



# ANNUAL REPORT

for the period 1<sup>st</sup> August 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2017



Ministry of Women, Children & Poverty Alleviation

# 2016 / 2017

Parliamentary Paper No: 122 of 2018

# Strategic Direction

Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation

## VISION

Empowering the Women, Children and the Disadvantaged.

## MISSION

Families and Communities supported through Social Welfare Initiatives and Gender mainstreaming programmes.

## VALUES

- ▶ **Human Dignity**  
We respect the dignity of all we serve.
- ▶ **Commitment to Excellence**  
We will pursue to provide excellent service.
- ▶ **Integrity**  
We are committed to conduct ourselves in a manner consistent with the highest standard of integrity. We are committed to be honest, ethical and fair in all our activities. We keep our word, deliver our promises and acknowledge our mistakes.
- ▶ **Customers**  
Efficient and effective customer service and satisfaction.

## ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation is the Government Agency that administers services and programs aligned to the:

- ▶ *Care and protection of children*
- ▶ *Provision of income support to families to address poverty*
- ▶ *Provision of policy intervention for older persons*
- ▶ *Provision of policy intervention for persons with disabilities*
- ▶ *Promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women*
- ▶ *Monitor, evaluate and report on the progress and impact of the INPEP*



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## MINISTER'S FOREWORD

**G**reetings. It is a great pleasure for me to present the Annual Report of the 2016-2017 fiscal year. This has been the first year for me to be in office as the Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation and it has been quite a journey.

A fundamental promise of the 2030 Agenda is to leave no one behind. This report showcases the many ways in which the Ministry supports the interests and growth of the most disadvantaged segments of the Fijian population, namely people living in poverty, people living with disabilities, older persons, women and children to turn the aims of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into results.

The Ministry for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation is the one Ministry that holds close this promise of the 2030 Agenda in truly leaving no one behind as we raise as a nation.

We have worked in collaboration with many of our

stakeholders and partners from Government and the Civil Society to ensure the best possible results are obtained from our work; and reviewed areas that needed improvement from our end for better service delivery. These achievements are still a work in progress and we aim to continue in our endeavor to help all Fijians access services of the Fijian Government to lead a better life.

Over the course of this year I have been personally touched by issues faced by our clientele, who are often victims of discrimination, abuse, violence and neglect. We have plans in place for policy changes, projects, programs and better adherence to international governing instruments of the United Nations and other international and regional organizations that Fiji has ratified in relation to the benefits of our clientele.

Together with our many partners, the Ministry will continue to deliver for the disadvantaged Fijians based on the foundation of the 2030 Agenda and the vision of the Fijian Government, seeking equality for all.

**Hon. Mereseini Vuniwaqa**  
Minister for Women, Children & Poverty Alleviation



## PERMANENT SECRETARY'S M E S S A G E

**W**ith the change in the government's financial year to August 2016 to July 2017, business re-engineering was introduced to streamline processes and procedures with view to its relevancy.

During this fiscal year, with the change in portfolios, we welcomed Hon. Mereseini Vuniwaga as the Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation and Hon. Veena Bhatnagar as Assistant Minister and farewelled Hon. Rosy S. Akbar who joined Ministry of Health and Medical Services.

As the Ministry responsible for the care and protection of children, women, the disadvantaged, people with disabilities and older persons, the Ministry continued to provide social protection, gender mainstreaming and empowerment programs to address people's needs and alleviate poverty.

Hon. Minister led a delegation to the 61st Commission on the Status of Women in New York. Other international and bilateral commitments included:

- Signing of Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry and the Embassy of the People's Republic of China.
- Attending the 25th Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum.

- Attending the 136th Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly in Bangladesh.
- Attending High Level meeting on Management of Social Transformation Forum in Malaysia.
- Assistant Minister attended the 3rd High Level meeting on South-South Cooperation for Child Rights in Asia Pacific in Malaysia.

The 3rd National Women's Expo aims to showcase the talents of Rural Women Artisans and connect them to domestic, regional and international markets through the Fijian Made Emblem and Certification.

The Ministry launched the National Domestic Violence Helpline No. 1560 in partnership with Fiji Women's Crisis Centre and Telecommunication partners; Vodafone, Digicel and Telecom to encourage reporting on Gender Based Violence and seek assistance.

In addition, the Ministry through the Poverty Monitoring Unit monitored and evaluated the impact of Poverty Alleviation Programs of Government across Ministries.

I must thank our UN Partners, Agencies, Stakeholders and Ministry staff in uniting strongly to make a difference in the lives of children, women, disadvantaged, people with disabilities and older persons in Fiji.

**Dr. Josefa Koroivueta**  
Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of Women, Children & Poverty Alleviation



# Audited Financial Statements

*for the year ended 31 July 2017*



# OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

Excellence in Public Sector Auditing



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File: 623

23 May 2018

The Honourable Mereseini Vuniwaqa  
Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation  
Civic Towers  
SUVA

Dear Honourable Vuniwaqa

**MINISTRY OF WOMEN, CHILDREN AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION**  
**AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2017**

The audited financial statements for the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation for the year ended 31 July 2017 together with my audit report on them are enclosed.

Particulars of the errors and omission arising from the audit have been forwarded to the management of the Ministry for necessary action.

Yours sincerely

Ajay Nand  
**AUDITOR-GENERAL**

cc: Dr. Josefa Koroivueta, The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation

Encl.

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

### MINISTRY OF WOMEN, CHILDREN AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION

I have audited the financial statements of the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation which comprise the Statement of Receipts and Expenditure, Appropriation Statement, Statement of Losses for the year ended 31 July 2017, and notes to and forming part of the financial statements, including the summary of significant accounting policies.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the Financial Management Act, Finance Instructions 2010 and Finance (Amendment) Instructions 2016.

#### Basis for Opinion

Without qualifying the above opinion, attention is drawn to the following:

- The Ministry did not carry out a board of survey to verify the existence and condition of the assets under its authority contrary to Section 49 of the Finance Instruction 2010.
- Internal controls over procurement and account reconciliations were generally found to be weak and if not addressed promptly may result in material misstatements and possible financial losses in the future.

I conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISA). My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities* paragraph of my report. I am independent of the Ministry in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in Fiji and I have fulfilled other responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

#### Responsibilities of the Management and Directors for the Financial Statements

The management of the Ministry is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the Financial Management Act, Finance Instructions 2010 and Finance (Amendment) Instructions 2016 and for such internal control as the management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

#### Auditor's Responsibilities

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISA will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

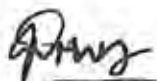


## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (Cont'd)

As part of an audit in accordance with ISA, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Ministry's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.

I communicate with the management and directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.



Ajay Nand  
**AUDITOR-GENERAL**



Suva, Fiji  
23 May 2018

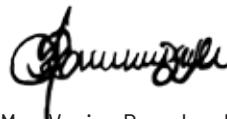
**MINISTRY OF WOMEN, CHILDREN AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION**  
**MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2017**

We certify that these financial statements:

- (a) fairly reflect the financial operations and performance of the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation and its financial year ended 31 July 2017; and
- (b) have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Financial Management Act, Finance Instructions 2010 and Finance (Amendment) Instructions 2016.



Dr. Josefa Koroivueta  
**Permanent Secretary**  
Date: 18/05/18



Mrs. Venina Duvuduvukula  
**A/Principal Accounts Officer**  
Date: 18/05/18

## Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for the financial period ended 31 July 2017

	Notes	12 months 31 July 2017 (\$)	7 months 31 July 2016 (\$)
<b>REVENUE</b>			
<b>State Revenue</b>			
Operating Revenue		6,915	3,405
<b>Total State Revenue</b>		<b>6,915</b>	<b>3,405</b>
<b>Agency Revenue</b>			
Miscellaneous Revenue	3 (a)	2,407	365,677
<b>Total Agency Revenue</b>		<b>2,407</b>	<b>365,677</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>		<b>9,322</b>	<b>369,082</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
<b>Operating Expenditure</b>			
Established Staff		5,473,831	2,432,201
Government Wage Earners		1,574,668	692,879
Travel & Communication		375,953	208,514
Maintenance & Operations		756,193	473,516
Purchase of Goods & Services		1,269,507	972,395
Operating Grants & Transfers		49,393,442	29,760,494
Special Expenditure	3 (b)	2,258,398	809,725
<b>Total Operating Expenditure</b>		<b>61,101,992</b>	<b>35,349,724</b>
<b>Capital Expenditure</b>			
Capital Purchase	3 (c)	88,116	34,483
Grants & Transfers	3 (d)	952,817	164,621
<b>Total Capital Expenditure</b>		<b>1,040,933</b>	<b>199,104</b>
<b>Value Added Tax</b>		<b>227,308</b>	<b>103,863</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>62,370,233</b>	<b>35,652,691</b>



**Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation**  
Appropriation Statement for the year ended 31 July 2017

		Budget Estimate \$	Appropriation Changes \$	Revised Estimate \$	Actual Expenditure \$	Lapsed Appropriation \$
SEG	ITEM		(Note 4)	a	b	(a-b)
1	Established Staff	5,370,059	117,133	5,487,192	5,473,831	13,361
2	Unestablished Staff	995,247	585,594	1,580,841	1,574,668	6,173
3	Travel & Communication	330,000	59,394	389,394	375,953	13,441
4	Maintenance & Operations	790,200	9,520	799,720	756,193	43,527
5	Purchase of Goods & Services	1,086,730	208,682	1,295,412	1,269,507	25,905
6	Operating Grants & Transfers	43,130,000	7,597,207	50,727,207	49,393,442	1,333,965
7	Special Expenditure	2,544,620	(142,110)	2,402,510	2,258,398	144,112
<b>TOTAL OPERATING COSTS</b>		<b>54,246,856</b>	<b>8,435,420</b>	<b>62,682,276</b>	<b>61,101,992</b>	<b>1,580,284</b>

**CAPITAL EXPENDITURE**

9	Capital Purchase	-	89,910	89,910	88,116	1,794
10	Capital Grants & Transfers	1,350,000	-	1,350,000	952,817	397,183
<b>Total Capital Expenditure</b>		<b>1,350,000</b>	<b>89,910</b>	<b>1,439,910</b>	<b>1,040,933</b>	<b>398,977</b>
13	Value Added Tax	422,100	21,896	443,996	227,308	216,688
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>56,018,956</b>	<b>8,547,226</b>	<b>64,122,186</b>	<b>62,370,233</b>	<b>1,751,953</b>

## Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation

Statement of Losses for the year ended 31 July 2017

### **Loss of Money**

There was no loss of money recorded for the year ended 31 July 2017.

### **Loss of Revenue**

There was no loss of revenue recorded for the year ended 31 July 2017.

### **Loss (other than money)**

The Board of Survey for 2016-2017 was not carried out in accordance with Section 49 of the Finance Instruction 2010.

## Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation

Notes to And Forming Part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2017

### NOTE 1: REPORTING ENTITY

The Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation oversees the three departments: Department of Social Welfare and Department of Women and Children and Poverty Monitoring Unit.

Government is committed to reducing poverty to a negligible level and these Departments further that cause by breaking down barriers erected by gender, age, disability and economic standing.

The Department of Social Welfare administers Fiji's recently-reformed social welfare programs, which include the Poverty Benefit Scheme, the Child Protection Allowance, the Food Voucher Program, the Social Pension Scheme and the Bus Fare Subsidy. In managing these programs, the Department is responsible for ensuring that aid flows to those who need it the most, while stamping out corruption and fraud in the system.

The Department is equally committed to ensuring that these programs do not create a culture of dependency, focusing efforts and energy on graduating individuals and families from "welfare to workfare".

The Department also has the statutory responsibility to ensure the protection and wellbeing of children, which includes managing juvenile centres.

The Department of Women is responsible for providing Fijian women and girls, particularly those in rural communities, with the skills and education they need to participate as equal members in society. It works to provide the necessary support to enable them to bring about positive changes for themselves, for their families and for their communities.

