



LEARNING FROM A STUDY OF A DISABILITY RIGHTS PROGRAMME IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

EASY-TO-READ REPORT

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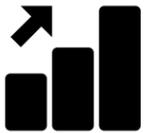


DISABILITY
RIGHTS
FUND



• ABOUT THE STUDY

- DRF stands for Disability Rights Fund.
- In 2019, DRF began a study about a disability rights program in the Pacific Islands.
- It looked at ways to include people with disabilities when testing disability rights programs.
- Fiji, Papua New Guinea, The Solomon Islands, and Kiribati took part in the study.
- Disabled people's organizations (DPOs) from the South Pacific held a workshop.
- They made the questions, the aims, and the ideas for the study.
- During the workshop, they talked about the role of DPOs.
- They spoke about diversity in the disability rights movement.
- They also spoke about the best ways to speak up for rights.
- Then they recommended ways for DRF to team up with DPOs in the Pacific Islands.
- DRF did 52 interviews, and a survey in Fiji and Papua New Guinea.



• ABOUT THE PACIFIC ISLAND DPOs

- There are DPOs in all of the Pacific Island countries.
- Most DPOs are more than 10 years old.
- Some DPOs are new and are still growing.
- There are more DPOs and they are mixed.
- In the last 10 years, DPOs have worked on disability rights with their governments.
- DPOs have stood up for better disability laws.
- They have stood up for inclusive schools, more jobs, and better access to buildings.



• THE FUTURE OF PACIFIC ISLAND DPOs

- While things are getting better for South Pacific DPOs, there are still some risks.
- The DPOs are more visible, but they need to keep speaking up for disability rights.
- It will take a long time to get better laws and policies.
- DPOs also have to work hard to get the government's attention.
- They might find it hard to get funding because they are still growing.



- **FINDINGS**



- Since 2017 DPOs have helped to improve laws and policies in the Pacific Islands.



- They have told governments how to make voting easier for people with disabilities.



- They have also spoken up for inclusive schools.



- The DPOs also kept an eye on human rights in their country and told the United Nations.



- They included more people, with different disabilities in the disability movement.



- For example, deaf DPOs in Fiji, Papua New Guinea, and Kiribati teamed up.



- Disability advocacy also became stronger.



- For example, DPOs included people with disabilities in rural parts of the country.



• WHAT DID THE DPOS DO?



- With the support of DRF and DRAF funds, the DPOs:



- Spoke up for disability rights and better laws and policies.



- They trained the police, teachers, and the media about disability rights.



- They spoke up for more money to be spent on disability rights.



- They helped make voting easier for people with disabilities.



- They helped plan for helping people with disabilities in emergencies.



• WHY WERE THE DPOS SUCCESSFUL?



- They had great leadership, passion and they worked very hard.



- The DPOs worked together.



- The governments listened to what they had to say about human rights.



- They had very good training and funding.

- They teamed up with and learned from disabled people's DPOs in other countries.



- They also teamed up with UN organizations to make them more disability-friendly.



- **HOW DID THE FUNDS HELP THE PACIFIC DPOs?**



- The DRF and DRAF funds helped the DPOs to grow stronger.



- They helped local disability experts to speak up for disability rights.



- The funds also helped DPOs to team up and work together.



- **GOOD EXAMPLES**



- DPOs in Papua New Guinea held training for judges to teach them about disability rights.



- In Fiji, DPOs helped to set up a disability team in the Ministry for Women.



- The DPOs made sure that voting was inclusive for people with disabilities.



- Pacific Islands DPOs said that schools were more inclusive for people with disabilities.



- The DRF funds helped DPOs to support people with disabilities living in the countryside.



- They also helped more people with disabilities to get jobs.



• HOW HAVE DISABILITY RIGHTS CHANGED IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS?



- There have been big changes in the rights of persons with disabilities in the last 10 years.



- Pacific Island countries have signed the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.



- They have passed more disability-friendly laws.



- The Pacific Island countries have teamed up to work on social and money issues.



- DPOs work with people in the countryside.



- They have also made sure that the Pacific Island culture is respected.



- DPO voices have been heard in the last 10 years.



- A person who was interviewed for the study said that rights are just starting to get better.



- Other people who were interviewed were worried that it will be difficult to get money for better disability rights.

