

The Pacific Sexual Health and HIV Health Care Worker Support Project (Pacific HCW Support)

WHAT ?

Pacific HCW Support is funded by AusAID's Regional HIV/AIDS Capacity Building Program (2012-2014). The Project will strengthen HIV and sexual health service provision in Pacific Island countries and territories (PICT) through improved education and support for health care workers (HCW) and enhanced involvement of key affected populations. The second phase of *Support for the Fiji School of Medicine to Strengthen Health Care Worker Education in HIV and Sexual Health (2008-2012)* the project is a continued collaboration between The Albion Centre (Albion) and the College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, Fiji National University (CMNHS/FNU), with further support from the Pacific Sexual and Reproductive Health Research Centre (PacS-RHRC).

WHY ?

Current HIV prevalence in PICT is low, however there are high rates of sexually transmitted infections and low rates of condom use among people with multiple sexual partners. Research conducted in Fiji and other PICT report low utilisation of sexual health services by key affected populations especially sex workers, men who have sex with men (MSM) and people living with HIV. These populations report concerns about discrimination and breaches of confidentiality by HCW. Phase 1 of the project focussed on building the capacity CMNHS to support current and future health workers to work more effectively with key affected populations; and the largest reproductive health clinic (Suva Hub) to provide more client-friendly services to those most affected.

HOW?

Phase 2 comprises two inter-related streams, building on the success and lessons learned from phase 1:

1. Roll out to other PICT of the stigma and discrimination training and HCW mentoring program developed in Fiji.
2. Support to the Suva Reproductive Health Clinic (Suva Hub) to strengthen its role as a regional centre of excellence for HIV/STI treatment and care and HCW training.

WHO ?

The Albion Centre (Albion) is a government health service, one of the longest established services for HIV globally and a World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre for Capacity Building and Health Care Worker Training in HIV/AIDS Care, Treatment and Support.

College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, Fiji National University (CMNHS/FNU) is the leading medical and nursing training school in the Pacific. Phase I of the project has significantly enhanced the HIV and sexual health capacity of CMNHS and establishing productive and enduring networks with key stakeholder groups including key affected populations.

Pacific Sexual and Reproductive Health Research Centre (PacS-RHRC) – PacS-RHRC conducts, facilitates and provides technical support and training in sexual and reproductive health research in the Asia Pacific Region.

Other country/regional supporting partners – Suva Reproductive Health Clinic, Oceanic Society of Sexual Health and HIV Medicine (OSSHHM), Fiji Ministry of Health, Solomon Islands Ministry of Health, Cook Islands Ministry of Health, the Fiji Network of PLHIV (FJN+), Survival Advocacy Network (SAN), Pacific Islands AIDS Foundation (PIAF) and, Male Empowerment Network Fiji (MEN Fiji).