This mission is underscored in the National Women's Plan of Action, which is aimed at boosting women's employment opportunities, increasing women's participation in decision making, eliminating violence against women, improving women's access to basic services, and addressing women's issues in new legislation. The Department works with other Ministries to ensure that gender perspectives are addressed in all Government policies and initiatives and to promote gender equality.

The Poverty Monitoring Unit evaluates Government's poverty related programmes and makes policy recommendations to the Ministry and Cabinet.

### NOTE 2: STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### (a) Basis of Accounting

In accordance with Government accounting policies, the financial statements of the Ministry for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation is prepared on cash basis of accounting. All payments related to purchases of fixed assets have been expensed.

The financial statements are presented in accordance with the Financial Management Act and the requirements of Section 71(1) of the Finance Instruction 2010 and Finance (Amendment) Instructions 2016. The preparation and presentation of a Statement of Assets and Liabilities is not required under the current Government policies, except for that of the Trading and Manufacturing Accounts.

#### (b) Accounting for Value Added Tax (VAT)

All income and expenses are VAT exclusive. The Ministry on a monthly basis takes out VAT output on total money received for expenditure from Ministry of Economy. VAT input on the other hand is claimed on payments made to the suppliers and the sub-contractors for expenses incurred.

The VAT payment as per the Statement of Receipts and Expenditures relates to VAT input claimed on payments made to the suppliers and sub-contractors for expenses incurred and VAT payments to FRCS. Actual amount paid to FRCS during the year represent the difference between VAT Output and VAT Input.



### (c) Comparative Figures

The Ministry changed its reporting period from 1 August to 31 July as per Ministry of Economy circular number 04/16 due to a change in the whole government reporting period.

Hence, the 2016-2017 financial reporting period is for 12 months effective from 1 August 2016 to 31 July 2017. In comparison, the 2016 financial reporting period is for 7 months effective from 1 January 2016 to 31 July 2016. This was provided for in the Financial Management (Amendment) Act 2016.

### (d) Revenue Recognition

Revenue is recognised when actual cash are received by the Ministry.

## NOTE 3: SIGNIFICANT VARIATIONS

- (a) Miscellaneous Revenue decreased by \$363,270 or 99% in 2017 compared to 2016 due to decline in refund allowance for Social Protection Program recipients as a result of closed or invalid bank accounts.
- (b) Special Expenditure increased by \$1,448,673 or 179% in 2017 compared to 2016. The increase was mainly due to new expenditure of \$495,881 relating to Fiji National Women's Expo in 2017 and increased expenditure of \$584,920 for Child Protection Program in 2017.
- (c) There was no budgetary allocation provided by the Ministry of Economy for Capital Purchase in 2017. The Ministry vired \$89,910 in 2017 to procure two boats for the maritime areas of Bua and Lomaiviti Province.
- (d) Capital Grants & Transfers increased by \$788,196 or 479% in 2017 compared to 2016. The major increase was due to increase in expenditure for Welfare Graduation Program by \$553,771 and increased expenditure by Capital Grant to Voluntary Organisations by \$144,432 in 2017.

## NOTE 4: DETAILS OF APPROPRIATION CHANGES

The Cabinet approved the re-deployment of Funds from Head 43 (Fiji Roads Authority) via Cabinet Decision CP (17) 129.

Re-deployment Number	From	To	Amount (\$)	Reason for redeployment
REDY01	Head 43	SEG 05	221,396	To meet the shortfall in expenditure commitment.
		SEG 06	8,303,934	
		SEG 13	21,896	

The Minister for Economy approved the following transfer of funds during the period.

Virement Number	From	To	Amount (\$)
V24001	SEG 06	SEG 01	329,900
V24005	SEG 06	SEG 01	174,814
		SEG 02	165,845
V24006	SEG 06	SEG 01	11,539
		SEG 02	20,629

**NOTE 4: DETAILS OF APPROPRIATION CHANGES (Continued...)**

The Permanent Secretary for Economy approved the following transfer of funds during the period.

Virement Number	From	To	Amount (\$)
V24002	SEG 01	SEG 02	84,880
V24003	SEG 01	SEG 02	34,194
V24004	SEG 10	SEG 10	50,000
V24005	SEG 01	SEG 02	280,046

The Permanent Secretary for the Ministry approved the following virements under delegation from the Minister of Economy.

Virement Number	From	To	Amount (\$)
DV2401	SEG 03	SEG 04	5,000
	SEG 04	SEG 04	40,000
DV2402	SEG 07	SEG 09	89,910
	SEG 13	SEG 13	4,045
DV2403	SEG 07	SEG 05	7,000
	SEG 13	SEG 03	11,700
	SEG 04	SEG 04	12,200
	SEG 07	SEG 03	8,000
	SEG 03	SEG 03	1,000
DV2404	SEG 07	SEG 03	36,500
DV2405	SEG 04	SEG 03	34,451
	SEG 05	SEG 04	
		SEG 05	
DV2406	SEG 06	SEG 07	4,000

**NOTE 5: OPERATING TRUST ACCOUNT**

As at 31 July 2017, the Ministry had a credit balance of \$115,733 in the Operating Trust Fund Account.

**NOTE 6: REVOLVING FUND ACCOUNT**

At balance date, the Ministry had a balance of \$19,049 in the Revolving Fund Account. The balance was due to Accountable Advance issued to the officers which was not retired on time due to system errors.

**NOTE 7: DRAWING ACCOUNT**

At balance date, the Ministry had a balance of \$1,197,193 in the Drawings Account. These monies relate to cheques written by the Ministry that were yet to be presented to the bank.

# Organization Chart







## Executive Support Unit

*"Taking Action to Achieve our Outputs"*

## Overview

The 2016-2017 fiscal year began with a reshuffle of Ministerial portfolios. The Ministerial leadership was handed by Honorable Rosy Akbar to Honorable Mereseini Rakuita Vuniwaqa. With this change, an Assistant Minister was added to the list of the Ministry Executives. This position was assumed by Honorable Veena Bhatnagar.

A new team replaced the outgoing ESU staff as well. This Unit has the primary responsibility of ensuring the policy and mandates of the Executives are communicated to the Departments and external stakeholders and seen that they are achieved. ESU assists the Executives in preparing for Parliamentary Sessions, Local Meetings, Community Visits, Cabinet and International Meetings.



## International Meetings

The Honorable Minister attended the 25th Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum, 61st Commission on the Status of Women, heading a five-member delegation to New York, High Level Meeting on Management of Social Transformations Forum in Malaysia, and the 136th Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly in Bangladesh. Honorable Assistant Minister attended the 3rd High Level Meeting on South-South Cooperation for Child Rights in Asia and the Pacific in Malaysia. ESU provided the necessary logistical and technical support to the Executives during their participation at these meetings.

## Community Outreach

The Executives of the Ministry made concerted efforts to ensure there was liaison with Fijians living in rural communities. Through the community outreach, the Hon.

Minister or Hon. Assistant Minister conducts Talanoa session with the communities to discuss their difficulties and needs. Furthermore, accompanied by officers of the departments of the Ministry and even other government departments accompanied the Executives.

ESU made necessary referrals and facilitated the related requests in due course.

## Partnerships

The 2016-2017 fiscal year was also a time for strengthening partnerships for the Ministry through the signing of Memorandum of Understandings between the Ministry and external parties to achieve common goals, particularly by working with the departments within the Ministry. The Executives also maintained the Ministry's previous bilateral relationships to ensure our services could be improved even more. One such partnership is between the Ministry and the Embassy of the People's Republic of China. The Ministry received a \$40,000 cheque from the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Fiji to assist the Ministry with the procurement of equipment to be utilized in the Age Care Homes around the country. The Embassy had also donated a laptop and a Desktop computer for the Mahaffy Girls Home in Domain. This donation was a continuation of the Chinese Government's support to the work of the Ministry which in the past had seen the supply of sewing machines and fabrics for women's groups.



## Assistance and Projects

ESU was given a budget of \$200,000.00 in this fiscal year to assist families, organizations and individuals who need urgent assistance in areas that cannot be catered for from any other



budget line within government services. The assistance included provision of water tanks to homes in the areas struck by TC Winston where the Divisional Commissioners' offices did not have any water tanks to assist families with given the demand at the time; financing of urgent medical treatments, purchase of items for women's groups for their urgent social obligations, school items and fees for poor students, housing assistance, generators, fire relief assistance where the allocated budget had been exhausted, outboard engines for communities using river rafts as a means of crossing rivers, and funding of Income Generating Projects for the Disadvantaged.

Donations were also received from groups in Australia, whereby several good Samaritans collected household, school, health and sanitary items, together with furniture, computers and clothing and sent them over to the Ministry for distribution. These items were carefully distributed to the state-owned Age Care and Children's Homes, victims of TC Winston, Fire Victims and homeless persons.

## Media Liaison

On the 1st of November 2016, senior officials from the Fiji Broadcasting Corporation, Fiji Times Limited and Fiji Sun attended a stakeholder meeting to discuss strategies to strengthen the existing working relationship and the promotion of the services of the Ministry through mainstream media, especially given the important function the media plays in delivering the Ministry's key role of advocacy for women, children, the elderly, people living with disabilities and the underprivileged. As vulnerable Members of our community, access to information and services becomes a real challenge for them. This heightens the need for balanced and fair reporting which is clear and unambiguous and untainted by personal or institutional biases.

Apart from this, the Media Team covered all the events of the Executives and the Departmental programs. The media team also played a significant role in the promotion of the Ministry programs like the Provincial Craft Shows and the National Women's Expo, and in publishing messages on important events from the Executives.

## Internal Affairs

The ESU also managed the internal meetings of the senior management with the Executives, as well as facilitating tours for the Executives to all the District Offices of the Ministry. This was not only to orientate the new Minister, but to also allow an opportunity for the Ministry Staff to communicate their challenges with the Executives in terms of service delivery.

## Special Programs



The Unit also organized the 'International Day of Families' in this fiscal year at St. Teresa's College in Bemana, Sigatoka. This venue was chosen after the Minister's previous tour of the school and the realization of the major limitations in their access to basics services such as water. The celebration was done in an outreach setting with essential government services taken to the people on the day. It was also an opportune time for the Minister who was the Chief Guest at the event, to deliver a powerful message on the importance of family in the education of children.



**Launching of Kadavu Eagle**, an outboard engine boat to assist with delivery of Government's services in the Province of Kadavu.





## Department of Social Welfare

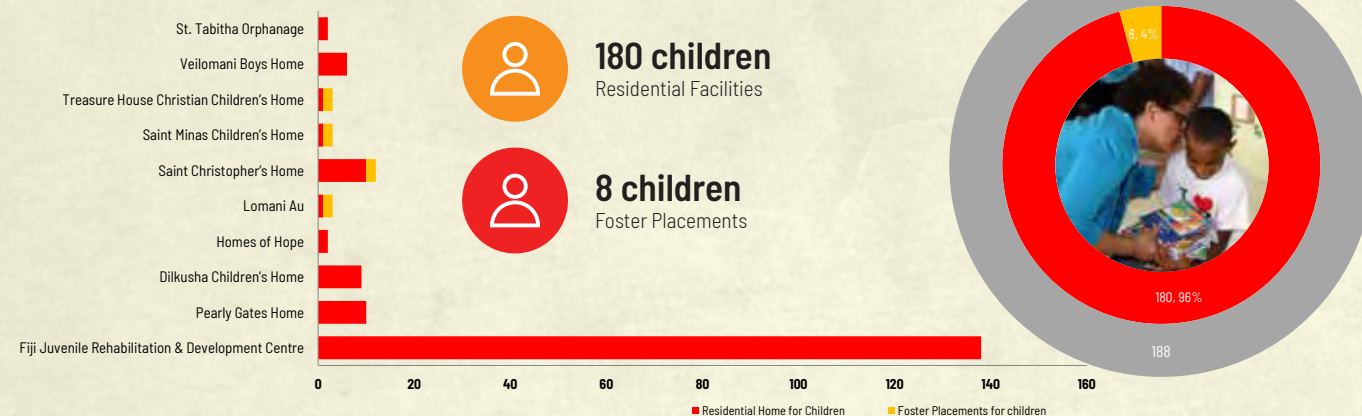
*"Includes Child Services Unit, Family Services Unit & Older Persons Unit"*

# CHILD SERVICES UNIT

## Ensuring Child Protection through Institutional or Foster Placements

A total of 180 child placements were facilitated into the ten (10) residential facilities and foster placements includes the exit of children from Residential Care Homes to either kinship or Foster Placement as highlighted in graph below.

