

## Kiribati

### Te Toa Matoa

Te Toa Matoa is the Disabled Persons Organisation (DPO) in Kiribati. Te Toa Matoa means a strong giant. We consider ourselves, persons with disabilities, giants with strong minds, wills and strengths to live our lives to the optimum.

Te Toa Matoa has requested Australia Pacific Islands Disability Support (APIDS) for:

**Support towards women with disability awareness programs.**

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](http://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).



*Members of Te Toa Matoa and friends run a Kiribati market stall.*