



PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM



Pacific  
Disability  
Forum

## **Seventh Pacific Regional Conference on Disability**

**“Nothing Without us: Deepening partnerships for an inclusive and equitable Blue Pacific Continent for persons with disabilities.”**

# **OUTCOME DOCUMENT**

## **Persons with Cognitive and Intellectual Disabilities**

First and foremost, the meeting recognized the need to change the terminology to recognize that despite similarities, that cognitive and intellectual disabilities are different.

The proposal is for the Pacific Disability Forum membership to consider the terminology “cognitive and intellectual disabilities” is jointly used.

The discussions were rich and insightful and the following key points summarizes the discussions. It is aimed at all stakeholders – OPDs, Governments, Development Partners, Non-State Actors and Civil Society Organizations:

### **1. Representation and amplification of voices of persons with intellectual disabilities**

- i. Increase the equitable representation, visibility, voice, and meaningful engagement of persons with cognitive and intellectual disabilities in the disability movement and in other spaces at all levels including membership of governance mechanisms such as boards.
- ii. Ensure policies, programmes and services are inclusive of, available and accessible to persons with cognitive and intellectual disabilities and contextualized to their needs.

#### **Actions:**

- Support the emergence of subgroups of persons with intellectual disabilities under umbrella organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) in the region.
- Finalize the registration and establishment of an organization for persons with intellectual disabilities in Suva, Fiji and to be based with the Horeb Ministry Office at the National Council of Persons with Disabilities in Browne St.

## **2. Removing Discrimination and Stigma**

- i. Recognize the competence of people with cognitive and intellectual disabilities and ensure communication channels used are adapted to ensure their meaningful engagement and participation.
- ii. Explore and create avenues that provide opportunities for persons with cognitive and intellectual disabilities to participate in everyday life including sports, employment, and education.
- iii. Ensure awareness programs include all spectrums of persons with cognitive and intellectual disabilities to break down negative stereotypes.

### **Actions:**

- Ensuring there is accessible communication methods for cognitive disability, such as using pictures, pictorial versions of information and how to adapt content. We need to use a combination of interactive approaches, images, drawings, spoken, presentation slides. Having websites that have easy read to cater for persons with cognitive and intellectual disabilities.

The overarching key points below under the title actions have specific actions to feed into PDF's workplan for the next two years.