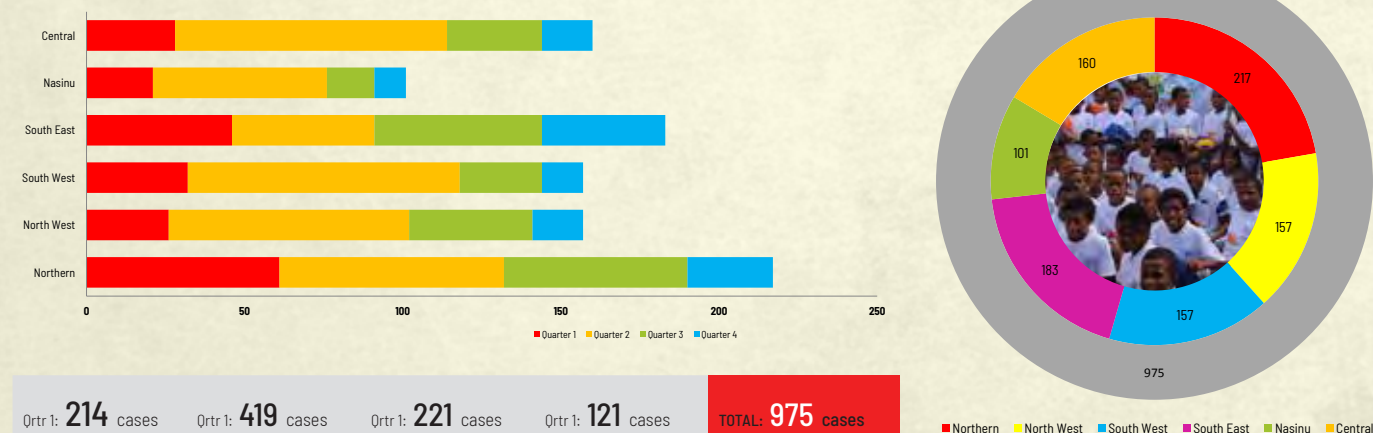
Graph 1: Number of Child Placements in Residential Facilities and Foster Placements



## Child Welfare Decree Cases

The Department recorded an annual figure of 975 reported cases from January to December as per graph below.

Graph 2: Number of Child Welfare Decree Cases (Quarter 1-4)



## Residential Care

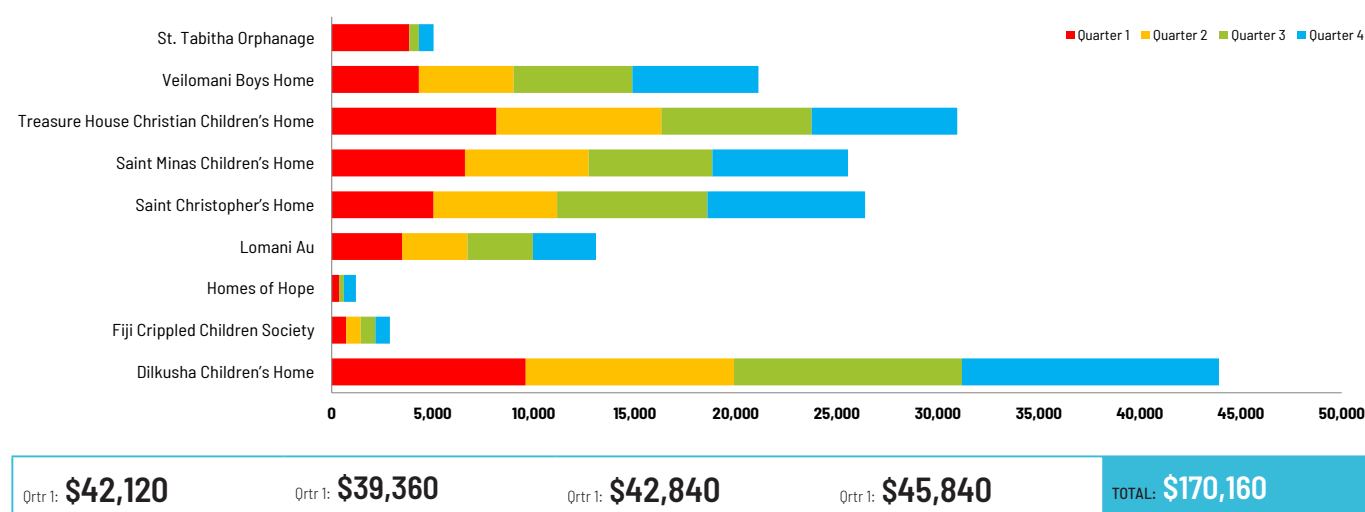
The ten (10) Residential Homes have been well managed to best meet the needs of children and according to the Minimum Standards of Audit as a Guide to ensure that the best interest of children's quality care and the management of the home are upheld. During the fiscal year 2016-2017 Audit of the homes did not eventuate, however, build up activities for Audit such as care planning for the children, meetings with divisional offices and those that manage the homes. Minimum standard training for the staff of the Homes were also carried out.

## Monthly Payments

The care of the wards of the State in residential homes is provided monthly Care & Protection Allowance for the welfare of children.

A total of \$170,160 was paid across the ten (10) residential homes as highlighted in graph below:

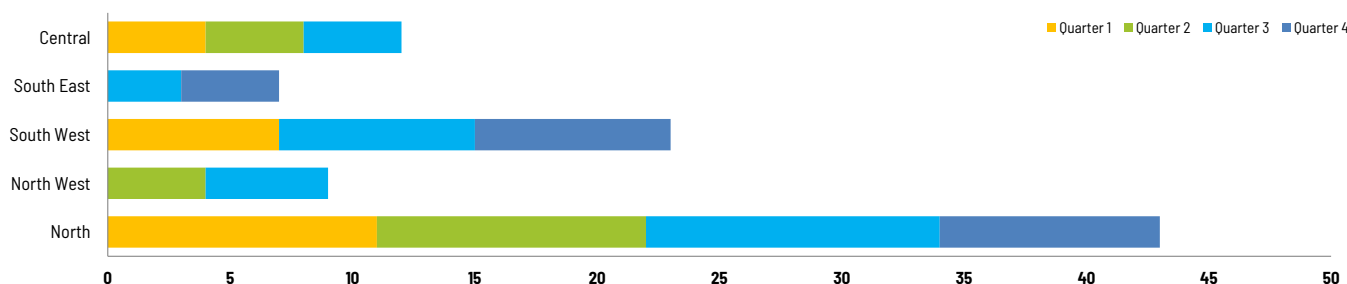
Graph 3: Payment to Residential Homes (Quarter 1-4)



## Probation for Juvenile and Adults

The Department serves as the government agency that has statutory responsibilities towards the care and protection of children via a court decision, particularly for children who are found to be in breach of the Crimes Decree. The Probation of Offenders Act and the Community Work Order act provide alternative sentencing for offenders. The Department had a total 96 Probation cases.

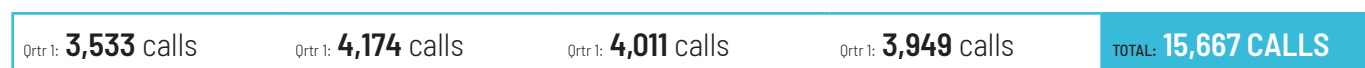
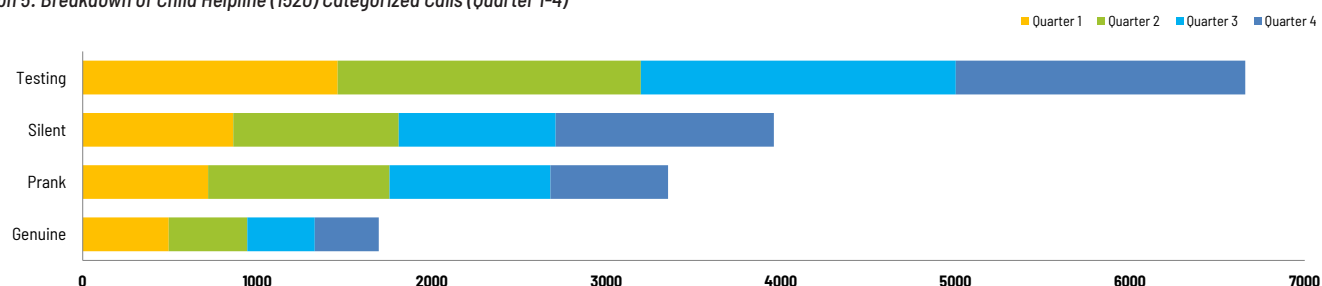
Graph 4: Number of Probation Cases by Divisions (Quarter 1-4)



## Child Helpline (Toll Free Call No. 1325)

Through the Child Help Line initiative with the toll free line, 1325, provides an avenue where the public including children can report on any child-related abuse cases and acquire information. The Medical Services Pacific (MSP) with whom the Ministry has an MOU, recorded a total of 15,667 calls in 2016-17. Graph below provides a quarterly breakdown of the categorized calls.

Graph 5: Breakdown of Child Helpline (1520) Categorized Calls (Quarter 1-4)

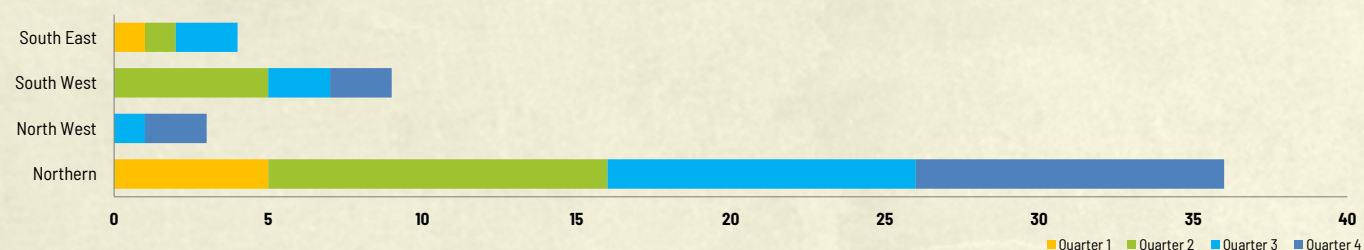




## Training of Trainers

The Department facilitated 52 community awareness to identified community leaders across the four divisions in relation to Child Protection.

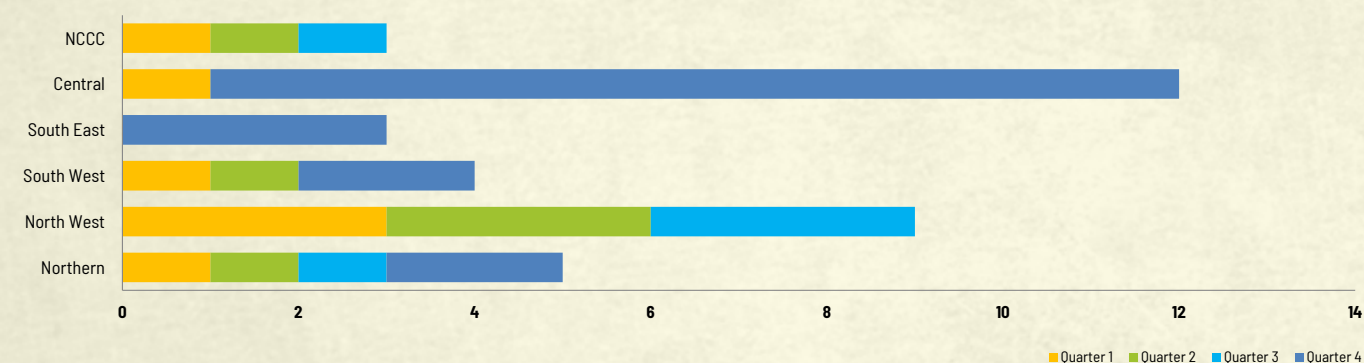
Graph 6: Number of Community Awareness Training (Quarter 1-4)



## National Coordinating Committee Meetings and Inter Agency Meetings (NCCC and IAC)

The NCCC is responsible for coordinating the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and its role also extends to providing advice, regulating and monitoring the protection and welfare of children in Fiji. The Department facilitated 36 meetings across the four divisions to address child protection issues and note the progress and updates.

