



MHMS COMMENDS SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH FOR ORGANISING HEALTH AWARENESS EXPO



(Pictured above) Assistant Minister for Health and Medical Services, Hon. Alexander O'Connor with the SDA Church Members while taking part in the street march in Suva to commemorate the launching of the NewStart Health Awareness Expo organised at the Sukuna Park in Suva this week

A multisectoral partnership between Government, Non-Government Organisations and Faith Based Organisations holds the key to reachout to communities on the importance of healthy living. This was the message conveyed by the Assistant Minister for Health and Medical Services, Hon. Alexander O'Connor while officially opening the one week NewStart Health Awareness Expo organised at the Sukuna Park in Suva this week.

The Expo has been organised by the Adventist Health Department of the Seventh Day Adventist Church to raise awareness on healthy living and development. Mr O'Connor commended the SDA Ministers' and SDA congregation for their commitment and support towards the Fijian Government's ongoing effort to fight against Non-Communicable Diseases.

"By holding this one week Health Awareness Expo, you have clearly displayed your firm commitment by redoubling your efforts to support and encourage this important ministry. The fight against NCDs requires the involvement of everyone and our collective effort.

"I am, therefore, truly grateful that the SDA Church have teamed up with Government to help the wider community in creating more awareness and consciousness on Fiji's debilitating Non Communicable Disease situation," Mr O'Connor said.

The Expo aims to reachout to general public with information and walk-through experience and learning on the eight (8) major lifestyles and health aspects on the following acronym and its significance.

N for Nutrition, E for Exercise, W for Water, S for Sunshine, T for Temperance, A for Air, R for Rest and T for Trust in God.

The Health Ministry has described the Expo as a great opportunity inculcate the behavioural change and advocacy to adopt to healthy choices and taking responsibility for one's own health.

"In the recent 2018/2019 budget, government has budgeted a total of \$1m for the Ministry of Health's National Health Promotion Program. However government recognizes that Health Promotion is more than the Ministry. The role of educating our citizens and our young people on Non Communicable Diseases rests equally on everyone's shoulders.

"The more EXPO and Awareness Programs we have on NCDs the better we can help each other in shaping a Healthy Fiji in future. Fundamental to everything we do, a healthy lifestyle enables us to engage with life.

Without good health, we cannot easily share in loving relationships with our families and friends, fully participate in our chosen work, contribute meaningfully to our communities, or effectively compete on the global stage. Healthy citizens therefore leads to a healthy nation," Mr O'Connor elaborated.

PATIENTS PRAISE HEALTH SERVICES ON THE CHINESE HOSPITAL SHIP



(Pictured on the right) Mr Jokini Taoi, a Suva resident receives medicine on board the Chinese Hospital Ship Ark Peace.

The Chinese PLA Hospital Ship Ark Peace left Fiji last week with lots of praises and fond memories of appreciation from the locals who received much needed medical care absolutely free of charge.

Jokini Taoi, a resident of Suva, who is originally from Vanuavatu in the Lau group, was one of the patients on board at the Chinese Hospital Ship ARK PEACE to receive free medical service.

Reacting delightfully, Mr Taoi said he was lucky to have the opportunity to receive medical care on the ship and thanked the Chinese people for the continued assistance to the people of Fiji.

"We are very fortunate here in Fiji for this hospital ship from China to come and visit us and I can count myself lucky because I could go through the whole

medical check of my body", he said.

"I want to thank the Chinese Government on behalf of the people of Fiji as we really benefitted from the services they provided."

Most of the patients received medical services on the ship also patients were seen at Raiwaqa Health Centre, Lami Health Centre and Makoi Health Centre, the three designated health centres to receive specialized Orthopedic, Oncology, Gynae and Urology services by the medical team from the ship. Mr Josefa Bolaqace the program coordinator of the Ministry of Health said that the Ship will return to Fiji after two years to deliver further assistance to other needy patients.

The program rounded off Wednesday, last week.

