

Tonga

NATA

NATA or (Naunau 'o e Alamaite Tonga Association) is the Disabled Persons Organisation (DPO) in Tonga and was established in November 2003. NATA is made up of people with disabilities who are standing up to speak out for themselves, because we are the ones who know best about our rights and needs, and the most appropriate ways to address these issues.

NATA has asked Australia Pacific Islands Disability Support (APIDS) for:

Computer Class Training next year for people with disabilities.



NATA member playing computer games.

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 cheques to APIDS, 49 Rubiton Court, Gisborne 3437 (Donations over \$2 are tax deductible).