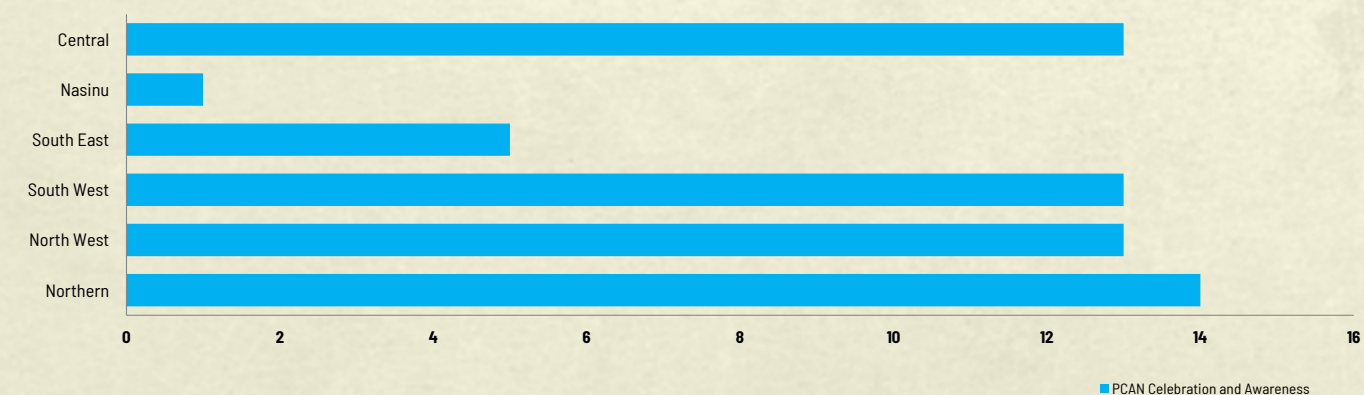
Graph 7: Number of NCC & IAC Meetings (Quarter 1-4)



## Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (PCAN) Campaign/Blue Ribbon Campaign

Department facilitated 59 PCAN Awareness. This is to prevent the abuse and neglect of children. Child protection requires collaboration between Government, Non-Government Organizations and communities to effectively address the issue at a national level.

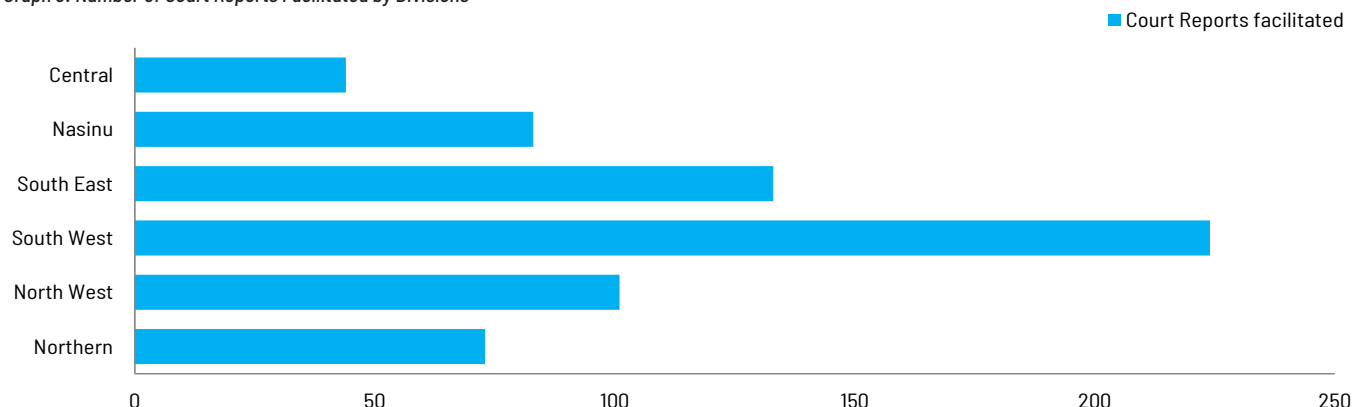
Graph 8: Number of PCAN Celebration & Awareness



## Court Reports

The Department generated a total of 658 court reports across the 6 divisions.

Graph 9: Number of Court Reports Facilitated by Divisions



## Child Protection In Emergencies (CPIE) And Natural Disasters

The Department is part of the Social Protection cluster of Agencies that is coordinated under the National Disaster Management and Coordinating Office to intervene on emergency cases and is resourced to facilitate basic necessities for babies during emergencies from the hospital or at the declared station of emergency. Child Protection in Emergencies (CPIE) and Natural Disasters - four (4) trainings were conducted to up skill staff to respond to CPIE.

## Psychosocial Support (PSS) Assessment Rollout

After the severe Tropical cyclone Winston on February 20th 2016, the Child Services Unit (CSU) worked in partnership with UNICEF to provide psychosocial support (PSS) for children and their families whom are victims of the cyclone. The PSS program was to protect and promote psychosocial wellbeing by reducing risk factors.

The Community Child Protection Officers (CPOs) facilitated 80 awareness to most affected villages, settlements and schools in their respective divisions. The CPOs reached out to 160 most affected villages, settlements and schools in their respective Divisions.

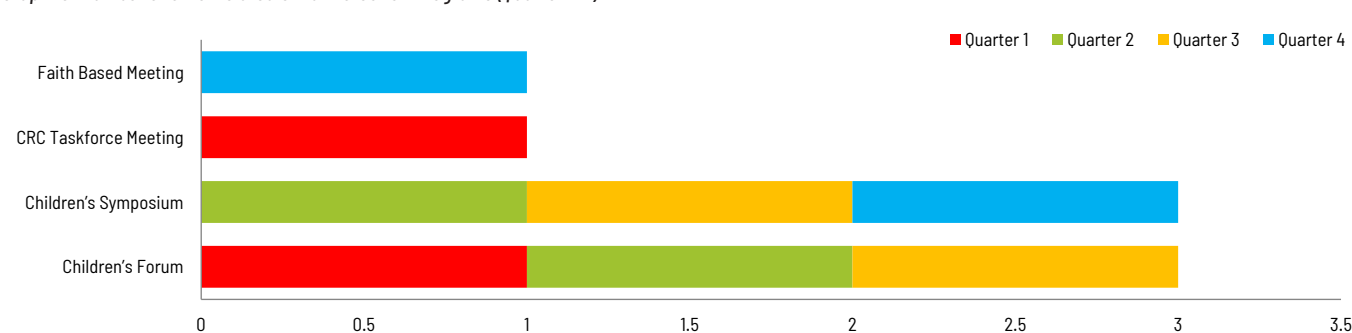
## Training

The Department held 10 workshops to upgrade and up skill its Officers on Child Welfare, Psychological First Aid (PFA) and Positive discipline.

## Other Related Child Protection Programs

The following were other programmes facilitated by the Department in related to Child Protection.

Graph 10: Number of other related Child Protection Programs (Quarter 1-4)





# FAMILY SERVICES UNIT

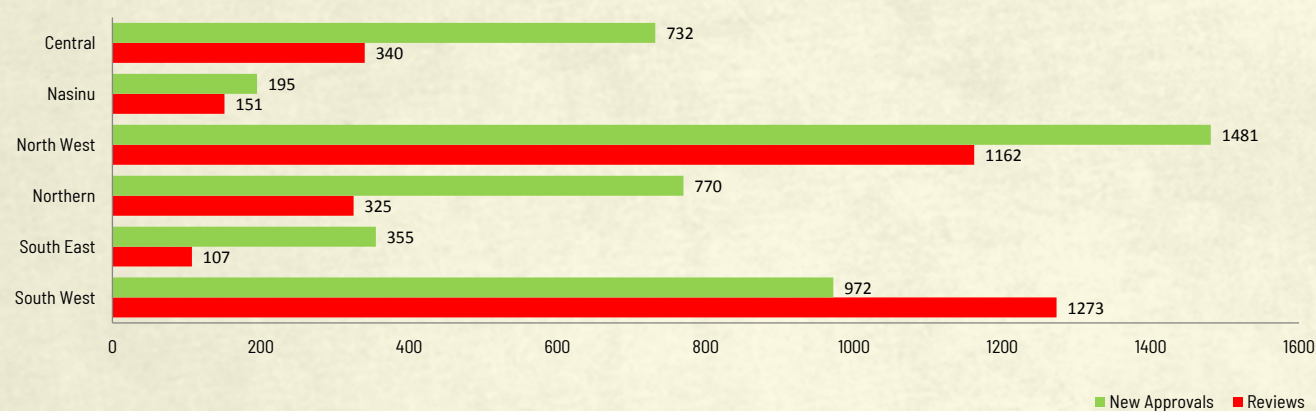
## Poverty Benefit Scheme

\$23.2million was allocated this fiscal year towards this Programme targeting the disadvantaged and poor families. The Ministry by 31st July 2017 was able to assist a total of 25,491 households. The allowance ranges from \$30 to \$110 per month supplemented with \$50 monthly Food Voucher.

**New Approvals:** The Department approved a total of 4505 cases assisted under the Poverty Benefit Scheme (PBS). The graph below shows breakdown per division.

**Reviews:** A total of 3358 cases were reviewed under the Scheme. The South West division accumulated the highest review figures for 2016-17 with a total of 1273 cases. The breakdowns as per the 6 divisional offices around Fiji are projected below.

Graph 1: Poverty Benefit Scheme (Number of New Approvals & Reviews)



**\$23.2million** budget



**4,505** cases approved

## Care and Protection Allowance (C&P) Allowance

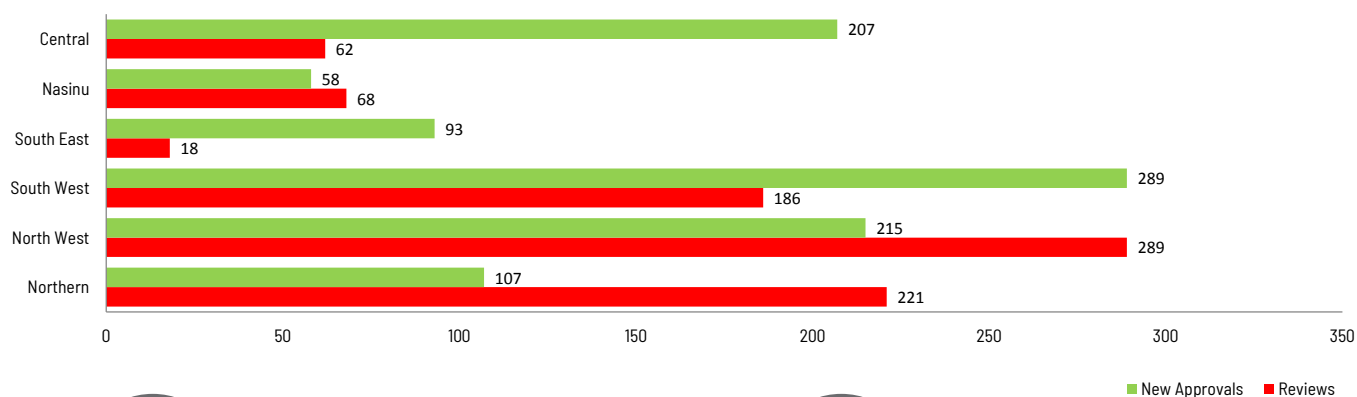
The allowance aims to provide assistance to children living in single parent households or under care of guardians who need financial assistance. Depending on the age of the child, families receive cash allowance per month ranging from \$25 to \$110 plus \$50 food voucher. Children with disabilities are considered for maximum allowance of \$60 per month, children in high school \$42, children in primary school \$34 and children in pre-school \$29.

