



Inclusive Social Protection in the Pacific Blog

Easy Read Version

P4SP

Partnerships for
Social Protection



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.

How to read this blog



The blog on this page is written in easy read.



There might be some hard words.



We will explain what they mean.



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

Partnerships for Social Protection is a project by the Australian government.



The project aims to make **social protection** systems in the **Pacific**.



Two other people also helped us to write this blog.



Their names are Leaine Robinson and Joshco Wakaniyasi.

Leaine sometimes helps us to do our work in Fiji.

Joshco worked at the **Pacific Disability Forum**.



The **Pacific Disability Forum** is an organisation that includes people with disability from across the **Pacific Islands**.

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.



When you see the words 'you', it means the person reading this blog.



When you see the words **social protection** it means money and other help that are given to a person often from the **government** to help them to:



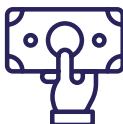
- Have money to buy things like food



- Be able to 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.



Pension payments are an amount of money that is given to someone from the government. This money is given to a person every two weeks, or once a month.



When you see the word **government** it means a group of people who make up the rules that everyone must follow.



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



You can find other versions of this blog here:
Disability-inclusive social protection - P4SP

This Blog is called: “How can people with disability that live in the Pacific get social protection?”



We feel sad to tell you that Joscho has died.

Many of us worked with Joscho.



He taught us a lot of important things.



He helped us to make many changes to make things better for people with disability.



He was our good friend.



We are thinking of everyone who also miss Joscho.

What is in this blog?



1. What is social protection?



2. How can everyone be better at including people with disability?



3. Why is it good to make sure people with disability can get social protection?

4. What needs to happen for people with disability to get social protection?



5. How to talk with us.

1. What is social protection?



Social protection is money or other help that are given to a person from the government to help them to:



- Have money to be able to buy things like food



- Be able to use things in the community, like seeing a doctor.



The government usually looks after social protection.



The government also has the money to use for social protection.



Joshco said this about social protection for people with disability:

“Social protection for people with disability is not about giving special things to people with disability.



It is about making sure people with disability can access things like anybody else.



The government must think about:

- how old someone with a disability is
- What is different for someone with a disability who is a woman or a man



When the government does something about these things, people with disability will be able to do things like:



- Go to the shops



- Go to school



- Go to events in the community



People with disability can then live their best lives.”



The people who work at the Pacific Disability Forum know that social protection will help people with disability to be included in the **community** they live in.

Community is a group of people that live in the same place, or who like the same things.



We did some other **research** about social protection.

Research is when you read information about something that has been written by someone else.

Our research told us that social protection must look for the differences that people with disability have.

This means that each person with disability might need different services and things.



When good social protection is provided:



- People with disability have better lives
- The families of people with disability have better lives
- The communities where people with disability live are better.

2. How can everyone be better at including people with disability?



The Pacific Disability Forum have come up with 6 important things that must be done to help include people with disability in the community.

The 6 things are:



1. Make sure all places and buildings can be used by all people with a disability

This can mean having a ramp at a building so someone who uses a wheelchair can go into the building



2. Make it easier for people with disability to get things like a wheelchair, or a computer.

These things help them to be a part of the community.



3. Make sure people with disability are included in all community projects.

This means having people with disability go to meetings to talk about important things.



4. Make sure that people with disability do not feel left out or alone.

Talking to the government to make sure people with disability are included in **policies** can help.

Policies are a list of things that help to make decisions.



5. Make sure all people with disability can get social protection.



6. Find out what services are missing for people with disability in the Pacific.



3. Why is it good to make sure people with disability get social protection?

There are many reasons why it is good for people with disability to get social protection.

These reasons include:



- The government can show how it is **responsible** for social protection for people with disability.

Responsible means that you must do what you have said you will do.

This means:



- The government must provide social protection for people with disability.



- There are rules that the government must follow for supporting people with disability.



- There are more talks happening about social protection in government policies around the Pacific.



