



# The path towards inclusive social protection for people with disabilities in the Pacific

Easy Read Version

**P4SP**  
Partnerships for  
Social Protection

**Australian  
Aid** 

## Partnerships for Social Protection

The path towards inclusive social protection for people with disabilities in the Pacific



The information on this page is called a **blog**.



A **blog** is information that is on the internet.



It includes the ideas and thoughts of the person who wrote the information.



This blog is called “The path towards inclusive social protection for people with disabilities in the Pacific”.



You can find another version of this blog here [The path towards inclusive social protection for people with disabilities in the Pacific - P4SP](#)



Two other people also helped us to write this blog.



Their names are Charles Knox-Vydmanov and Alexandre Cote.

## How to read this blog



This blog is written in an easy to read way.



There will be some hard words.

We will write these words in **bold**.



We will explain what they mean.



You can ask someone to help you to read this blog.



When you see the words ‘we’, ‘our’, or ‘us’ it means **Partnerships for Social Protection**.

We also use the short name **P4SP**.



**P4SP** is a project by the Australian **government**.



**Government** means a group of people who make up the rules that everyone must follow.



The project helps make social protection systems in the **Pacific** stronger.



**Pacific** means people who live on an **island** in the Pacific ocean.

An **island** is when there is water all the way around the land.

## How is social protection working for people with disabilities in the Pacific?



**Social protection** means things that the government gives a person to help them to



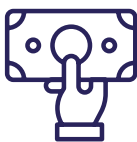
- have money to buy things like food



- use things in the community, like seeing a doctor



- recover when something that is not planned happens, like losing your job or being in a flood.



Social protection systems are one way that different countries help people with disabilities who live there.

Some countries help people with disabilities by giving them



- money to help them to live



- money that helps them to look after their disability.

There are still some countries who do not help people with disabilities in these ways.

Not all people can get help for their disability.



Sometimes this is because it is hard to **assess** disabilities.

**Assess** means to decide how much your disability changes the way you live, and how much support you need.



Sometimes it is because some countries do not have enough money to give good support to people with disabilities.



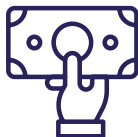
It is also because the help is **means tested**.

**Means tested** is when the government asks you



- how much money you earn
- if you own a house
- if you run a business.

This is the way the government decides if they



- should give you money
- think you have enough to support yourself.



In the year 2006 many countries made an agreement called the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**.

We sometimes use the short name **CRPD**.



This agreement said that countries need to make things better for people with disabilities.

The agreement says that social protection is important for helping people with disabilities to be part of their communities.

We have learned a lot.



We have seen many good changes since this agreement started.

We learned that we need to change how we think about disability.



Life can cost more for people with disabilities.



They may need to spend more money on things like



- special transport



- houses



- food.

We also learned that people with disabilities can work if they have



- the right support
- an **inclusive** environment.



**Inclusive** means that everyone can try to do the same things.

We know that good social protection policies can help people live better lives.



P4SP did some **research** about social protection in the Pacific”.

**Research** is a way to find out about something.



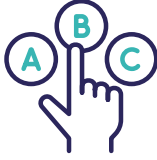
The research said that many countries in the Pacific are doing more to help people with disabilities.

These changes have been happening since 2005.

More governments are



- giving people with disabilities money to help them live better lives
- trying harder to follow the CRPD.



Countries choose who to give social protection to.



Many countries in the Pacific are giving money to all people with disabilities.

This includes



- young people
- older people



Most countries are not asking people with a disability about how much money they have.

This means all people with a disability are included.



We call this universal support.

In some countries, you can have a job and still get this help.



An organisation called UNICEF did some **research** about social protection in East Asia and the Pacific.



UNICEF works to make life better for children everywhere.

UNICEF looked at **5** countries that give people with disabilities the most help.

They found out that



- **4** of these countries are in the Pacific and
- **1** of these countries is in East Asia.



The research also said that countries in the Pacific are better at giving people with disabilities the right amount of money to help them live with their disability compared with other parts of the world.



Some countries are changing how they assess disability.

Assessments are usually done by a doctor or a nurse.



In some countries

- there aren't enough doctors and nurses



- it can cost a lot of money to see doctors or nurses.



This means that sometimes people with disabilities don't get assessed.

Sometimes these assessments



- look too much at someone's physical disability

- do not look at what people with disabilities need to help them



- do not look at what is hard for them to do.



Some countries are trying to do assessments in better ways.

These assessments ask people with disabilities about

- the best ways to help you.
- what stops you from doing what you want to do.



**THE FIJIAN  
GOVERNMENT**

The Fijian Government asked people with disabilities to help them make their assessments better.

The assessments will be done by people who know about disability instead of by doctors and nurses.



These changes mean that more people are being helped.



Countries in the Pacific are making their social protection stronger to help people with disabilities.



We know we need to do more.

We see lots of times when things are done well.



We need to make laws stronger so that we can help more people with disabilities.



We also need to make sure people receive enough **disability benefits**.



**Disability benefits** means money that helps people with disabilities pay for things they need to live.

Some countries are not spending as much money as other countries to help people with disabilities.

People with disabilities also need

- **concessions**



**Concessions** are when the government agrees to let you pay less for services, like electricity or buses.

- machines and equipment that help them to do more without another person's help



- people who are paid to help you do daily tasks.



There are some good things like this happening already in the Pacific.

Some of these things are

- transport **subsidies** in Fiji



**Subsidies** means money that helps people pay for things they need to live.

- better ways of helping people at home in Tonga.



There are some ways governments can give more social protection to help people with disabilities.

Some of these ways are



- having enough money to spend



- watching and learning about the things that work and don't work



- talking to people with disabilities about what helps them.



## How to talk to us

Would you like to learn more?

Do you have any questions?

You can contact us at:



Email: [info@p4sp.org](mailto:info@p4sp.org)