The C&P Allowance is also given as cash grants to residential homes that provide foster care, adoption and residential facilities for orphans. In 2016-2017 Government continued to assist the program with a budgetary allocation of \$3.5million and assisted a total of 3,141 cases by end of 31st August 2017.

**New Approvals:** The Department approved a total of 970 cases to be assisted through the Programme. Graph on next page provides the breakdown of the new approvals.

**Reviews:** A total of 844 reviews were carried out under the scheme. Graph on next page provides the breakdown of the reviews.

Graph 2: Care & Protection Allowance (Number of New Approvals & Reviews)



**\$3.5million** budget



**970** cases approved

### Food Voucher Program for Rural Pregnant Mothers (FVPRPM)

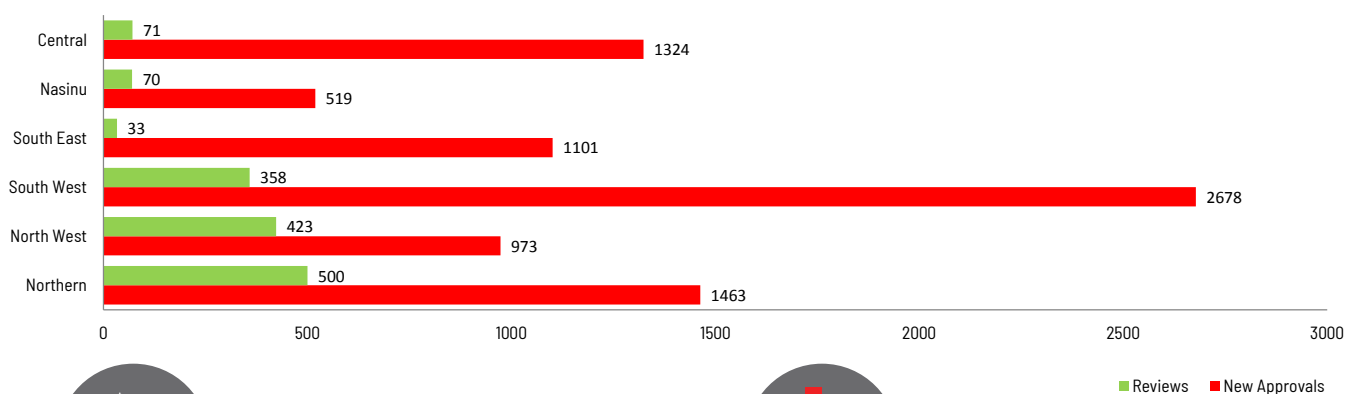
The Program continues to aim at improving maternal health and reducing child mortality. It provides nutrition needs required during pregnancies to avoid complications during later stages of pregnancy or during child birth. The Department processed a total of 2,165 cases working towards SDG 3: Good Health and Well Being.

### Social Pension Scheme (SPS)

The Programme is targeted towards persons aged 66 years and over who do not have any form of income or pension or who have never been beneficiaries of any superannuation schemes like FNPF and After Care Fund. The monthly allowance was increased from \$30 to \$50 and the eligibility age was reduced from 68 years to 66 years in July 2016.

**New Approvals & Reviews:** A total of 8058 new cases were approved while a total of 1455 cases were reviewed under the scheme.

Graph 3: Social Pension Scheme (Number of New Approvals & Reviews)



**\$50** allowance



**8,058** cases approved

## Grants to Voluntary Organization

There were 7 NGO's assisted through the Programme with a total budgetary allocation of \$220,000.

## Bus Fare

The Department processed a total of 5,507 bus fare cards as highlighted in the Graph below.

Graph 4: Number of Bus Fare Cards processed by Divisions



## Fire Victim

A total of 179 fire victim cases were assisted through the scheme across the four divisions.

## Income Generation Project (IGP)

The Department trained a total of 183 welfare recipients marked for graduation under the Welfare to Workfare Program. In addition to this, 9 were assisted with seeds grant under the graduation program for Loloma Beggars Project.

# OLDER PERSONS UNIT (OPU)

The Units provides Programs for Older Persons in Fiji and organizations that provide services to older persons needs to be registered under the National Council for Older Persons (NCOP). The Unit assisted the following organizations with NCOP grant to facilitate services for older persons:



Graph 1: NCOP Grants to Institutions (FJD Dollars)



## NCOP Registered Affiliates

1. The Mother Aubert Home of Compassion Trust, Suva
2. Housing Assistance and Relief Trust, Nasinu
3. The Suva Relief Fund Trust Board (Pearce Home, Suva)
4. Samabula Senior Citizens Home, Suva
5. Sisters of our Lady of Nazareth Retirement Home, Wailoku Suva

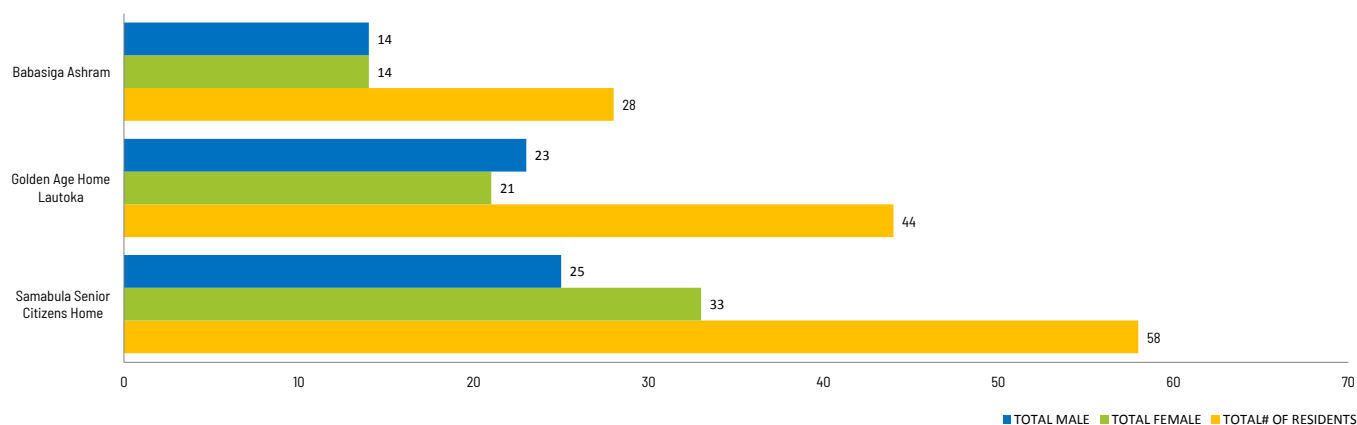
6. Senior Citizens Association, Nadi
7. Father Law Home (Lami, Suva)
8. Senior Citizens Foundation, Lautoka
9. Banaban Elders and Land Owners Association

10. Senior Citizens Ba Community Centre
11. The Golden Age Home, Lautoka
12. Society of Saint Vincent De Paul, Suva

## State Homes for Older Persons

An additional responsibility as of January 2016 was the administration of the 3 State Homes for Older Persons based in Labasa, Lautoka and Samabula. The 3 State Homes as per its initial objective was to create a space to provide institutional care to those that were abandoned, and neglected by their families. Established in the late 1960s, the current Human resource capacity for the 3 Homes is tagged at 11 established staff and 45 unestablished staff. As at July 2017 the total residents at the 3 State Homes was 130.

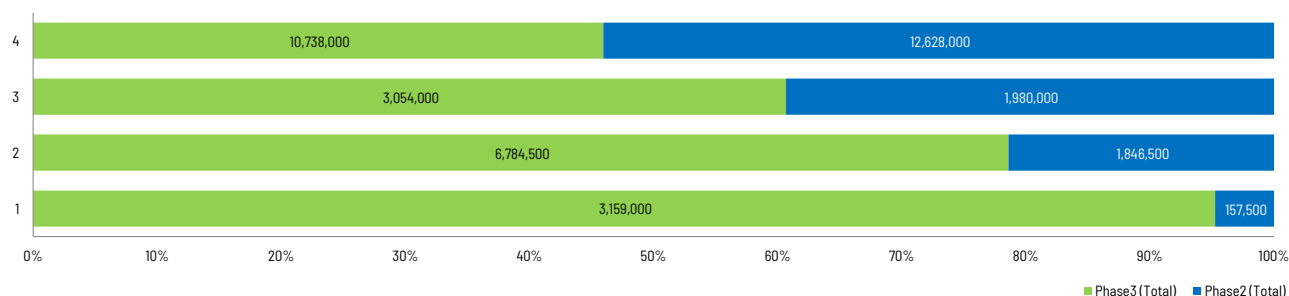
**Graph 2: Total Residents at State Homes split by Gender**



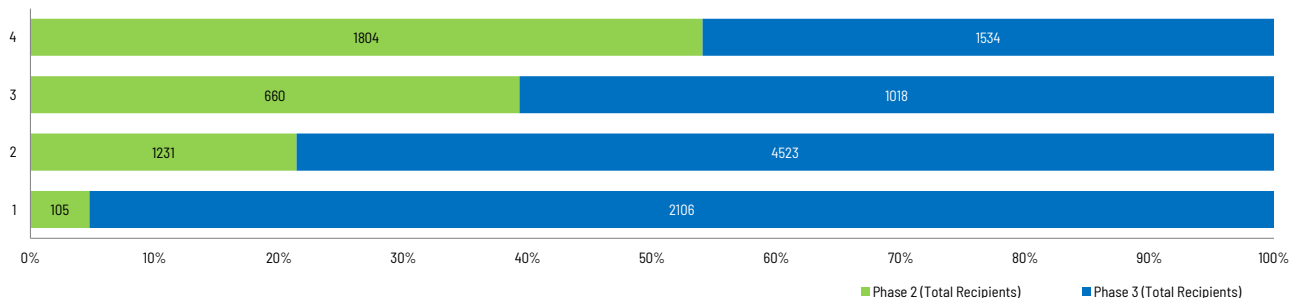
## HELP FOR HOME INITIATIVE

For fiscal year August 1st 2016 – 31st July 2017, the Ministry continued the Help for Home programme by assisting Fijians who were missed out in the 1st phase (March – June). Below is the number of households assisted in phase 2 and phase 3 of the exercise and total funds utilised:

**Graph 1: Funds Utilized under Help for Home Initiative (Quarter 1-4):**



**Graph 2: Number of Recipients assisted under Help for Home Initiative (Quarter 1-4):**







## Department of Women

*"Administers programmes through the Women's Plan of Action"*



# DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN

The Department of Women is the primary policy advisor to Government on women's development and gender mainstreaming. The Department continues to work towards the implementation of programmes administered through the Women's Plan of Action according to its 5 Thematic Areas as follows:

## Thematic Area 1: Formal Sector Employment and Livelihood

Work in this thematic area continued with the aim to promote women in livelihood projects, women's economic rights and self-reliance that will enable women to effectively contribute towards their household and community as a whole.

**Activity 1: Income Generating Projects (IGP) Funded to Women's Group:** A total of 5 new IGP's were funded by the Department. Projects included beekeeping pilot project, poultry and brush cutter project. The Department also monitored 135 projects across the 4 divisions.

