



ANNUAL REPORT

AUGUST 2021 – JULY 2022



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction	2. Chairperson's Statement	3. Executive Director's Statement	4. Organisation Overview
11. 1.Council Meetings	12. 2.Advisory & District Committee	14. 3.Implementation Plan 4.Key Highlights	
32. Financial Overview	35. Conclusion	36. Acknowledgement	

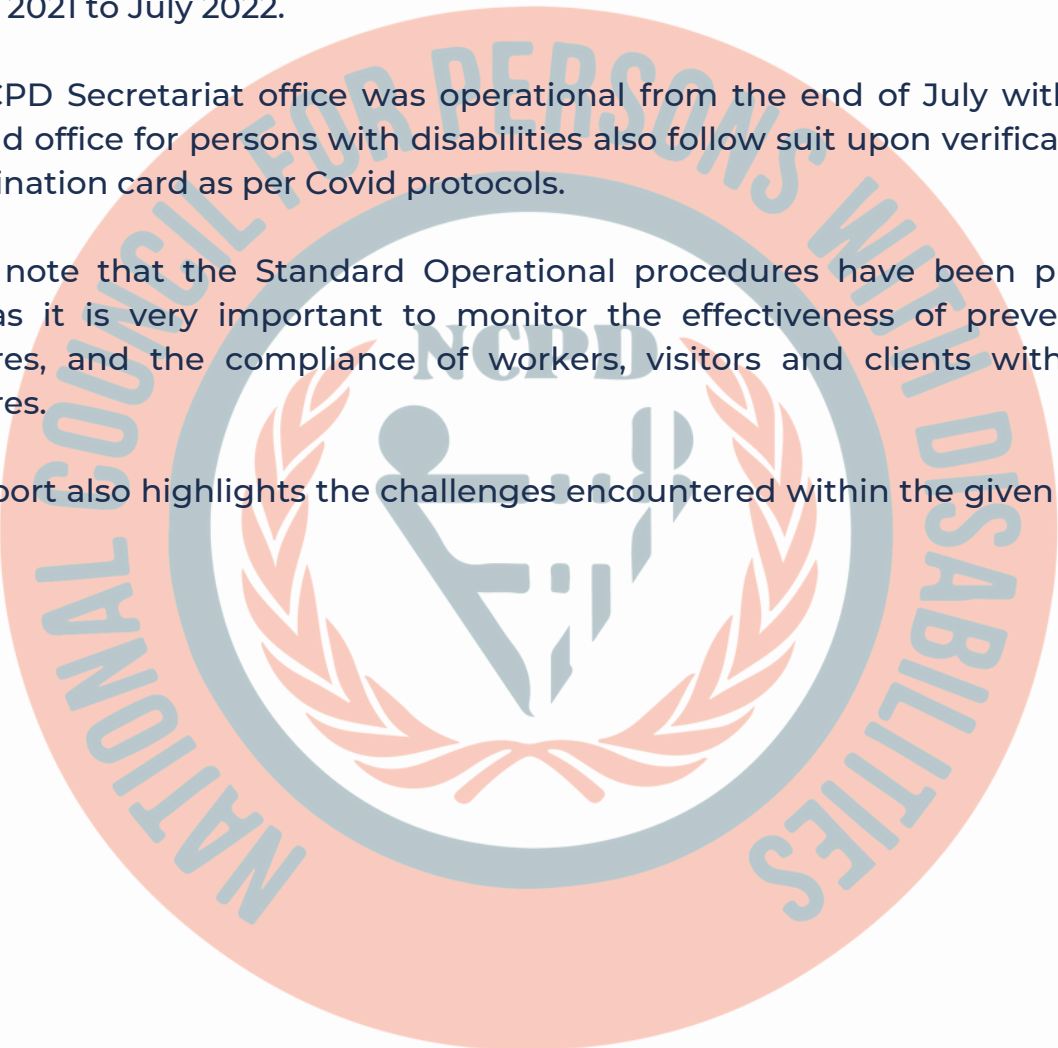
Introduction

This is to report accomplishments and challenges in regards to the performance of administrative tasks of the NCPD secretariat from the August 2021 to July 2022.

The NCPD Secretariat office was operational from the end of July with full staff and office for persons with disabilities also follow suit upon verifications of vaccination card as per Covid protocols.

Please note that the Standard Operational procedures have been put in place as it is very important to monitor the effectiveness of preventive measures, and the compliance of workers, visitors and clients with the measures.

