



The IDEA Program is about getting jobs for persons with disabilities.

We work with Government, Educators, and Employers to make this happen.

IDEA is a collaborative project between 5 leading Disabled Peoples Organisations. Each organisation has a representative on IDEA's Employment Task Force (pictured at left).

Include Disability- Employ this Ability (IDEA) Program

Newsletter – March 2014

From IDEA's Chair, Mr Joshko Wakaniyasi

Greetings to you all! I hope that the first few months of 2014 are off to a productive and promising start for you.

The Include Disability-Employ this Ability (IDEA) Program, after a busy 2013, is back to work and focused on our aim of getting decent jobs for persons with disabilities. I

hope that you enjoy IDEA's first newsletter and we look forward to working with you this year!

IDEA Highlights 2013

June: IDEA Program officially launched

July: IDEA's National Survey launched

September: Education Project's 1st workshop; Government Project

Workshop; Heroes Project Talanoa Session

October: 1st person employed by IDEA; 1st Education Working Party

November: three members of IDEA are featured on FBC's "Speak Your Mind" Program

December: IDEA's survey inserted into the *Fiji Times*

IDEA co-hosts a forum for persons with disabilities who are interested in further study.

IDEA now has a website. For recent news and to learn more about the Program, please visit: www.idea.org.fj

IDEA Program's Launch

The IDEA Program was launched in June 2013. The launch celebrated the start of the Program and recognised the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). Over 60 representatives of business, government, education providers and community organisations attended the launch. Mr Glenn Miles, Acting Australian High Commissioner, was the Chief Guest. Australian Pacific Technical College (APTC) generously provided a venue as well as support from their students.

Survey Launch

In July, IDEA launched its survey. Mr John Davidson, DFAT Minister Counsellor for Development Cooperation, was the Chief Guest. He said "I want to encourage national partners, businesses and other potential employers represented here today to consider the 'Include Disability, Employ this Ability' project when you seek to recruit new staff."



Mrs Dinati's Comeback

Alisi Dinati, who injured herself at the age of two and requires a prosthetic leg to move about, first heard about IDEA when she read about the Program in the *Fiji Times*.

After hearing the project, she registered with the program by handing in her CV and the survey forms. IDEA negotiated with Holiday Inn, who offered her a job as a switch board operator. She was very grateful to the IDEA Program.

Mrs Dinati said the IDEA Program had the potential

to help the thousands of persons with disabilities in the country find employment.

IDEA's target for this year is for ten unemployed persons with disabilities to be employed in the government.

Thirty persons with disabilities are to be employed in the private sector. We are negotiating with Government, businesses and education providers to make this happen. If you can help please contact information.idea@gmail.com.

IDEA's Government Project is working with key stakeholders to advocate on policies that impact persons with disabilities. The Project is looking at how the National Employment Centre can better assist

people with disabilities; has provided feedback on the Employment Relations Promulgation and working to provide information to decision makers on tax incentives for employers of persons with disabilities.



Great help from media

IDEA would like to acknowledge all the media outlets such as *Fiji Times*, *Fiji One* and FBC for their support. Media is a great tool for highlighting the challenges faced by persons with disabilities through employment. We hope that we will be given the support in terms of promotions and updating the community with the IDEA events. The importance of awareness is that for the employers to be aware of the benefits of employing a person with a disability. For more information about IDEA in the media, see:

<http://idea.org.fj/abilities-showcased-in-the-media/>

Education Project

The Education Project has brought together representatives from APTC, Fulton College, FNU, Ministry of Education, and USP to form an Education Working Party. The group is looking at how to increase employment of persons with disabilities by strengthening inclusive education. The Project recently placed its first student.

In December 2013, IDEA and the Psychiatric Survivors Association joined hands in organising a forum, where representatives from USP, FNU and APTC came and talked about what courses they are offering, how to apply, and scholarships offered to an audience of persons with disabilities along with their carers. The audience felt empowered and said it made them think about furthering their studies.

The Education Project is currently planning awareness events and negotiating with universities to employ persons with disabilities

IDEA receives 2013 Pacific Human Rights Award

The IDEA Team was one of four organisations recognised in the year's 2013 Pacific Human Rights Awards, which is run by the Regional Rights Resource Team at Secretariat of the Pacific Community. The theme of the awards this year was "human rights in everyday life."

For more information about the awards, please see:

<http://www.rrrt.org/events/human-rights-awards>



Dates for the Diary

April 23: IDEA's Employer Forum

April 25: IDEA Education Working Party Meeting

IDEA's has distributed over 600 copies of its National Survey throughout Fiji. The IDEA Program is currently working to analyse the information provided and to match individuals with jobs. People can still fill in the survey at: work.idea.org.fj

Be an IDEA Hero

The IDEA team has a big job to do and we are grateful for all our supporters. We would like to acknowledge the Australian Volunteers International, and our independent Volunteers Mr Phil Kingsman, Mr Andrew Erbs and Mr David Sollis. We would also like to thank FNU and APTC who have supported IDEA events.

We also acknowledge our Heroes, high commissions who have supported the team with advice and access to networks.

There's still more for us to do and welcome your help to achieve it.

We are looking for individuals and organisations who are willing to:

- Provide jobs or training opportunities to IDEA clients
- Volunteer their time and expertise
- Provide sponsorship for activities, events and publications

Contact us on information.idea@gmail.com or on 3307908

Employment Task Force Members and Contact Details

Name	Project	E-mail
Mr Joshko Wakaniyasi	Chair	information.idea@gmail.com
Mrs Mere Roden	Corporate	employers.idea@gmail.com
Mr Kolinio Laisenia	Survey	jobsurvey.idea@gmail.com
Mr Joseph Romulo	Education	trainers.idea@gmail.com
Ms Tuliana Waibuta	Heroes	heroes.idea@gmail.com
Ms Kelera Taveta	Community Awareness	awareness.idea@gmail.com

The IDEA Program operates from the FNCDP Compound, located at 3 Brown Street, Toorak (Suva).