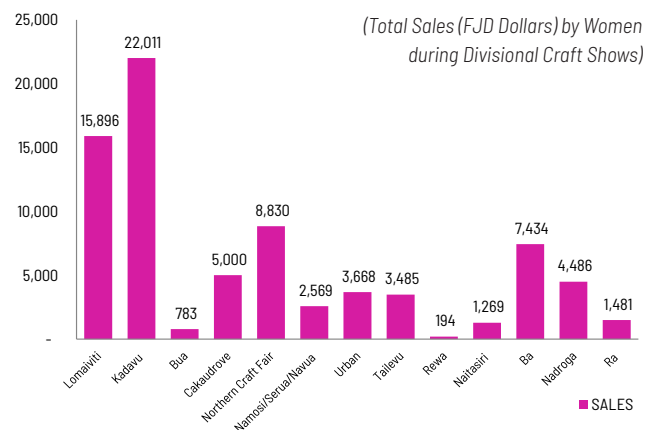
**Activity 2: Bilateral Cooperation:** The Department hosted international delegations from Indonesia and Japan. A four member delegation from Indonesia from Ciputra University and Ministry of Foreign Affairs came to monitor and evaluate the Ciputra trainees' business ideas and learning's.



Assistant Minister for Women, Hon. Veena Bhatnagar together with Permanent Secretary, Dr. J. Koroivueta at Training for Ciputra Trainees.

The Government of Japan, Saga Prefecture exchange workshop was held in Suva on the 15th of March, 2017. This was an initiative from the Government of Japan to ensure potential link between women's group and government partners.

**Activity 3: Divisional Craft Show:** 13 Provincial Craft Shows were held across the four divisions which is a build-up Programme for the National Women's Expo Event. The sales earned by Women at the Divisional Craft Shows is shown in the following graph.



## Activity 4: National Women's Expo

The National Women's Expo was held from the 14th to 16th June, 2017 with the theme "Be Empowered Be the Change" at the Vodafone Arena in Suva. A total of 475 artisans across Fiji attended the event.



### Highlights of the Women Expo Event:

- The total sales for the 3 days was \$402,469.35.
- The Rural Women's Fashion Show was a highlight as it showed the growing number of Fijian women participating in Fashion industry. The National Women's Expo laid the platform to showcase Women designer's talents. The Rural Women's Fashion show provided more significance for the Expo Event.
- A total of 10 capacity building training was facilitated to Women's Group focussing on packaging, labelling and handling.

### Activity 5: Gender Responsive Budgeting

The Department in collaboration with UN Women facilitated Gender Responsive Budgeting training to raise awareness to market vendors and municipal management level so that they are aware of the importance of including women at all levels of decision making process.

## Thematic Area 2: Equal Participation in Decision Making

Work in this thematic area continued with the aim to promote women in livelihood projects, women's economic rights and self-reliance that will enable women to effectively contribute towards their household and community as a whole.

### Activity 1: Leadership Training

The Department coordinated a total of 8 leadership trainings with 138 participants across the Central and Northern Division.

### Activity 2: Training of Trainers

This training was conducted in partnership with Regional Resource Rights Team (RRRT) from Secretariat of the Pacific Communities. Senior Staff of Department for Women were trained to acquire skills on how to facilitate trainings to women, men and youths in the communities.

## Thematic Area 3: Elimination of Violence against Women and Children

The Ministry is committed to achieving the goal of having 'A Safer Community through the Elimination of Violence against Women and Children through working with service providers, communities and development agencies.

### Activity 1: Zero Tolerance Violence Free Community (ZTVFC) Program

In collaboration with Key Stakeholders, 6 communities in the Western and Central Division were declared violence Free. A total of 438 people were present to witness this event with 199 male and 239 female. In addition, a total of 18 programs were facilitated to ZTVFC ensuring that communities completed the required phases before declaration. A total of 464 people reached of whom 202 were Male and 262 female.

### Activity 2: Gender Based Violence Follow up Training to ZTVFC

Eight (8) follow-up trainings were provided to community gatekeepers from declared communities to ensure they are up to date on all exiting legislation relevant to gender based violence.

### Activity 3: Male advocacy Training

The Department in collaboration with Fiji Women's Crisis Centre facilitated Public Service Male Advocacy training and identified Community Male Advocate. Four (4) Male Advocacy Training were attended by 94 participants.

### Activity 4: Service Delivery Protocol Consultation

The Ministry conducted 3 Consultations around Fiji to develop a service protocol which will be standard protocol for responding to cases of Gender based violence and Standard Operating Procedures for Interagency Response Among Social Services, Health and the Justice Sector.

### Activity 5: National Domestic Violence Toll Free Helpline (1560)

2016 witnessed the establishment of the Domestic Violence Helpline. Initially, from the signing of the Grants Agreement with Fiji Women's Crisis Centre, to manage and operate the DV Toll Free Helpline on September 16th, 2016. This is followed by the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)



between the Telecommunication Companies Vodafone Fiji, Digicel and Telecommunication Fiji Limited on the 7th of March 2017. The Prime Minister of Fiji, Hon. Rear Admiral Voreqe Bainimarama launched the DV Toll Free Helpline number 1560 during the International Women's Day on March 8th.

#### **Activity 6: 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence**

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign was observed on 25th November to 10th December. The event aims to end violence against women and girls. The Ministry organised the programme with a national launch in Labasa on the 25th of November by the Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Hon. Mereseini Vuniwaqa. This coincides with the Opening of the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre Labasa Branch.



Launching of the 16 Days of Activism in Labasa

### **Thematic Area 4: Access to Services**

#### **Activity 1: Rocket Stove Training**

The Rocket Stove program is a climate change and adaption initiative. It provides knowledge to rural women on how climate change is affecting their food security and resources and how they can adapt to these changes.

#### **Activity 2: Commissioning of Fiji Barefoot College**

The commissioning of the college at Nadogo, Macuata was a milestone achievement for the Ministry as it is the first training Centre for solar electrification. This training center was commissioned by the Hon. Prime Minister.

#### **Activity 7: Ministry of Women, Children & Poverty Alleviation, Gender, GBV and Human Rights Training**

The 4 day training (3-7 April, 2017) at the Novotel Hotel, Lami was attended by 25 Ministry Staff from the respective Department and Divisions. The training coordinated by the Ministry in collaboration with the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre targeted at increasing staff knowledge and understanding towards gender roles & responsibilities. Total number of Ministry participants participated is 25; Males 12 and Females 13.

#### **Activity 8: Fiji Military Forces Training on Gender, GBV and Human Rights**

The 5 day training officially opened by the Minister for Women, Children & Poverty Alleviation, Hon. Mereseini Vuniwaqa highlighted the importance of gender and being sensitive to gender issues. Women have joined the military and the number continue to increase as from the ratio 1: 26 ten years ago to 1:10 currently. Their roles have now included humanitarian support during disasters as well peace keeping where women and children are the most affected. Fiji Women's Crisis Centre coordinator Ms. Shamima Ali facilitated most the sessions from the 8th to the 12th of May. Fiji Women's Crisis center Legal Officer William Nainima facilitated the sessions on legal issues like Domestic Violence Act, Child Welfare Act and Family Law Act covering divorce, maintenance, matrimonial property, separation and the Crime Decree. A total of 25 participants attended the training with 4 females and 21 males.

#### **Activity 3: Sexual Reproductive Health Training (SHRT)**

Through the Programme the Ministry has been able to reach out to rural communities providing awareness sessions to men and women on Sexual Reproductive Health and the importance of using contraceptives and pap-smear testing.

#### **Activity 4: REACH Awareness Program**

The Programme was introduced through the collaboration of the Ministry in partnership with UNDP and Government of Japan. The REACH Programme raises awareness on the social, economic and legal rights articulated in the 2013 Constitution of the Republic



of Fiji which provides access to services associated with these rights and also strengthens institutional capacity to deliver these services. A mobile service delivery approach is undertaken to reach communities throughout Fiji with the focus to reach the furthest behind first. A total of 54 villages were visited and 1,084 participants present during the REACH Awareness around Fiji.



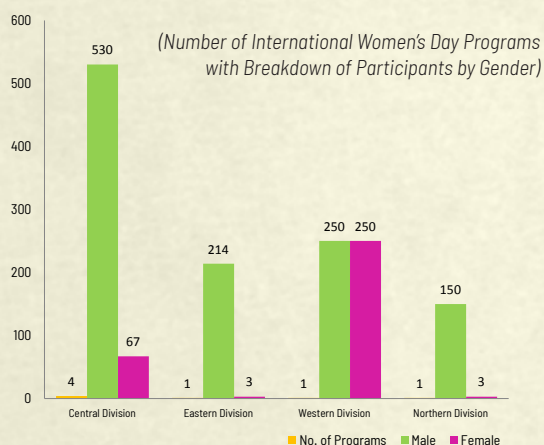
Stakeholder Training on the contents of REACH program

## Thematic Area 5: Women and the Law

The Department works towards ensuring that women are well educated and aware of their rights and have Access to Justice.

### Activity 1: International Women's Day Celebration

The theme for IWD celebration was "Be Bold to Change". The ministry organized various programmes throughout the four divisions to celebrate International Women's Day with the women of Fiji.



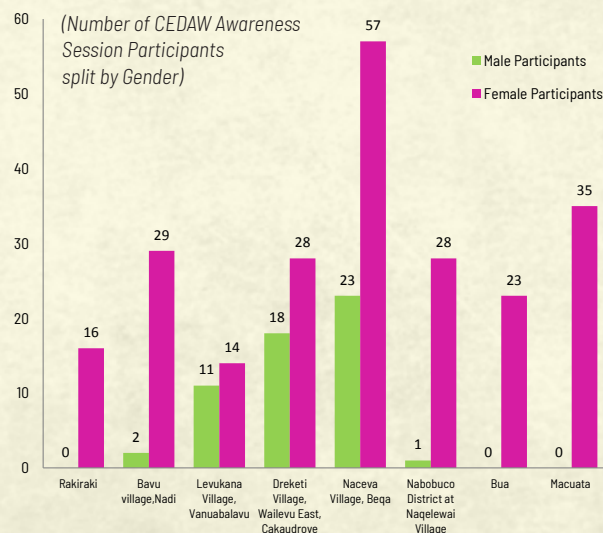
### Activity 2: Commission on the Status of Women

The sixty-first (61st) session on the Commission on the Status of Women took place in March (13th - 24th) at United Nations Headquarters in New York (Theme: "Women's Economic Empowerment in the changing World of Work"). The 5 member Fijian Delegation was led by Hon. Mereseini Vuniwaqa (Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation).

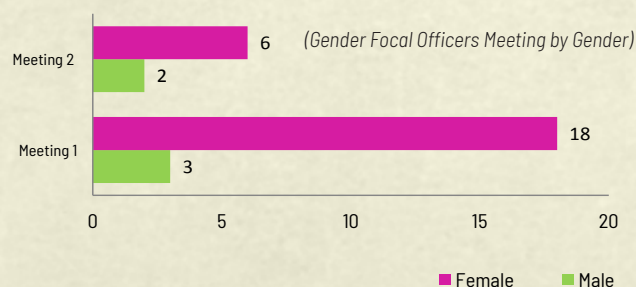


### Activity 3: CEDAW Awareness

The CEDAW awareness sessions provides an opportunity for ordinary women to know what their human rights are and how these rights are protected in the Constitution as well as other laws in Fiji.



### Activity 4: Gender Focal Officers Meeting



### Activity 5: National Gender Policy Awareness

The objective of this program is to increase understanding of

gender, the social construction of gender, ways it influences the life of men and women, origins of discrimination and the National Gender Policy and its implementation. A total of 7 awareness conducted involved Officers from various Government Ministries facilitated by the National Gender Policy Advisor, Mr. Glen Davies.

### Activity 6: Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministerial Meeting

The 11th Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministerial Meeting (WAMM) was held in Apia from 7-8 September 2016, hosted by the Government of Samoa on the theme of 'Gender Equality through Sustainable Development in an Inclusive Commonwealth'. The Permanent Secretary led the Fijian Delegation to Samoa for the 11th Commonwealth Meeting.

