

# Services for People with Disability

It can be difficult to identify services that provide support and information for children or adults with a disability in Fiji. Finding services for children can be especially difficult and often special schools are the first point of contact. However, there are other support services available to provide financial assistance, medical advice, intervention services and advocacy support.

The National Council for Persons with Disability is the coordinating body for all organisations that assist and support any person with a disability and their family.

Its online resource, the 'National Directory and Information for Disability Services', provides information and contact details for services that support people with disabilities. The website is provided at the bottom of this page.

## Sample from the National Directory and Information for Disability Services guide

Support Needed	Organisations
Financial/Social Protection Assistance	Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation / Social Welfare
Health and Medical Services	Ministry of Health and Medical Services/ Health Centres/Hospitals
Education Services	Ministry of Education / Education District Offices
Advocacy/Referral	Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) Fiji Disabled Peoples Federation (FDPF)
Rehabilitation / Intervention / Assistive Devices	Frank Hilton Organisation, Project Heaven, OPDs

Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPD) are representative organisations that are run by people with disabilities. OPD in Fiji work towards promoting the rights of persons with a disability and through self-advocacy and capacity building. They tend to have a greater focus on adults with disabilities, however where possible they also support children with disabilities through referrals and assistive devices.

## Assistive Technology

Assistive technology is any device, piece of equipment, or software program that is used to maintain or improve the functional capabilities of persons with disabilities. Some examples include, wheelchairs, white canes, hearing aids, communication devices and screen reading software.

To enable learning and development, it is important for students with disabilities to access and use assistive technologies. As each child's needs are different, be sure to speak with professionals when getting an assistive device. There is an Assistive Device Referral guide available on the Ministry of Education Website <http://www.education.gov.fj/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/AT-Referral-Directory.pdf>

"All schools shall promote fair and equitable access to education for all learners with disabilities regardless of their gender, age, social status, economic background, geographical location, race, ethnicity, religious background, sexual orientation and gender identity, or intersections between these factors."

(MoE, Special and Inclusive Education Policy)

"Every person has the right to early childhood education, primary and secondary education and further education."

(Fiji Constitution)

**Who can help?** Teachers with experience teaching children with learning difficulties and for teaching strategies, reference **A Teachers Guide to Disability - Inclusive Education in Fiji**. For disability referral services <https://ncpdfiji.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/DISABILITY-SECTOR-DIRECTORY-FINAL.pdf>

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Please note that this document is for informational/education purposes only and does not replace medical advice.



Ministry of Education

