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NEWS FROM APIDS – March 2007

March 10th, 2007

Hello to members

You will be pleased to know that the organisation is making steady progress towards our aims. We would like to provide you with information about a few of our activities to date.

Members

We now have 52 members, and are aiming to reach a target of 100 by the end of 2007.

Funding

The Directors have developed a policy which you can view page on our web site www.apids.org (Funding News).

The following principles will govern APIDS funding distribution:

- APIDS will provide support to DPOs, defined as organisations which are managed by people with disabilities
- APIDS will work in a cooperative relationship with partner DPOs in the Pacific
- Funding will not be provided to individuals
- Funding is intended to support the core business and operating costs of DPOs
- Partner DPOs must: have a written constitution; prohibit distribution of income among members; and have an annual financial audit
- Funding is intended to support DPOs which share the values of APIDS
- Funding can be provided by APIDS through a trusted third party to a DPO if appropriate
- APIDS funding allocations will be transparent

The plan is to distribute funds in May and November each year, and we will have our first small distribution in May, 2007. A Directors meeting is to be held

in April in order to make decisions about which Disabled Peoples Organisations (DPOs) will receive the first funding.

APIDS Board Raises the Profile of Disability in the Pacific

APIDS president, Daniel Stubbs, recently had an article published on human rights issues for Pacific Islanders with disabilities in Islands Business (the independent current affairs journal of the Pacific). You can read the article on our website www.apids.org (Latest News page) .

Pacific Disability Forum

APIDS is working closely with the Pacific Disability Forum (PDF) which was formed in July 2004. It is the peak advocacy organisation on disability in the Pacific and is made up of a network of people with disability from several Pacific nations. These include Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Western Samoa. Its guiding principle is "that persons with disabilities are the most qualified and best equipped to support, inform and advocate for themselves and other people with disabilities."

Australian Volunteers International (AVI)

APIDS is working with AVI on a project for people with disabilities from Australia to volunteer with DPOs in the Pacific. The plan is for three people with disabilities from Australia to volunteer at the same time for three months in the second half of 2007. APIDS and AVI are currently working on identifying the appropriate DPOs and position descriptions. AVI will be advertising these positions in May; we will keep you informed.

The Australian Disability and Development Consortium (ADDC)

This is a national network to which APIDS belongs that is focusing attention, expertise and action on disability issues in developing countries, as well as building a national platform for disability advocacy.

The Mission Statement is: *To promote the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities in development activities, advocating that disability be fully integrated into all Australian development programs and policies.*

You can find out more about the Consortium at www.addc.org.au.

Keep up to date on all these issues and any new ones through our web site www.apids.org.