

Written Response 63/2023 Social Protection Programmes

1.0 Brief background on the Social Protection Programmes

There are currently six major Social Protection Programmes that are implemented by the Ministry:

1.1 Care & Protection Program (C&P)

The Care and Protection (C&P), is a child benefit for vulnerable children (under the age of 18 years). Children's vulnerable type of households include single parents, deserted spouses, death of breadwinner, prisoner's dependent, foster parents/ guardians and children in foster or institutional care.

In this financial year, Government has provided a budget of \$13.7 Million and is supporting a total of 10,646 families with children. This would be 41,518 Fijians.

1.2 Disability Allowance (DA)

The Disability Allowance assist individuals with permanent disabilities. In this financial year, Government has provided a budget of \$10.7 Million and is currently assisting a total of 11,437 persons with disability.

1.3 Poverty Benefit Scheme (PBS)

The PBS is the Government's flagship program established in 2014, and is aimed to provide a safety net to the poor and vulnerable. It is a poverty-targeted cash transfer aiming at improving the welfare of the poorest and break the intergenerational cycle of poverty. The maximum value of allowance is \$127 with a \$50 food voucher.

The Program has a budget of \$34 Million in this financial year, and has a current total of 24,000 families or beneficiaries assisted under the scheme.

1.4 Social Pension Scheme (SPS)

The Social Pension Scheme (SPS) is a non-contributory pension for Older Persons (aged 65 years and above) who have never received superannuation through the Fiji National Provident Fund. The SPS provides a monthly social pension of FJD 100.

As at March 5th 2023, a total of 50,883 Older Persons are beneficiaries. The 2022 -2023 budget allocation for SPS is \$55 million and is the highest budget amount among all other social assistance programs.

1.5 Bus Fare Program

The Bus Fare Subsidy Program was introduced in 2011 and is aimed at supporting older persons aged 60 plus and persons with disability who uses the bus fare services in Fiji as a mode of transportation.

The Ministry of Women Children and Poverty Alleviation, in partnership with Vodafone Fiji Ltd facilitates a top of \$25 per month on all active e-transport cards. It is paid on quarterly basics w.e.f May 2022. Any unused funds is rolled over to the next month.

Currently, with a budget of \$10 million, as at February 2023, the Program has 59,724 active cases on the system

1.6 Rural Pregnant Mothers Scheme

The Rural Pregnant Mothers Scheme (RPM) was initially established in 2014, and is designed to support woman who are pregnant and mothers living in rural areas with the objective of improving the maternal health and reducing child mortality. The RPM incentivizes the early access to reproductive healthcare by providing 10 food vouchers (9 months of pre-natal and 1 first month of post-natal) or the equivalent cash transfer of FJD 50 per month.

Over the last 5 years Government had invested \$4.5 million towards this scheme, with an average of 2,611 mothers assisted

each year. With the \$0.8 Million allocated for this financial year, a total of 1354 mothers have received assistance under the scheme.

2.0 Allocated Budget and Number of Recipients

The below table summarizes the budget for the six Social Protection Programme and the budget that was allocated since 2014 till 2020/2021:

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE – SOCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAMME DATA 2014-2020/2021

Poverty Benefit Scheme	2014	2015	2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Budget Allocation	22,011,220	22,040,000	22,000,000	\$29,478,355	\$40,217,757	\$39,237,767	\$38,425,809	\$38,336,758
Actuals	19,559,714	19,948,541	17,916,587	\$28,999,836	\$40,102,286	\$39,237,767	\$38,180,776	\$33,489,339
Recipients	18,167	23,235	22,571	25,491	25,696	26,927	25,106	23862
Child Protection Allowance	2014	2015	2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Budget Allocation	4,530,000	2,000,000	3,300,000	\$5,195,679	\$7,081,389	\$9,821,782	\$12,386,631	\$12,387,241
Actuals	1,902,488	2,892,077	3,139,557	\$4,724,376	\$7,062,188	\$9,821,782	\$11,948,641	\$11,153,925
Recipients	2,309	3,141	3,458	4,216	5,562	8,106	8,049	8864
Social Pension Scheme	2,014	2015	2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Budget Allocation	3,000,000	8,000,000	13,000,000	\$13,659,341	\$37,200,350	\$50,921,568	\$54,981,735	\$55,441,389
Actuals	2,428,819	8,856,822	7,345,025	\$13,361,513	\$37,116,301	\$50,921,567	\$54,367,763	\$51,904,581
Recipients	11,615	16,472	19,174	26,332	38,285	44,547	45,206	44961
Food Voucher	2014	2015	2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Budget Allocation	1,300,000	11,000,000	500,000	\$500,000	\$1,502,510	\$724,357	\$1,003,400	\$1,238,451
Actuals	609,927	558,985	305,206	\$458,394	\$966,152	\$724,356	\$1,003,348	\$669,450
Recipients	1,673	2,899	1,721	2,165	3,321	3,747	3,279	2980
Allowance for Persons with Disabilities								
Budget Allocation					\$3,598,515	\$4,506,878	\$6,457,819	\$9,176,758
Actuals					\$1,290,980	\$4,506,877	\$6,457,811	\$9,007,574

Recipients						2744	7003	8228	9129
Busfare Scheme						2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Budget Allocation						\$20,000	\$11,619,636	\$12,375,000	\$6,299,854
Actuals						\$19,989	\$11,619,636	\$11,595,000	\$3,450,000
Recipients	43134	49793	55295	65618	38260	52150	46247	28476	