

## Rowena Harbridge

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**From:** Georgina Galbraith <georgina.galbraith.is@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, 17 November 2023 4:23 PM  
**To:** Disability Equity  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Videos and Key Points

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### 1. Amelia Kidi- Sigatoka

<https://youtu.be/f5XHSK9iT6w>

### 2. Mrs Una Bakewa- Tavua

<https://youtu.be/MtNZ117QNYk>

### 3. Mrs Vani Tuvuki- Ba

<https://youtu.be/CPvdCFdR1Uw>

Dear Rowena.

Here are the 3 videos of Community Volunteers from the Western Region of Fiji.

I have summarised some of their key points below. These videos are sent to you with the consent of the women in them and with their email addresses included so that you can reach them directly. They are all incredible advocates and a wealth of knowledge of the issues at the village and community level. Should there be opportunities for consultation in the future, do please think of them.

### Partnership Support

\* Disaster Risk Reduction Support for Disability friendly evacuation centres.

Given the evacuation centres are schools then a partnership with the Ministry Of Education or UNICEF would be useful.

\* In disasters people with disabilities prefer not to evacuate because their needs are not met at the evacuation centres. Prepositioning disability supplies in regional districts would be a good initiative.

\* Purpose built resource centres in the districts for people with disabilities that can be turned into evacuation centres in times of crisis.

\* Partnerships are needed to support for women with disabilities in small businesses to access grants and funding and training. This could also be through APTC and USP as well as micro funding grants.

\* Support for people with disabilities to apply for PALM scheme jobs in Australia. There could be a disability specific stream of work which allows the PALM to be inclusive.

### Challenge to Advancing Disability Rights and Equity

\* There is a lack of up to date data on people with disabilities in Fiji. Urgent need for updated data so that community workers know exactly who needs their support. This needs to be funded.

\*The Western District is a long bus ride and the people there have less access to resources. It costs one third of the monthly disability allowance to get a return ticket to Suva on the bus.

\* Subsidised transport support.

\* People with disabilities end up homeless in Fiji and there are no accommodation options for them if their family cannot look after them. This perpetuates the idea of disability as being seen negatively in the community.

### **How can DFAT support Fijian people with Disabilities?**

\* Partnerships from Australia need to be with people at the community level rather than just at National Level in Suva. There are many community based organisations that are running purely on volunteer labour that could be supported but are overlooked as they are not registered as NGOs because that costs money and they do not have access to any money.

\* Provision of direct aid to people with disabilities, many of whom currently are living in extreme poverty with no access to assisted supportive devices. This could be delivered through social work rather than through programs that use capacity building models.

Thank you,

Georgina

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