- But currently, the government only spends a little bit of money for people with disability.
- The government must spend more money on people with disability.



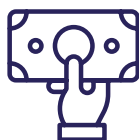
- More people with disability will get a **job**.

A **job** is a task or a piece of work that you do.

This means:



- Social protection can help people with disability to get a job
- Social protection can also help people with disability to keep their job.



- The job could be paid with money.



- The job could also be paid with food or help to go to school.



- The money and support that a person with disability gets from a job can be used to help remove things that make it hard for them to work.

- It's easier to help people with disability when a **disaster** happens.



A **disaster** is when something happens that makes it hard for people to keep doing what they normally do.

This means:



- Social protection is a good way to pay money to people when a disaster happens.



- If people with disability are part of social protection it means they will also receive money after a disaster.

- This makes it easier for everyone that lives in the house with the person with a disability to get back to normal after the disaster.

- The money that is given to a person after a disaster can help them to:



- Buy food to eat



- Get medicine if they are feeling sick or hurt



- Have money to keep living if they cannot go back to work.

- It helps other people in the community to get a job and make money.

This means:



- Social protection can give money to help a person with disability get the support they need.
- This support can be given by someone outside of the family.



- Often it is a wife, mother, daughter, sister, or auntie that look after the person with a disability.
- They can now get a paid job, instead of looking after the person with a disability.



- This means everyone in the house is now getting more money.

4. What needs to happen for people with disability to get social protection?



There are some things that can be done to make sure people with disability get social protection.

These include:



- Get people with disability to help with the planning, doing, and checking of social protection.

People with disability are the **experts** of knowing what they need.



An **expert** is someone who knows the most about something.

If people with disability are included in all the stages of social protection, then it will work better for them.



The government must always work with people with disability and their organisations.

The government of Fiji has done this before.

They worked with organisations of people with disability to make the **Fiji Disability Allowance Scheme**.



The **Fiji Disability Allowance Scheme** is a type of social protection that gives money to people with disability in Fiji.

Because the government worked with people with disability, the scheme works well for people with disability.

People with disability in Fiji can now go to school and **university** and get a job more easily than before.



University is where you can go to learn after you finish school.



- Make sure all people with disability know about social protection.



The Pacific Disability Forum did some research.

They found out that many people with disability do not know about or get social protection.

This can be because the information about social protection is not **accessible** for people with disability.



Accessible means making something useable for as many people as possible.

People who live a long way from the town can also miss out on getting social protection.



There are some things that can be done to make sure all people with disability get social protection.

These include:



- Going to see the people with disability who live far away and telling them about social protection.
- Helping people with disability to **apply** for social protection.

Apply means when you ask to get something.



- Making the information about social protection accessible.

This could mean giving this information over a text message or in an easy to read way.



- Telling people with disability who they can talk to if they have questions.



- Think about disability in a new way.

It is important to remember that every person with a disability is different.

People with disability need different things to support them to get a job.

It can be hard for people with disability to get a job.



Social protection must include both money and other supports that are right for the person with a disability.



If it does this, people with disability will be able to get a job and have a better life.



- Have more money for people with disability.

People with disability often must spend more money than people without disability.

This is to buy and use things like:



- Computers that help them to speak and learn.



- **Sign language interpreters**

Sign language interpreters are people that turn what people say into **sign language**.

Sign language is when you communicate without using your voice. It is often used by people who are deaf.



- Cars that can fit a wheelchair in them.

Social protection should give people with disability more money for these things.



- Find out more about people with disability.

The government need to learn more about how social protection helps people with disability.



People with disability must be included in all **surveys** that the government do.

Surveys are a list of questions that help the government to learn about everyone who lives in their country.



The government can improve social protection for people with disability from the things that they learn.

If the government improves social protection for people with disability other people in the community will also have better lives.



How to talk to us

Would you like to learn more?

Do you have any questions?

You can contact us by:



Email: info@p4sp.org

P4SP

Partnerships for
Social Protection