

## Australia Pacific Islands Disability Support Limited

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## NEWS FROM APIDS – September 2007

September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2007

Hello to members and supporters

The past six months has seen some significant progress in the work of APIDS.

### ***Members***

We now have 63 individual members, and are still aiming to reach a target of 100 by the end of 2007.

At the AGM the constitution was changed to enable Associate Members – individual and organisational. This means that we can expand our member base to include children and young people under 18, people who do not wish to have a vote and organisations who want to support us. An Associate Membership form is attached; we would love it if you could encourage like minded organisations or children and young people who support our aims to join in this way.

### ***Funding***

At a meeting in April, Directors agreed to provide grants to four DPOs

- \$300 to Disabled Peoples' Association of Solomon Islands for production and distribution of a newsletter.
- \$300 to Disability Promotion & Advocacy Association (Vanuatu) for sign language classes.
- \$500 to Fiji Disabled Peoples Association (FDPA) for the costs of operating the office in Suva.
- \$300 to Te Toa Matoi (Kiribati) for running a workshop on handicrafts, such as the making of doormats and fishing stick nets. The products

made will be sold and the funds raised used to assist in building a multi-purpose centre for Te Toa Matoa members.

The extra amount to FDPA is in acknowledgement of the resources that were provided in the initial planning stages of APIDS.

Deborah Rhodes, in her travels with her paid work in August, presented A\$300 Australian to Savina Nongebatu in the Solomons, and A\$300 to Andy Lynch in Vanuatu. A photo of Deborah presenting the cheque to Andy can be viewed on the home page of our website – [www.apids.org](http://www.apids.org)

Savina sent an email to APIDS saying:

*On behalf of DPASI, I would like to sincerely thank APIDS for giving DPASI \$300AUD which is \$SBD1860. I received this money from Deborah yesterday. A receipt has been given to Deborah. It has been my pleasure meeting Deborah and I hope to see her again in October.*

*As I have mentioned earlier, this money will be used for the publication of our newsletter. We hope to send copies out by September (mid).*

*Once again I thank APIDS and pray this partnership grows stronger as we keep the networking strong.*

*Tagio Tumas,*

*Savina*

Andy also sent the following letter to APIDS:

*Dear Daniel,*

*On behalf of DPA, I would like to take this opportunity to convey our warm greetings to you and members of the APIDS Board of Directors.*

*I have had the pleasure once again to meet up with Deborah Rhodes where she presented DPA with \$300. This is a very generous contribution from APIDS and I thank you all dearly for your support.*

*At our recent Annual General Meeting, delegates were informed of the fact that APIDS will be sending a volunteer to us next year and we are all keenly awaiting the volunteer to be with us.*

*All the best to everyone at APIDS.*

*With very best wishes*

*Andonia Piau-Lynch  
National Coordinator*

It is hoped that funds will be transferred to Fiji and Kiribati in the next month.

## ***Donations***

At our AGM in July, an informal discussion was held regarding the best ways to fundraise until we can complete the arduous process of obtaining tax deductible status. As our membership fee is one-off it was agreed that asking members for donations is the most appropriate way.

In order to expand the number of partners that we can fund and to increase funding to existing partners, we urge you to consider sending an annual donation to APIDS. You can either send a cheque to our mailing address or donate on line at <http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/apids>

## ***Australian Volunteers International (AVI)***

We are very excited about our work with AVI, in which we have been working in partnership to enable people with disabilities from Australia to volunteer in Pacific DPOs.

There have been 15 applicants for the three jobs and first interviews will be undertaken in September and October. The plan is for the three volunteers to start their three month placements in March 2008.

APIDS is committed to expand this program, and will in the next twelve months be researching the following options:

- AVI and APIDS will be looking for project money in the future to enable people from the Pacific DPOs to be able to return to Australia with their volunteer to either the volunteer's organisation or another DPO.
- APIDS would like to offer a similar opportunity in those countries that are not AVI supported.
- Members of DPOs in the Pacific have asked for the opportunity to volunteer in each others DPOs - e.g. Vanuatu to Samoa.

## ***ACFID Research***

APIDS Executive members have been informing the research of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) which is currently preparing an 8000-word report on Disability and Development. The aim of the report is to support ACFID and the Australian Disability Development Consortium (ADDC) in their discussions with the Australian Government regarding the development of a "Disability and Development" policy within the Australian aid programme. Shannon Tanner, the student intern preparing the report, is analysing the position of disability in the international development

discourse, the current disability components of the AusAID program and the current situation of people with disabilities in South East Asia and the Pacific Island countries.

Dan and Deborah (via email) and Robyn (in an interview) separately contributed to the preparations on behalf of APIDS. We have asked for a copy of the report and will make it available to members once it is produced.

### ***Biwako Millennium Framework for Action in the Pacific***

As you know the major objective of APIDS is to support the work of DPOs in the Pacific. This week in Bangkok, there is a regional mid term review meeting of the Biwako Millennium Framework. This Framework is a detailed plan for action over ten years in Asia and the Pacific on issues for people with disabilities. It details action on seven priorities, and priority one is the strengthening of DPOs.

You can find a paper prepared for the review by our President, Daniel Stubbs on the World Enable website at <http://www.worldenable.net/bmf5/apddp2.htm>

### ***Disability Profiles of Pacific Countries***

If you would like to find out more about the situation for people with disabilities in Pacific countries, the Forum Secretariat has interesting information contained in individual country profiles. The profiles include headings such as Human Rights, Disability Specific legislation, whether or not the country has a national disability policy and/or action plan, information about self-help organisations and information about issues such as education, employment and poverty alleviation. It also has regional information. The web link is:

<http://www.forumsec.org/pages.cfm/sustainable-development/social-policy/disability/country-profiles>

Keep up to date on all these issues and any new ones through our web site [www.apids.org](http://www.apids.org).

# Australia Pacific Islands Disability Support Limited

## Associate Membership Form

Australian Pacific Islands Disability Support Limited (APIDS) is a non-profit agency (legally a company limited by guarantee), established in 2005. It is run by a 5-person volunteer Committee.

Associate membership of APIDS costs:

Individuals (of any age) - \$20  
Small organisations (Turnover less than \$500,000) \$50  
Large organisations (Turnover \$500,000+) \$100



Associate membership entitles you to receive occasional e-bulletins.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANISATION \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE CONTACTS \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_

I/we would like to apply for associate membership of Australia Pacific Islands Disability Support Limited (APIDS).

I/We support the Purpose of APIDS.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

- I/we enclose a cheque for \$20/\$50/\$100 (associate membership fee) made out to Australia Pacific Islands Disability Support Limited; or
- I/we have paid via Our Community at <http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/apids>
- I/we also enclose a donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_

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