This report also highlights the challenges encountered within the given time period.



CHAIRPERSON'S STATEMENT

It is with great pride and a deep sense of responsibility that I present the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD) 2021/2022 Annual Report, reflecting a year of remarkable progress, opportunities, and challenges in our ongoing commitment to advancing the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities.

This year has been a testament to the power of collaboration, as we worked closely with government ministries, development partners, affiliates, and stakeholders to drive meaningful change. Through these partnerships, we have strengthened policy frameworks, enhanced service delivery, and expanded programs aimed at improving accessibility, economic empowerment, and social inclusion for persons with disabilities.

Among our key achievements, we take pride in the implementation of disability-friendly policies, the expansion of inclusive education initiatives, and increased access to assistive devices and support services. Our advocacy efforts have also led to greater public awareness and improved legal protections for persons with disabilities, ensuring their full participation in society.

Despite these successes, we acknowledge the challenges that remain. Limited resources, persistent societal barriers, and the need for greater coordination in disability-inclusive planning continue to pose hurdles. However, these challenges also present opportunities for innovation, stronger policy implementation, and increased stakeholder engagement to bridge existing gaps.

Looking ahead, the Council remains steadfast in its mission to build an inclusive society where persons with disabilities can thrive without limitations. With the continued support of our partners, we will harness the gains made and strive for even greater impact in the coming years.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all those who have contributed to our achievements—our dedicated staff, government agencies, civil society organizations, and, most importantly, persons with disabilities who continue to inspire us with their resilience and determination. Together, we will keep moving forward, ensuring that no one is left behind.



Jennifer Poole



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Jennifer Poole

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



Lemeki Cagialau “

Insert Statement here

It is with great pride that I present the National Council for Persons with Disabilities' Annual Report for the 2021/2022 financial year. This report reflects the progress we have made in our ongoing mission to promote and protect the rights, dignity, and well-being of persons with disabilities across the nation.

Over the past year, we have strengthened our efforts in policy advocacy, economic empowerment, accessibility, and capacity-building initiatives to ensure that persons with disabilities are fully included in all aspects of society. While challenges remain, our commitment to fostering an inclusive and barrier-free environment has never wavered.

Collaboration has been at the heart of our achievements. I extend my sincere appreciation to the government, development partners, organizations of persons with disabilities, and all stakeholders who have played a vital role in supporting our initiatives. Most importantly, I commend the resilience, determination, and active participation of persons with disabilities in shaping a more inclusive future.

As we move forward, we remain committed to strengthening our programs, enhancing service delivery, and advocating for policies that uphold the rights and opportunities of all persons with disabilities. Together, we will continue working towards a society where every person, regardless of ability, can thrive and contribute meaningfully.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to this shared vision.

ORGANISATION OVERVIEW

The NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (NCPD) has been in existence since 1993 and was enacted by Parliament in December 1994. This followed on from meetings held in Manila in April 1992 and Beijing in October 1992 regarding persons with disabilities reinforcing the development already taking place in Fiji for the establishment of a National Coordination mechanism.

In 1993, Fiji became a signatory to “Beijing Proclamation” on the Agenda for Action concerning the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons. 1993 – 2002, and used the framework of this instrument in developing the FNCPD Act 21 of 1994.

In October 2001, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) held a high-level inter-government meeting to conclude the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, in Outso City, Japan. It was at this meeting that UNESCAP adopted resolution 85/4/of 22 May 2002 and proclaimed the extension of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons for another decade, 2003 – 2012. The Biwako Millennium Framework for Action (BMF), and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and its optional protocol was adopted in December 2006 and open for signatures on 30th March 2007 and came into effect from May 2008, was signed by Fiji on the 2nd of June 2010, which provides valuable guidelines to National and Regional Governments and relevant stakeholders groups in promoting an inclusive, barrier-free and rights-based society for people with disabilities in the Asian and Pacific region.

Towards the end of 2012, Fiji signed a new framework for the new Decade of Action for Asia Pacific Region for 2013 – 2022. Since it was signed in Incheon, Korea thus it was called the Incheon Strategy (2013 – 2022) with the overarching theme of “Making the Right Real”.

Fiji is also a signatory to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 - 2030.

Fiji Ratified the United Nation Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the 9th June 2017.

The Fiji National Council for Disabled Persons Act 1994 is now repealed.

