

# Weekly Health updates

February 2018

MINISTRY of HEALTH & MEDICAL SERVICES  
Shaping Fiji's Health



## HEALTH MINISTRY CONDUCTS PSYCHOLOGICAL FIRST AID TRAINING FOR GOVERNMENT AGENCIES



Participants at the Psychological First Aid Training at the health Headquarters in Suva

The Psychological First Aid Training was held for two days from the 19th -20th February, 2018 at health headquarters. It included 19 participants from the various government ministries such as military personnel's, National fire Authority staff and DISMAC staff along with the community policing staff.

communities can be affected by traumatic events

- Build an awareness on the role that PFA plays in the communities recovery process
- Provide practical PFA skills that can be applied in the communities
- To outline some practical considerations for use in disaster affected communities

The training is designed to reachout to the high risk areas and provide psychological support in any disaster. Psychological First Aid is helpful to everyone—children, adolescents, adults, elders, families, and communities who have been exposed to a traumatic or emergency incident, including responders and support service providers. Though providers of PFA must not force people to talk if they are not ready.

Psychological First Aid is designed to be simple and practical so that it can be used in any setting. It can be provided anywhere that trauma survivors can be found - in shelters, schools, hospitals, private homes, the workplace, and community settings.

Psychological First Aid (PFA) is an evidence-informed approach that is built on the concept of human resilience. PFA aims to reduce stress symptoms and assist in the healthy recovery following a traumatic event, natural disaster, public health emergency, or even a personal crisis. Ideally PFA will be available to affected populations as soon as practicable and as soon as it is safe to do so. For instance, when a crisis event occurs, it would be ideal that the **first responders that arrive at the scene**, and even those from within the affected communities who are assisting have had Psychological First Aid (PFA) training and can administer PFA.

The objective of the training has been to:

- To build an understanding of how individuals and

## STAFF NURSE ASPIRES TO ASSIST THOSE IN NEED



Staff Nurse Ilisapeci Vakacequcequ at the Raiwaqa health Centre in Nadroga.

Galant effort by Staff Nurse Ilisapeci Vakacequcequ and Medical Officer Dr Neeshil Varman stationed at the Raiwaqa health centre in the interior of Nadroga brought much relief to an asthmatic patient who would have otherwise died at home in the neighboring village of Vunarewa.

Staff Nurse Vakacequcequ resides in the Vunarewa village in Nadroga where a patient suffered from asthma attack and could not reach the Raiwaqa Health Centre immediately since the flash foods covered the bridge on the road that lead to the nearest health centre.

This prompted Staff nurse Ili (as she is known by) to assist the patient with the necessary intervention as she usually keeps the emergency medical equipment with her in the village. As revealed by staff Ili, the patient could have died had she not provided the basic health care instantly.

"I usually keep the emergency medications and equipment to address complex situations that patients go through as it becomes very difficult to transport them to the health centre because of the unfavorable weather conditions and the uneven population distribution in the medical area", Staff Ili said.

She further said that it becomes the duty of the medical professional to assist the patient irrespective of the location. The Health Ministry commends such great efforts by the nurses as it strives to uphold its vision of building "A healthy population" while at the same time advises the people to seek medical attention as early as possible to avoid complications.

## MINISTRY OF HEALTH & MEDICAL SERVICES RENEWS MOU WITH MEDICAL SERVICES PACIFIC FOR A 5 YEAR PERIOD

In efforts to strengthen the existing working relationship between Ministry of Health & Medical Services (MSMS) and Medical Services Pacific (MSP), the two entities have renewed their Memorandum of Understanding for 2018 for a five year period.

MSP works collaboratively with Ministry of Health and Medical Services to provide clinical health services to communities in need across Fiji with mobile outreaches and Static Clinics (OSS) Suva and Labasa.

This MOU will also strengthen key issues of MSP which is Sexual and Reproductive health and rights

(SRHR) issues for women, youth and children. MSP is providing an innovative national cervical cancer eradication program (e.g. VIA-Cryotherapy) under the MOU with the Ministry.

The new Labasa One Stop Shop Clinic is also open in Labasa providing FREE health and social services. "We are pleased that the signing of this third MOU will serve to ensure an increased focus on reproductive health care (inclusive of post rape care services) and expand the coverage of sexual reproductive health services to rural and maritime areas" in Fiji," said Jennifer Poole, Executive Director Medical Services Pacific.

## HEALTH FACILITIES TO UNDERGO GENERAL MAINTENANCE WORKS IN NADROGA



Assistant Health Minister Hon. Alex O'Connor is being briefed on the record keeping at the Lomawai Health Centre.

The Assistant Minister for Health and Medical Services Mr Alex O'Connor has revealed that the health facilities will undergo much needed maintenance works to enhance the provision of medical services to the people in remote locations.

Mr O'Connor recently visited the health centres and nursing stations in the Nadroga subdivision which included Korolevu health centre, Vatukarasa health centre, Raiwaqa health centre, Cuvu health centre, Lomawai health centre and Tau health centre in an effort to identify the immediate improvements to the health facilities.

During the discussions with the medical officers of the respective health stations, it was established that minor maintenance were needed.

Mr O'Connor has assured that the respective departments that appropriate actions will be taken

to address the issues raised by the staff as better facilities will lift the standard of health service delivery.

"I commend you for the hard work that you have rendered to the needy patients and the Ministry will certainly look into the issues you have raised and address them in a timely manner", Mr O'Connor said.

Meanwhile, the management of the neighboring hotels in the district were also commended for assisting the health facilities with providing linen and infrastructural developments as the need arose. This consolidates the public private partnership the Ministry has engaged with non-governmental organizations and interested individuals with sheer determination to broaden the scope of healthcare service delivery in Fiji.

## Dengue Fever in Fiji

The threat of dengue outbreaks can lead to loss of life. We can prevent dengue fever by destroying mosquito breeding areas.

- **Cut** grass in your compound regularly
- **Clean** blocked drains & roof gutters
- **Empty** all open cans and bottles, pot plants & vases
- **Cover** stored water
- **Burn** coconut shells, tree stumps etc.
- **Keep** unused tyres dry
- **Empty** water from all containers under the house and around the house at all times



Take Action Now !!  
Protect your Family from Dengue...



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Healthy Living



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