portable nebulizers to Deputy Secretary Hospital Services Dr Luisa Cikamatana at the Fiji Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Services.

The Ministry of Health and Medical Services has received 15 portable Nebulizers from Medica Pacifica to be distributed to the Sub-divisional health facilities throughout Fiji, thereby providing greater support to patients with respiratory diseases. The Business Manager, Medica Pacifica South Pacific Limited Mr Ivan Lal handed over the nebulizers to the Deputy Secretary Hospital Services Dr Luisa Cikamatana at the Fiji Pharmaceuticals & Biomedical services in Vatuwaqa last week. Respiratory diseases amongst the people in Fiji are one of the common issues and there is a growing need for nebulizers. Nebulizers are commonly used for the treatment of cystic fibrosis, asthma and other respiratory diseases and disorders. Dr Cikamatana while receiving the nebulizers

acknowledged the effort of Medica Pacifica in recognising the need for such devices for medical intervention and patient care processes. "We are truly proud of this partnership with Medica Pacifica that will help us further enhance health services for Fijian families", she said. Mr Lal said that they were happy to assist the government of Fiji in providing the much needed medical services that benefits the patients in reducing the burden of respiratory illness. "We have been partners with the Ministry of Health and Medical Services since years back and so we would like to give something back as a token of appreciation to further strengthen that partnership", Mr Lal said.



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Compiled by Media Unit at MHMS Headquarters
P: 3314988 M: 8905053 | 9904055