The Name of the Organization on record was removed and re-entered to the Register as **NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**
On the 12th day of March 2018 Parliament of the Republic of Fiji enacted
“Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2018 (Act No. 4 of 2018)”.

Which gives establishment of the National Council for Persons with Disabilities its roles and functions and how to make provisions for the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and for related matters?

DEFINITION

Persons with Disabilities includes those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others;

VISION

WE ENVISIONED AN EMPOWERED PERSON WITH DISABILITIES AND ENSURING A BARRIER FREE AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETY FOR ALL.

MISSION STATEMENT

1. Facilitate the process of creating a barrier free Society through a collective collaboration and partnership with all stakeholders.
2. Bring to prevail for persons with disabilities in Fiji a situation whereby government ministries and statutory authorities, local government, corporate sector, and civil society organizations meet their legislative, constitutional and international convention obligation.
3. Organize and continue to strengthen National affiliates through democratic, gender balanced, cross-disability based processes.
4. Partner with other relevant development agencies and Government Ministries towards the equalization of opportunities and full Participation of persons with disabilities in their own development and development of other community's partnership with Government ministries, civil societies and corporate entities to create a fully inclusive society.

ORGANISATION STRUCTURE

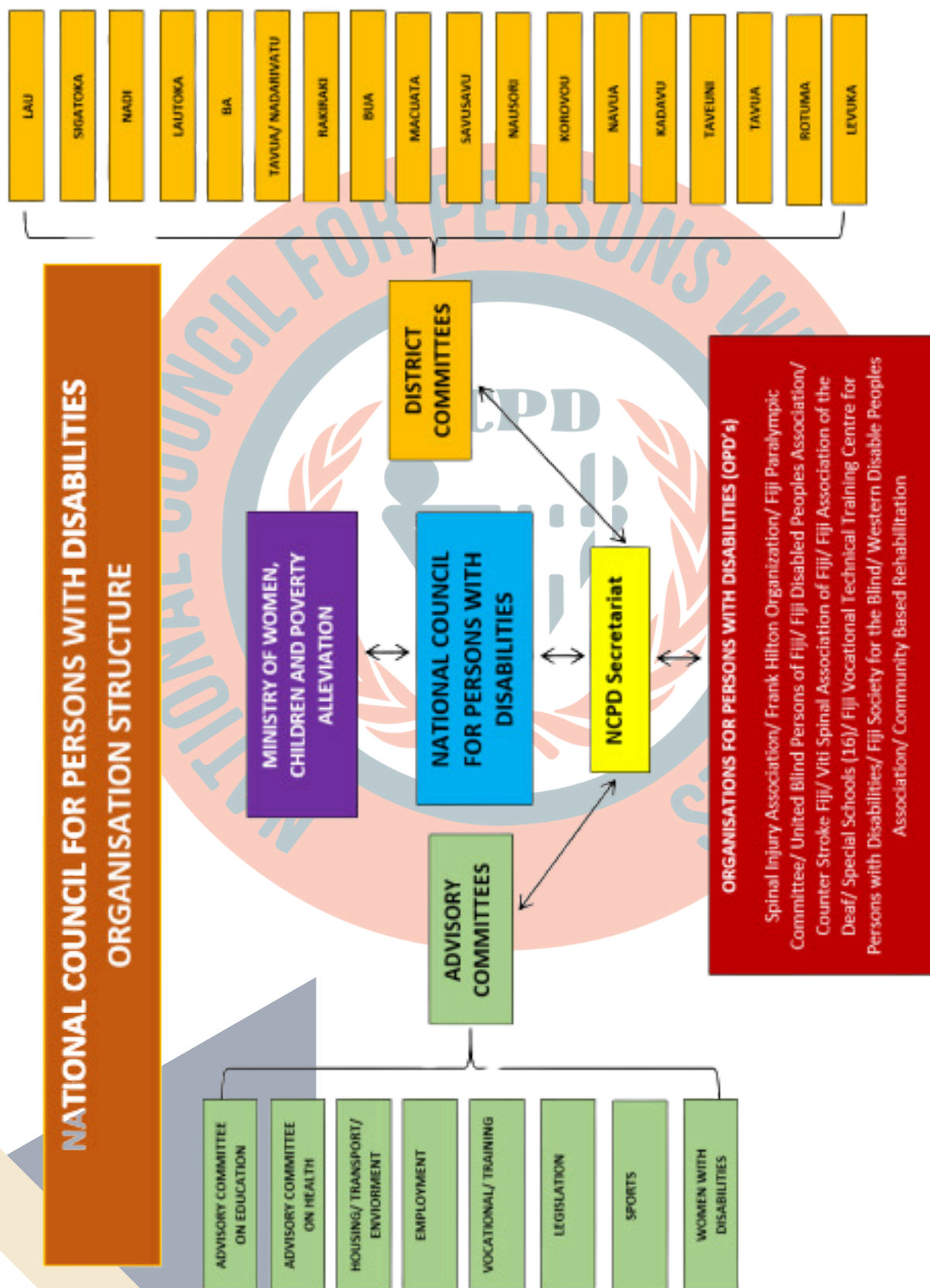
The Council through the Chairperson reports to the Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation on all policy matters pertaining to the role and functions of NCPD. The Minister also appoints the board members of the Council from relevant Government Ministries and up to five disability organizations. This is the main decision and policy -making arm of NCPD.