#### The key highlights included:

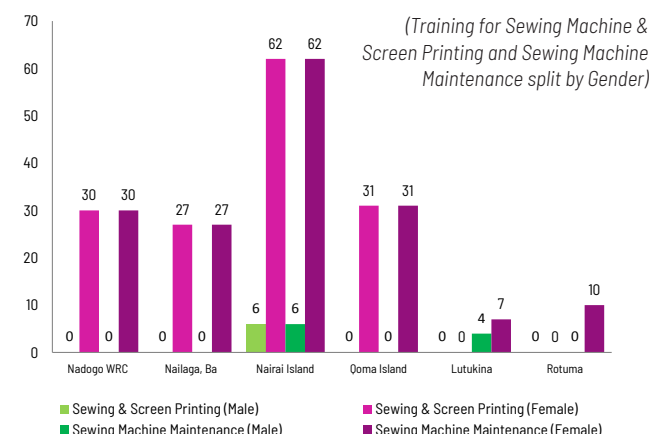
1. Ministers noted the recommendations in the ETR of the Commonwealth PoA for Gender Equality 2005-2015 and welcomed the four priority areas for action as follows:
  - **Women's Economic Empowerment**
  - **Women in Leadership**
  - **Ending Violence against Women and Girls**
  - **Women's Land Rights and Climate Change**
2. Ministers agreed that the implementation of the four priority areas may vary for different member states and requested the Secretariat to coordinate with member governments to identify their focus areas.
3. Ministers requested that the Commonwealth Secretariat provides an implementation Strategy for 2017-2020 and develop a monitoring and evaluation mechanism that uses the reporting framework of the SDGs.

## Fiji Women's Federation

The Fiji Women's Federation was established in 1999 as an extension for Department of Women. The major function of FWF Advisory Committee is to advice the Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation on Public Service Policy, Programs, Legislation and other emerging issues that impact women and gender.

**Activity 1: Sewing Machine Distribution:** This program assists women groups around Fiji to have a sustainable income generation avenue for their daily livelihood. A total of 86 sewing machines were distributed in 2016 - 2017 to women's group in the Central, Eastern and Western Division. The Ministry

continues to provide women with capacity building in terms of sewing and sewing machine maintenance training as illustrated in the graph.

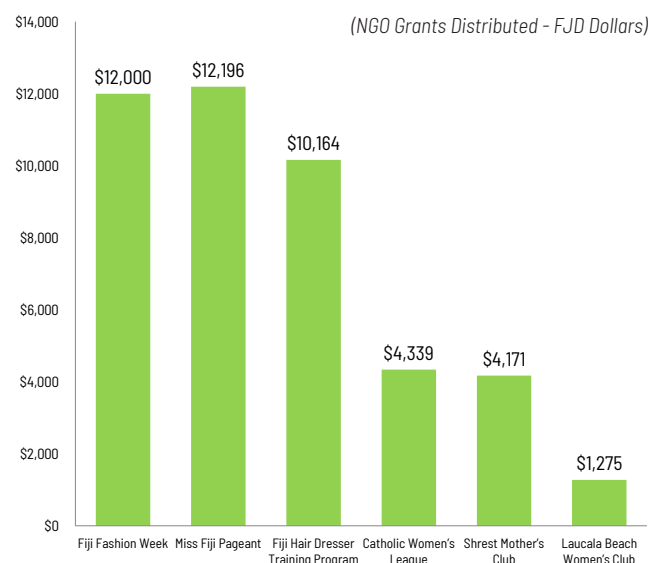


## Non-Governmental Grants

Non-Government Organizations Grants (NGO Grants) are given to Women's Organizations seeking assistance to facilitate capacity building trainings covered under the 5 thematic areas. The Women's Groups are to be registered under the Charitable Trust and have confirmed doing some empowerment programs in the community.

### Activity 1: NGO Grants Distribution

A total of 7 women NGO's were assisted in the year with funding for their activities. This funding was instrumental in assisting the work that is carried out by these organizations for benefit of their members. The following organizations were assisted with grants as highlighted on table below:







## Poverty Monitoring Unit

*"Reducing Poverty is Everybody's Business"*

The core responsibility of the Unit is to increase the effectiveness of the Poverty Alleviation Programmes (PAP) which contributes to Government's commitment towards reducing poverty and addressing the socio-economic development needs of the people. This is to ensure that the implementers of PAP review and implement policies & processes to improve programme performance. This aligns with the Unit's key role to plan, manage and coordinate the implementation of national poverty reduction policies and programmes through the Integrated National Poverty Eradication Programme (INPEP) Framework.

## Monitor, Evaluate and Report on the implementation of Integrated National Poverty Eradication Programme (INPEP)

The Unit monitored fourteen (14) Poverty Alleviation Programme (PAP) across seven (7) line Agencies. This was carried out with the support of Programme Implementers and in consultation with Divisional Commissioners and District Offices in the Central, Western and Northern Divisions. The following programmes were monitored:

1. Ministry of Agriculture
  - *Rural and Outer Islands Agriculture Development*
  - *Agricultural Extension Crops*
  - *Drainage and Flood Protection*
  - *Agricultural Marketing Authority*
2. Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport
  - *Rural Electrification Programme*
3. Tertiary Scholarship and Loans Board
  - *National Toppers Scheme*
  - *Tertiary Education Loan Scheme*
  - *Other Existing Scholarship Scheme*
4. Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Environment
  - *Housing Assistance Relief Trust (HART)*
  - *Squatter Upgrading and Resettlement*
5. Ministry of Lands & Mineral Resources
  - *Fiji Groundwater Assessment and Development Programme*
6. Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and National Disaster Management
  - *Divisional Development Project*
  - *Rural Housing Assistance*
7. Ministry of Sugar
  - *Upgrade of Cane Access Roads*

Reports and findings were presented to the relevant line agencies for their feedback. Latter, policy briefs were generated and presented to the Permanent Secretary-WCPA and Honourable Minister for Women, Children & Poverty Alleviation advising on the performance of Poverty Alleviation Programmes and how it can be further improved.



Team PMU presenting findings of Upgrade of Cane Access Road Programme at FSC Conference room in Labasa to Field Officers.



Presentation of HART programme finding to CEO HART.

## Poverty Alleviation Programme Success Stories

Government continues to support people living in the rural communities that have lack of access to Government services. The Unit interviewed identified beneficiaries of PAP to capture their views on how the Programme has impacted their livelihoods.

The Team adopted the innovative approach of recording and developing success stories on the following Poverty Alleviation Programmes:

- *Northern Development Programme*
- *Tertiary Scholarship Schemes*



- Integrated Human Resource Development Programme
- Coastal Fisheries Development Programme
- National Women's Expo Event



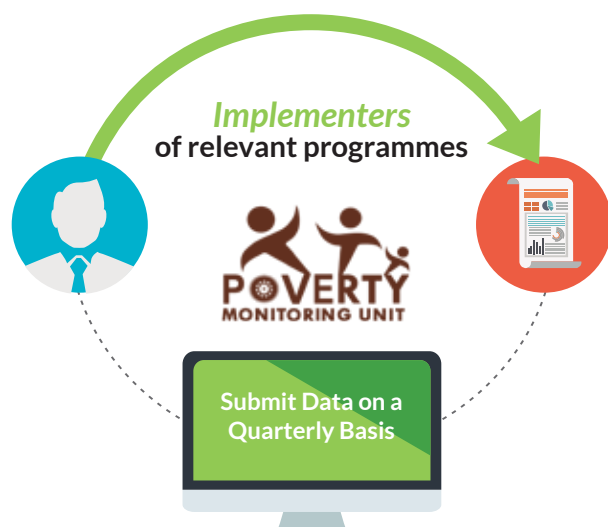
Ratu Meli Loki of PMU capturing the views of recipient of Coastal Fisheries Development Programme, Natuvu Village, Cakaudrove



Ms. Mereoni Tuimuru of PMU in consultation with Northern Development Programme Manager Mr. Waisale Tuidama

## Poverty Information Centre (PIC)

The PIC maintains information and data on Poverty Alleviation Programme across Government. Updates of information and data relevant to the programmes are done on a quarterly basis through continuous consultation with programme implementers.



The following is a list of programmes for which information were collected.

- 1. Fiji Corrections Services**  
Rehab Program | Yellow Ribbon Program | Poverty Alleviation Program
- 2. Ministry of Youth & Sports**  
Upgrade of Training Centers | Adult & Community Education | Youth Capacity Building Training Program | Rural Sports Ground Field | Construction of Rural Sports Complex
- 3. Ministry of Employment, Productivity & Industrial Relations Attachment Allowance (NEC)**  
Fiji Volunteer Scheme
- 4. Ministry of Lands & Minerals Resources**  
Regularization of Informal Settlements | Land Bank Investment
- 5. Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport**  
Upgrade of Government Shipping Vessels | Rural Electrification Projects
- 6. Ministry of Local Government, Housing & Environment**  
Social Housing Policy | Housing Assistance to Fire Victims | City Wide Squatter Upgrading Project
- 7. Ministry of Education, Heritage & Arts, Library Service and National Archives**  
Literacy Programmes | Free Milk Programme Yr 1 | Bus Fare Subsidy | Tuition Fee Free Grant Yr 1-Yr 13 | Program for Blind, Intellectually & Physically Handicapped
- 8. Office of the Prime Minister**  
Funds for the Education of Needy Children
- 9. Ministry of Health & Medical Services**  
World Food Program | Free Medicine Program
- 10. Ministry of Rural & Maritime Development & National Disaster Management**  
Divisional Development Program – All Emergency Water Supplies | Upgrade of Non-Access Roads | Grant to Self-Help Projects | Rural Housing Assistance
- 11. Ministry of Sugar**  
Upgrade of Cane Access Roads | Sugarcane Development & Farmers Assistance
- 12. Water Authority of Fiji**  
Other Rural Water Supply Program
- 13. Ministry of Industry, Trade & Tourism**  
Integrated Human Resource Development Program | National Centre for Small & Medium Enterprises (NCSMED)
- 14. Fiji Roads Authority**  
Maintenance Programme | Upgrading and Replacement of Bridges-Bridge Renewals | Upgrading of Rural Roads
- 15. Ministry of Agriculture**  
Agricultural Extension Services | Maintenance of Completed Irrigation | Rice-Revitalization Program | Sigatoka Valley Development Program | Farm Access Roads | Rural & Outer Island Agricultural Development Program
- 16. Ministry of Fisheries & Forests**  
Coastal Fisheries Development | Aquaculture Development | Food Security Programme-Aquaculture

## Poverty Reduction Awareness on Government's Poverty Alleviation Programmes

The Unit continuous to strengthen its partnership with stakeholders through various Government Outreach Programmes. The Unit took part in the Ministry of i-Taukei Affairs road-show in Dranikula Village, Galoa, Navua (20th - 21st July) and Fiji Pine Trust Board Compound, Lautoka (25th - 26th July) to create awareness on various Government programmes under INPEP Framework aimed at reducing poverty.



## Training Highlights



The Unit continued to emphasize the importance of training in enhancing the overall efficiency and effectiveness of its Human Capital.

Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) training facilitated by University of the South Pacific (USP), 5th - 6th July, 2017 was attended by the Team.







## Corporate Services Department

*"Provides administrative, human resource management and financial support to the Ministry"*

The Corporate Services Department provides administrative, human resource management and financial support to the Ministry for the effective and efficient daily operational functions.

## Administration Section and Human Resource Management

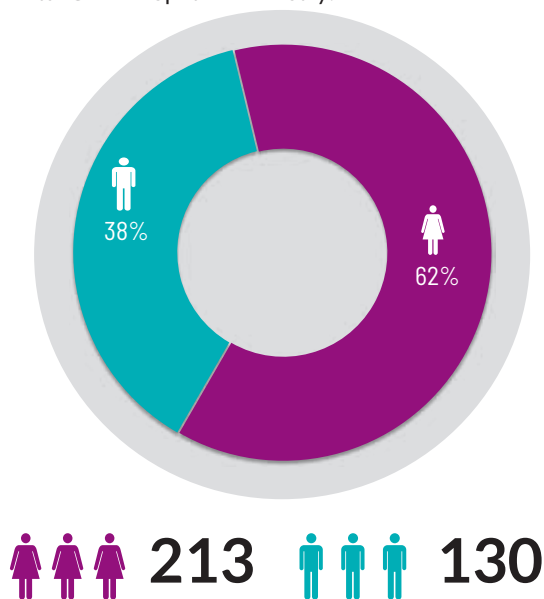
The Ministry aligns its policies, regulations to the Civil Service requirement to ensure its operations are well guided and in accordance to appropriate guidelines in the following areas:

- Human Resource Planning
- Post Processing Unit
- Training Section
- Registry Section
- Transport Unit
- Occupational Health and Safety
- Asset Management Unit

**Job Evaluation Exercise:** Through the on-going civil service reform programmes, the Unit undertook two phases of Job Evaluation Exercise to define positions based pay & remuneration.

