

## **Barriers to health equity for MSMs, transgender people and female sex workers in the Pacific**



**2017 AUSTRALASIAN HIV & AIDS AND SEXUAL HEALTH CONFERENCE  
JOINT SYMPOSIUM, 08 NOVEMBER, NATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE,  
CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA**

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Executive Director  
Pacific Sexual and Gender Diversity Network**

## **PRESENTATION OUTLINE**

- ✓ ABOUT the PSGDN
- ✓ Barriers to Health Equity for MSM, TGs & FSWs



# Pacific Sexual and Gender Diversity Network



## Main Barriers

- Criminalization
- Stigma and discrimination
- Lack of understanding of issues affecting key populations and capacity to provide appropriate services to these groups
- Lack of confidentiality
- High cost for health care
- Gaps in information on the size, behaviors, and health issues of key populations
- Lack of sustainability of services provided by nongovernmental organizations



# Criminalisation of homosexuality



← Movies & TV

TOO MANY PACIFIC ISLANDERS WHO ARE  
LESBIAN • GAY • BISEXUAL  
TRANSGENDER • INTERSEX  
ARE EXPOSED TO  
DISCRIMINATION &  
VIOLENCE

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ENG

# DECRIMINALISED



← Movies & TV

PALAU  
REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS  
5 PACIFIC COUNTRIES  
HAVE **DECRIMINALISED** SAME SEX RELATIONS.  
NIUE  
VANUATU  
FIJI

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# CRIMINALISED



← Movies & TV

PAPUA NEW GUINEA  
SOLOMON ISLANDS  
TUVALU  
TONGA  
NAURU  
KIRIBATI  
SAMOA  
COOK ISLANDS  
8 PACIFIC COUNTRIES  
SAME SEX RELATIONS ARE **CRIMINALISED**.

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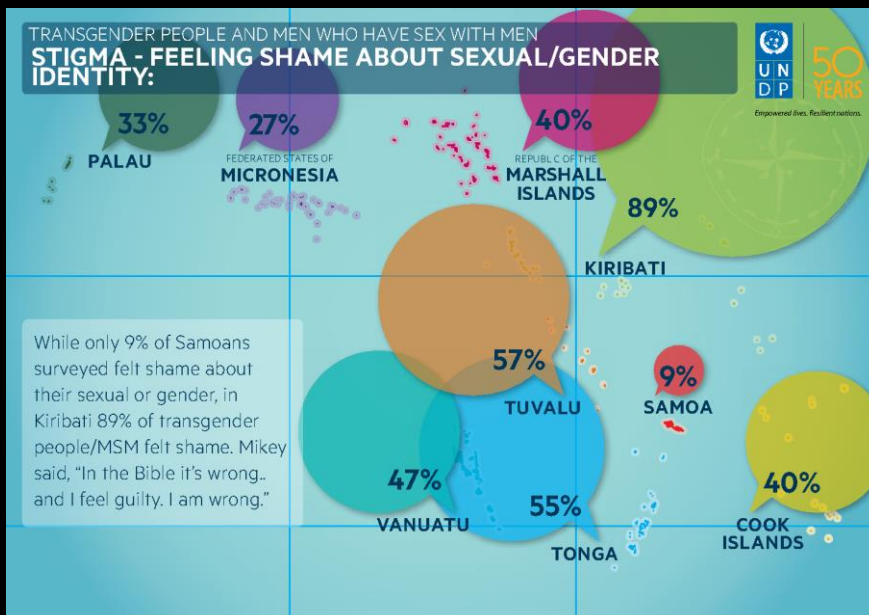
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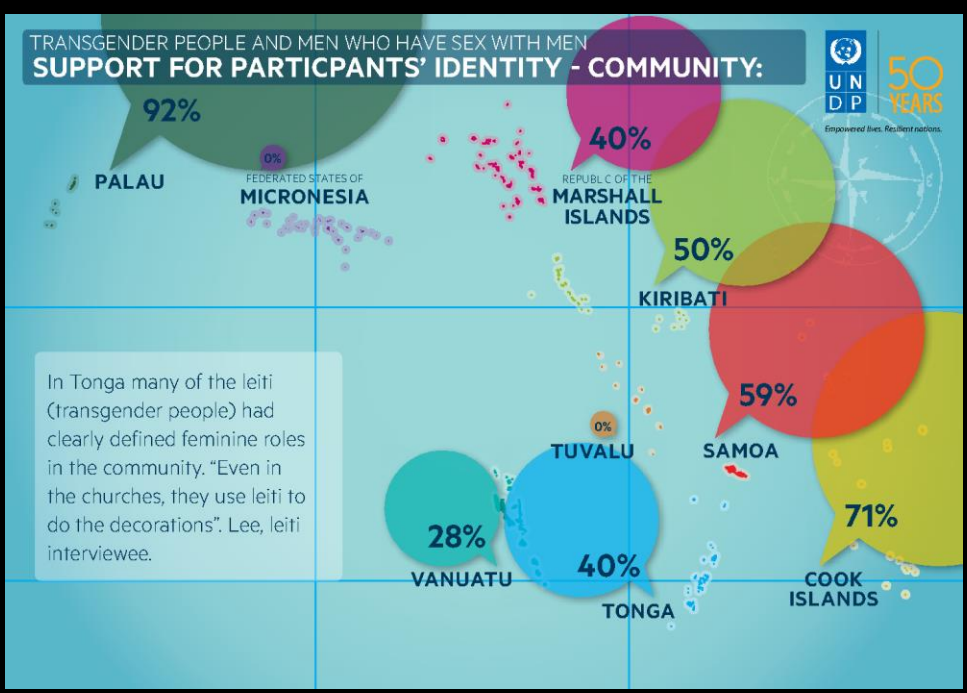
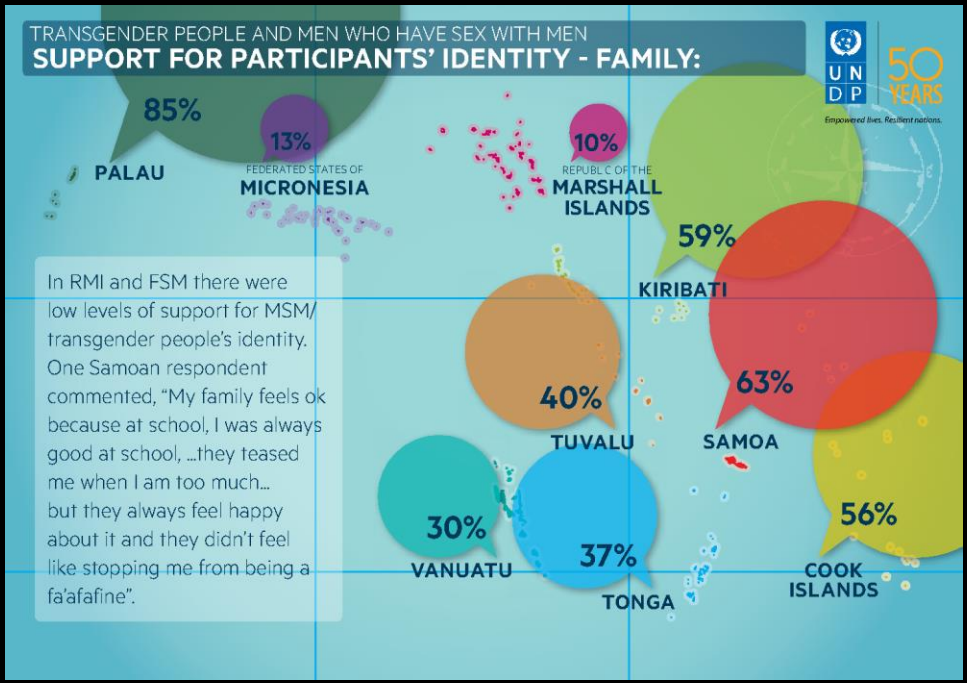
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# Stigma and Discrimination

