

IUSTI Asia Pacific Sexual Health Congress 2018

Disability Inclusion and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in the Pacific



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Background / aims and methods

Background

- People living with disability have the same right to information and education about sexual and reproductive health (SRH) as everyone else
- Experience numerous barriers / have less access to services and support
- Prevalence of violence and exploitation is much higher for people with disability
- There is currently positive reform and change in disability due to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, advocacy, national policies and strengthening of DPOs

Disability training and audit

- Delivered capacity building program on disability inclusion and SRHR to 86 participants working in family planning organisations in 9 Pacific countries
- Disability audit tool customised to better understand disability-inclusive practices
- Disability audit tool completed by 57 participants to document their organisation's disability inclusiveness and develop an action plan

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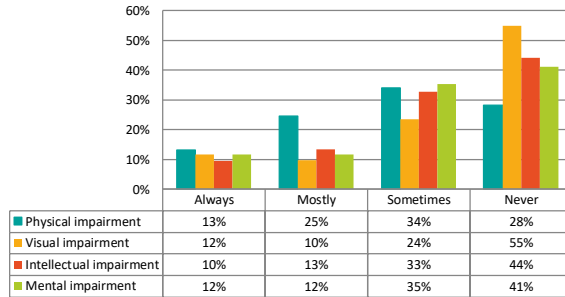
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Results

- Majority had little to no ramps or rails, or accessible parking, toilets or rooms
- Less than 40% had policies and procedures relevant to disability inclusion
- 12% felt they always worked towards the inclusion of people with disability
- 16% stated their organisation always created opportunities for people to disclose if they have a disability
- Majority felt more could be done to increase their experience and comfort in working with people with disability
- Majority felt there was a need to promote positive organisational attitudes and behaviours towards disability inclusion

How often do you work towards inclusion of people within your practice with a disability?



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Conclusions / implications

- Need for service provision that upholds the SRHR and needs of people with a disability in the Pacific
- Participation of people with disability in the planning, development and evaluation of programs and services is essential
- Increasing utilisation of services by people with disability will require positive and inclusive attitudes and practices of Board, managers, staff and volunteers
- Professional development training inclusive of SRHR to enhance effective and non-judgmental communication to support people with disability in exercising their right to information, services and choice



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- People Living with Disabilities Association, Solomon Islands
- Samoa Disability Group
- Naunau 'o e 'Alamaite Tonga Association Incorporated (NATA)
- Vanuatu Society for People with Disability

Photo one: Rose from Vanuatu Family Health Association (VFHA) and Helen from Vanuatu Society for People with Disability

Photo two: Emily and Julius from VFHA and Helen from Vanuatu Society for People with Disability

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