### Staffing: Disaggregated Data (Ministry of Women, Children & Poverty Alleviation)

Total Gender Split for Ministry:



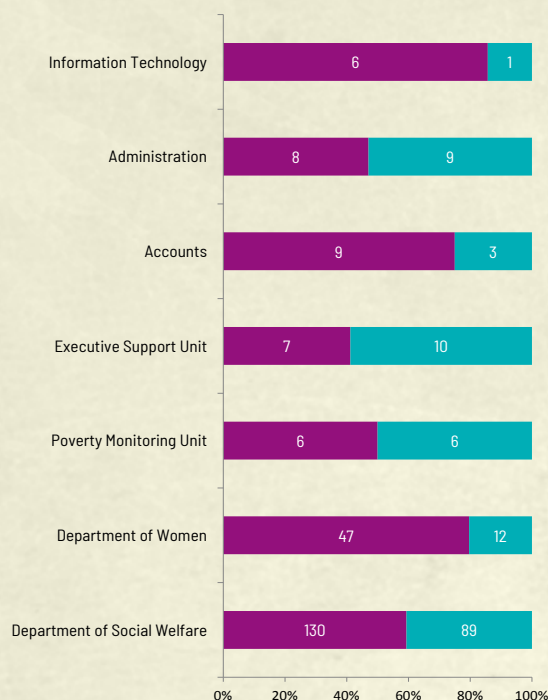
#### Total Staff (Social Welfare): 219

Northern Division: 25  
Western Division: 49  
Southern Division: 18  
Eastern Division: 5  
Central Division: 14

Nasinu: 9  
Juvenile: 19  
Old Peoples Home: 63  
DoSW HQ: 11  
Child Services: 6

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE			
DIVISION	TOTAL NUMBER OF MALE	TOTAL NUMBER OF FEMALE	TOTAL
<b>NORTHERN</b>	8	17	25
<b>WESTERN:</b>			
North West	8	14	22
South West	9	18	27
<b>SOUTHERN</b>	7	11	18
<b>EASTERN</b>	3	2	5
<b>CENTRAL</b>	4	10	14
<b>NASINU</b>	1	8	9
<b>JUVENILE</b>	14	5	19
<b>OLD PEOPLES HOME:</b>			
Lautoka	15	6	21
Samabula	11	18	29
Labasa	5	8	13
<b>DoSW HEADQUARTERS</b>	3	8	11
<b>CHILD SERVICES</b>	1	5	6

## Gender Split for Ministry Departments:



<b>Department of Social Welfare</b>	Male: 89 Female: 130
<b>Department of Women</b>	Male: 12 Female: 47
<b>Poverty Monitoring Unit</b>	Male: 6 Female: 6
<b>Executive Support Unit</b>	Male: 10 Female: 7
<b>Accounts</b>	Male: 3 Female: 9
<b>Administration</b>	Male: 9 Female: 8
<b>Information Technology</b>	Male: 1 Female: 6

DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN			
DIVISION	TOTAL NUMBER OF MALE	TOTAL NUMBER OF FEMALE	TOTAL
NORTHERN	1	10	11
WESTERN	1	9	10
EASTERN	2	4	6
CENTRAL	2	11	13
FIJI WOMEN'S FEDERATION	2	4	6
DoW HEADQUARTERS	4	9	13

POVERTY MONITORING UNIT			
DIVISION	TOTAL NUMBER OF MALE	TOTAL NUMBER OF FEMALE	TOTAL
MAIN OFFICE	6	6	12

EXECUTIVE SUPPORT UNIT			
DIVISION	TOTAL NUMBER OF MALE	TOTAL NUMBER OF FEMALE	TOTAL
MAIN OFFICE	10	7	17

ACCOUNTS			
DIVISION	TOTAL NUMBER OF MALE	TOTAL NUMBER OF FEMALE	TOTAL
MAIN OFFICE	3	9	12

ADMINISTRATION			
DIVISION	TOTAL NUMBER OF MALE	TOTAL NUMBER OF FEMALE	TOTAL
MAIN OFFICE	9	8	17

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT)			
DIVISION	TOTAL NUMBER OF MALE	TOTAL NUMBER OF FEMALE	TOTAL
MAIN OFFICE	1	6	7



## Accounts Section

During the fiscal year 2016-2017, the Unit carried out the following:

### Management of payments through:

- Payment to social welfare beneficiaries and service providers
- Closing of 2016-2017 Accounts
- Meeting the Ministry's financial requirements

### Monitoring and Compliance through:

- Adhere to financial regulations through provision of financial statements to Ministry of Economy (salary reconciliation, bank reconciliation & petty cash, IDC, Drawings and Trust)
- In compliance to Finance Instructions and Circulars
- Answering Audit Queries





## About

# Rights, Empowerment and Cohesion (REACH) for Rural and Urban Fijians Project

### The REACH Project

The project aims to promote peace building, social cohesion and inclusiveness. Project conducts awareness raising of the social, economic and legal rights enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Fiji, provides access to the services associated with these rights, and also strengthens institutional capacity to deliver these services. A mobile service delivery approach is undertaken to reach communities throughout all of Fiji with the focus to reach the furthest behind first.

### The Sustainable Development Goals

The REACH Project supports the achievement of Goal 16 which is commitment to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels; and Goal 5 which is commitment to achieving gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls.



### Key Results

The project aims to accomplish the following key results:

1. Increased awareness in urban, rural and maritime communities, of constitutional rights in the areas of social and economic wellbeing and justice, focusing on legal aid, through the provision of mobile teams.
2. Enhanced delivery of the services provided by the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation and the Legal Aid Commission through the provision of mobile teams visiting urban, rural and maritime communities.
3. Strengthened capacity of the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation and the Legal Aid Commission through support to strategic planning, monitoring of results and support of coordination for effective and coordinated service delivery to urban, rural and maritime communities.
4. Policy making informed and based on evidence through research and analysis on the relevant areas related to the empowerment of women and girls, promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provision of access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions.



## Commissioning of the REACH Mobile Units

On the 12th of April, 2017 three custom built buses were commissioned at Albert Park in Suva by the Minister of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Hon. Mereseini Vuniwaqa, H. E. Takuji Hanatani, Ambassador of Japan, Osnat Lubrani, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative and Mr. Shahin Rafique Ali, Acting Director, Legal Aid Commission.



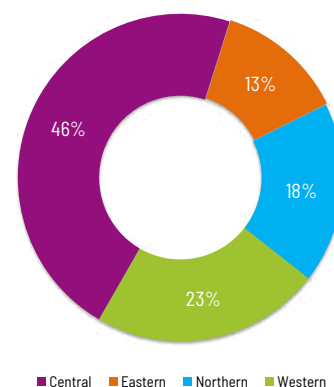
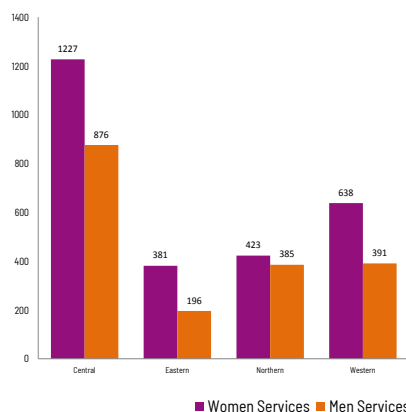
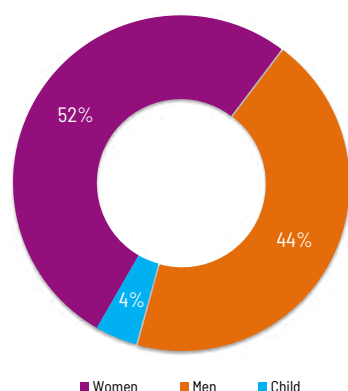
The buses are custom designed and equipped to support the Government to undertake effective service delivery to rural and urban communities in Fiji, leaving no one behind – be it a child, an elderly person or a person living with disabilities. There are 2 buses which are 11.5 meters and the other is 9 meters in length. The buses are stationed in the Northern, Central and Western Division respectively.



## July 2016 – June 2017 (REACH)

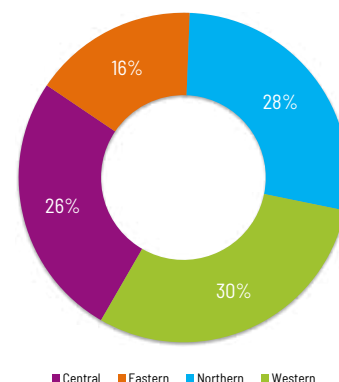
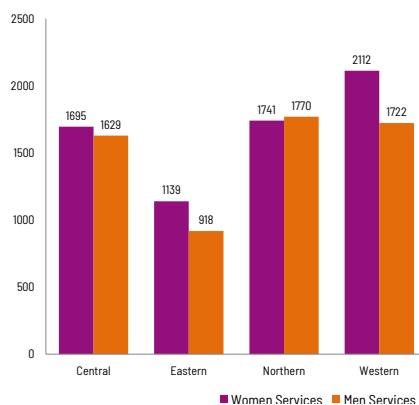
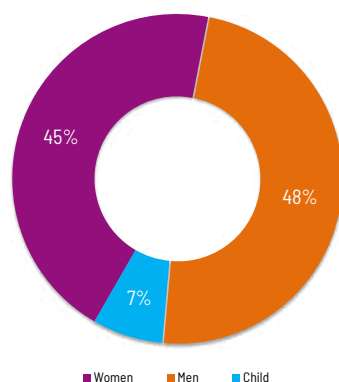
Division	Province	District	Communities	Women	Men	Child	Total Participants	Women Services	Men Services	TOTAL SERVICES
Central	Naitasiri, Tailevu, Rewa, Namosi	13	106	881	531	26	1438	1227	876	2103
Eastern	Kadavu Lomaiviti	7	42	319	368	17	704	381	196	577
Northern	Cakaudrove, Bua, Macuata	10	62	437	483	15	935	423	385	808
Western	Nadroga/ Navosa, Ba	13	98	527	449	111	1087	638	391	1029
<b>TOTAL*</b>		<b>43</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>2164</b>	<b>1831</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>4164</b>	<b>2669</b>	<b>1848</b>	<b>4517</b>

\* This table covers 11 Provinces.



Division	Province	District	Communities	Women	Men	Child	Total Participants	Women Services	Men Services	TOTAL SERVICES
Central	Naitasiri, Rewa, Serua, Tailevu, Namosi	13	113	805	861	36	1702	1695	1629	3324
Eastern	Lau, Kadavu Lomaiviti & Rotuma	24	81	772	993	340	2105	1139	918	2057
Northern	Ba, Ra, Nadroga/ Navosa	20	102	1064	1232	200	2496	1741	1770	3511
Western	Cakaudrove, Bua, Macuata	17	118	1199	1063	19	2281	2112	1722	3834
<b>TOTAL*</b>		<b>74</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>3840</b>	<b>4149</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>8584</b>	<b>6687</b>	<b>6039</b>	<b>12726</b>

\* This table covers 14 Provinces & Rotuma.



# Annual Report 2017

*Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation*



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5th Floor, Civic Towers, Victoria Parade, Suva



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Ministry of Women, Children & Poverty Alleviation



**Website:**  
[www.mwcpa.gov.fj](http://www.mwcpa.gov.fj)