## Stigma and Discrimination







**Lack of understanding of issues  
affecting key populations and  
capacity to provide  
appropriate services to these  
groups**

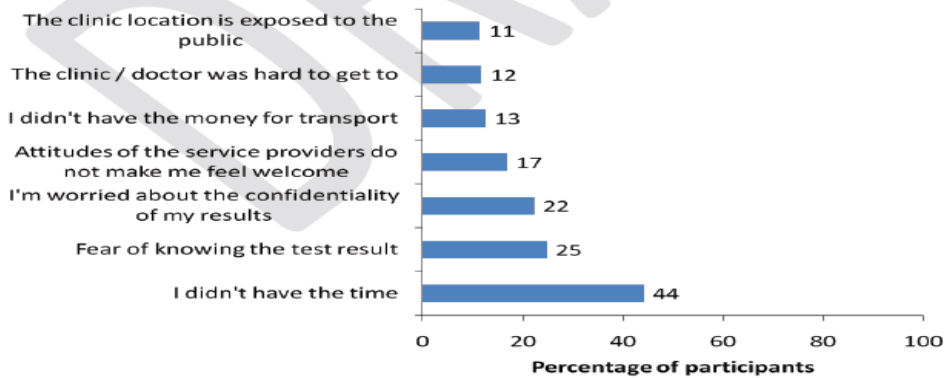


**Lack of confidentiality**



About three-quarters (76%) of the overall sample had at some time wanted to seek STI treatment or HIV testing, but decided against it. The most common reasons were not having the time (44%), fear of knowing the test results (25%), worried about the confidentiality of the results (22%) and attitudes of the service providers (17%). See **Figure 10.3**.

**Figure 10.3 Reasons for not attending a clinic for STI symptoms or HIV testing (N=350).**



## High Cost of Health Care





Gaps in information on the size,  
behaviors, and health issues of  
key populations



Lack of sustainability of services  
provided by nongovernmental  
organizations



# VINAKA VAKALEVU

