

Timor Leste

Ra'es Hadomi Timor Oan

Ra'es Hadomi Timor Oan (RHTO) is the Disabled Persons Organisation (DPO) in East Timor. In the early stages of its development, RHTO through Chairperson, Joaozito dos Santos has asked Australia Pacific Islands Disability Support (APIDS) for support to:

Visit remote areas to identify needs of people with disabilities

Advocate and inform government and NGOs on the needs of people with disabilities

Provide vocational training people with disabilities so that they may support themselves and their families.

APIDS has partnerships with eight Pacific Island DPOs who are advocating on behalf of people with disabilities to participate more actively in their communities and their own



organisations. Greater equality of access can be achieved when there is well-supported disability advocacy at local levels.

It is often not for lack of money that the people with disabilities are marginalised and denied access to the things others take for granted. Sometimes there is simply a lack of recognition of disabled peoples' abilities and their rights to participate in all aspects of life, including schooling, social interaction, work and participation in community groups.

APIDS provides a way for Australians to contribute to addressing these challenges. The funds raised by APIDS will go directly to DPOs advocating for the basic rights of Pacific Islanders with disabilities.

More information about APIDS can be found at www.apids.org. Credit card donations may be made to <http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/apids> or cheque to APIDS, 49 Rubiton Court, Gisborne 3437 (Donations over \$2 are tax deductible).



Members of Ra'es Hadomi Timor Oan.