HEALTH WORKERS CARRY OUT MENC IMMUNISATIONS AT THE SCHOOLS AND HEALTH CENTRES IN WEST AND NORTH



Students of Nawaka District School with the health workers during the MenC Immunisation rollout in schools in Nadi this month

The National Meningococcal (Men C) Immunisation Program, is currently rollout in the western and northern division. The program in the western division is coordinated in Sigatoka, Nadi, Lautoka, Ba, Tavua and Ra. The program which initially started in the Central Division and Ra subdivision on 14th May this year has seen over 110,000 children aged between 1 to 19 years have been vaccinated.

The nation-wide mass immunisation campaign led by the Ministry of Health and Medical Services is supported by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The Men-C immunisation programme aims to immunise all children and teenagers in Fiji aged between 1 to 19 years of age, free of cost, and is being delivered at schools, kindergartens, health centres and nursing stations across Fiji.

While coordinating the MenC Immunisation Program at Nadi Health Centre, Acting Subdivisional Nurse Manager Nadi Mrs Fane Lavasani is confident to immunise a target of 32,700 children aged 1 to 19 years in Nadi subdivision. So far the team has received positive response through the immunisations carried out in schools, health centres, nursing stations and communities.

"We started the program on 12th of July and we have been immunising 40 to 90 children daily at the Nadi Health Centre. Most of the age group immunised here at the centre ranges between 1 to 5 years and the team goes to schools and in the afternoon they visit the communities to raise awareness and also immunise. Through our outreach programs, the nurses have reached out to village headmen and advisory counsellors.

Our target for Nadi subdivision is to immunise 32,700 children aged 1 to 19 years and with the reports

received so far over 10,000 children have been immunised. MenC Immunisation is also carried out at Nadi Hospital, Namaka Health Centre and Namaka Reproductive Health Clinic. The team also reaches out to rural remote communities and settlements," Mrs Lavasani said.

Similarly, the Acting Sub-Divisional Nursing Manager for Lautoka/Yasawa's, Mrs Melaia Neioko said that through good team coordination they have been able to complete immunisation at all the secondary schools in Lautoka.

"We have immunised well over 4958 children at the secondary schools and we thank the parents who have given their consent. We appeal to those who are yet to give the consent to do so and our teams are also visiting communities as well. We have also received good coverage rate at the 10 primary schools completed this week and there are a total of 50 primary schools to be covered in Lautoka. Coverage from Yasawa is also positive as well.

"We have visited more than 75 communities in the Lautoka subdivision for the outreach programs and it enabled us to raise awareness on menc immunisation and at the same time immunise the children aged 1 to 19 years. We thank the families, schools and everyone for the support given to our teams so far," Mrs Neioko said.

Mrs Siteri Dovu of Narawa village Nadi was glad to get her 4 year old grandson immunised for menc by the team at Nadi Health Centre.

"I had heard about the menc vaccine over the radio and as such I got my grandson to be vaccinated. We are thankful to the government for availing this vaccine for free and we hope that parents would make the right decision by ensuring that their children are immunised against menc disease." Mrs Dovu said.

GRANDMOTHER APPLAUDS HEALTH SERVICES

A Sigatoka grandmother described the health services as above expectation after her granddaughter made speedy recovery when she was brought in for high fever on the 25th of July 2018.

Arieta Lolorua of Korolevu Sigatoka accompanied her namesake granddaughter 2 year old Arieta Lolorua to Sigatoka Hospital and the medical authorities after examination admitted the child for further observation.

Mrs Lolorua while speaking to the health officials said that she was very pleased with the way the health officials attended to the child that lead to the early recovery of her granddaughter.

"The staff were very nice to us and immediately took care of my granddaughter and now she is feeling much better."

"I would like to thank the medical staff for their kind gesture and wonderful care towards to my granddaughter which has enabled her to overcome her ill-health," she said.

Mrs. Lolorua has been a community health worker where she has offered free health services to the community for the last 15 years.

Meanwhile Mrs Lolorua brightened up with smiles when she was told that the government through the

2018-2019 budget will provide monthly allowances to all the community health workers in Fiji.

All voluntary health workers will now receive \$200.00 a month for the health services they render in their communities.

Mrs Lolorua expressed her appreciation and gratitude to the Fijian government for recognizing their services and said that this will allow community health workers to work more diligently to assist those in need of immediate health care.



Arieta Lolorua of Korolevu Sigatoka with her namesake 2 year old granddaughter who was treated at Sigatoka Hospital recently.