

Australia Pacific Islands Disability Support Limited

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NEWS FROM APIDS – July 2010

Hello members, partners and supporters.

2010 seems to be slipping away already. It is hard to believe that half the year is over but perhaps this is a symptom of being busy. We have just finalised the latest round of funding for our partner DPOs, some of our Directors attended the Pacific Disability Forum meeting in March, the website is slowly being revamped and we have been developing a fundraising kit. A couple of Directors also found the time to rug up in Canberra to cheer the Fiji rugby team in their match against the Wallabies.

Membership

It was our aim 5 years ago to get to 100 members - we have made it! On June 7th Robert Altamore became a member. Robert is well known to blind and visually impaired people through his involvement on the Board of Blind Citizens Australia. He is currently the Executive officer of People with Disabilities ACT. Robert is a member of Canberra Friends of Dili and is looking forward to meeting members of our partner DPO - Ra'les Hadomi Timor Oan.

An Unexpected Surprise

Perhaps the most exciting news we have had recently is a wonderfully generous donation to APIDS of \$25,000. This will allow us to continue our work on a bigger scale, provide more support where needed and to other DPOs that are ready to accept the level of funding we provide. We are heartened by our benefactor's generosity and passion for the work we do.

Support to DPOs

In May and June negotiations were undertaken with our partners and the following funding allocations were made:

1	Fiji	\$360	Phone expenses for 6 months
2	Federated States of Micronesia	\$900	Office utilities, communication and equipment
3	Kiribati	\$900	Create a piece of theatre about human rights with an emphasis on women with disabilities
4	Pacific Disability Forum	\$450	Contribution to costs of monitoring visits to APIDS partners in Tuvalu, PNG and Tonga

5	PNG	\$1,500	Capacity building for women with disabilities
6	Samoa	\$1,000	Assist with the costs of establishing a subcentre in Savii
7	Solomon Islands	\$900	To purchase equipment for the office
8	Timor Leste	\$900	For advocacy trips and stationary
9	Tonga	\$760	For internet connection and office equipment
10	Tuvalu	\$600	To purchase furniture for the office
11	Vanuatu	\$900	For an International Day of Disability celebration on an island in the Penama Province on 3 rd December 2010

Emergency Funding

APIDS made available some emergency funds to Samoa and Tonga after the tsunami:

- \$500 was given to Naunau 'o e Alamaite Tonga Association for emergency assistance to people with disabilities.
- \$2,500 was given to Nuanua O Le Alofa Inc. (Samoa) for emergency assistance to people with disabilities.

We can report that Samoa have completed needs assessments with tsunami survivors with disabilities, and water tanks have been purchased for 8 families with delivery to take place before June 30.

Tonga reports that by the time funding arrived they had already been well supported by other relief funding. The members of the DPO agreed to use the funds to pay for school fees for a brother and sister both with low vision who have not attended school for 4 years.

Supporting the Solomon Islands & Vanuatu – Deborah's Monitoring Visit

Deborah has visited Solomon Islands and Vanuatu recently for her other work and has kept in touch with DPASI and DPA. DPASI worked very hard to find an accessible office space and have finally secured one near the umbrella NGO organisation, Development Services Exchange. This should enable DPASI to really make a difference in achieving its objectives. In Vanuatu, DPA has been busy preparing for awareness-raising activities in Santo and trying hard to raise funds so they can continue to operate. We were pleased to hear that Andy Lynch, who has played a very strong leadership role in the disability sector in Vanuatu for many years, has returned home after a long stint in Australia under medical treatment, and we wish her a rapid recovery.

Pacific Disability Forum (PDF) meeting

Our Directors Robyn, Dan and Deborah attended the meeting which was held in Nadi in March. It was a great opportunity to meet with our partners, formalise our agreements with some of them, complete monitoring visits (Fiji) and discuss issues related to funding and the activities the various DPOs are considering. The meeting involved a great deal of training by PDF and other specialists for Pacific members on how to better manage their organisations, to manage donor funding and to continue to build their own capacity. There was a great deal of energy at the meeting now that there is more funding around for the disability sector in the region. Organisations have opportunities now to significantly increase their size, scope and workload and therefore of course to make a bigger impact on the lives of people with disabilities. APIDS will continue to have a key role as partner to DPOs, while other donors provide a variety of assistance. DPOs expressed their appreciation for the way in which APIDS works collaboratively with them, supporting them without overloading them with requirements and new and sometimes confusing ways of working.



APIDS President, Dan and Federated States of Micronesia representative Nelpert after signing the partnership agreement.



Pacific Disability Forum CEO, Seta with APIDS Director, Deborah signing the partnership agreement.

Fundraising Kit

We have prepared a fundraising kit for members who are able to help us with fundraising. The kit includes ideas for fundraising, information about our partners and information about APIDS. If you would like a kit please email us at apids2009@gmail.com

One of the ideas from the kit is to organise a dinner or fundraising event that celebrates the independence day of one of our partner countries:

Fiji	October 10
Kiribati	July 12
PNG	September 16
Samoa	June 1
Solomon Islands	July 7
Timor Leste	May 20
Vanuatu	July 30

Best wishes from Dan, Maryanne, Kate, Sally, Deborah, Bill and Robyn

We encourage you to forward this newsletter to your family and friends.

If you would like to join please email apids2009@gmail.com for a membership form.

You can donate at <http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/apids> All donations \$2 and over are tax deductible.