The Council is assisted by Advisory Committees, members of which are nominated by the Council and appointed by the Minister responsible for Disability Development, MWCPA. The roles and functions of these Committees which are stipulated under section 2(12) of the RIGHT OF Persons with Disabilities Act 2018 (act no 4 of 2018) Act is primarily to advise, examine and recommend activities under their responsibilities and to assist in the implementation of projects and research undertaken by NCPD.

At the grassroots level, there are District Committees of the Council are nominated by the Council and appointed by the Minister. These committees closely monitor the disability issues and work in collaboration with civil society organizations and other arms of Government in addressing the plights of persons with disabilities including provision of services and their welfare. This vital link between the Council and persons with disabilities who live in villages, settlements, remote areas and outlying islands is maintained through regular meetings of such Committees with ongoing consultation and support from the Headquarters. The leadership of District Officers and secretarial support from Social Welfare Officers in places where NCPD District Committees are formed must be acknowledged and appreciated.

The administrative and coordinating functions of the Council are handled by the Executive Director who heads the organization. Other officers recruited by the Council as well as volunteers who willingly contribute their time, skills and knowledge play a significant role in realizing and advancing the Council's vision, mission, goals, plans and program's.

A diagrammatic representation of the organization structure of the National Council for Persons with Disabilities is given on the next page.



MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

In exercising of the powers conferred upon the Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation by section 7(k) of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2018, appointment of the following

A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL APPOINTED BY THE MINISTER UNDER SECTION 7 (K) HOLDS OFFICE FOR A TERM OF 3 YEARS AND IS ELIGIBLE FOR REAPPOINTMENT.

REGISTERED SERVICES

The Council's function is to register all agencies that provide services on behalf of Persons with Disabilities. They remain the major providers of services to persons with disabilities in Fiji. As a statutory authority, NCPD has a role of communicating the needs of these organizations to government ministries and coordinating developments.

A total of 35 disability organizations have now been registered with the Council. Information has been requested from thscial schools throughout the country which are managed by registered non-governmental organizations with annual financial support from both the Ministry of Education and Department of Social Welfare. Also, disabled persons organizations continued to play an important role in advocating for the rights, dignity and recognition of persons with disabilities. Similarly, disability-related programmes such as the CBR Programme under the Ministry of Health, and Project HEAVEN are included in this registration.

NCPD AFFILIATES

SERVICE PROVIDERS	OPD'S	SPECIAL SCHOOLS
Counterstroke Fiji	Fiji Paralympics Committee	Fiji Vocational Training Centre for Persons with Disabilities
Community Rehabilitation Programme	Fiji Association for the Deaf	Fiji Society For The Blind
Fiji Red Cross Society	Psychiatric Survivors Association	Suva Society for the Intellectual Handicapped
Frank Hilton Organisation	Spinal Injury Association	Nausori Special School
Fiji Crippled Children Society	United Blind Persons Association	Ba Special School
Project Heaven	Fiji Disabled Peoples Federation (FDPF)	Sigatoka Special School
Veilomani Boys Home	Central/Eastern Association of the Deaf	Lautoka Special School
Western Disabled Person Association	Tavua Welfare Society	Nadi Special School
Viti Spinal Injuries Association	Horeb Ministry	Gospel School For The Deaf
Medical Services Pacific	Deaf Harland Ministry	Levuka Society For The Intellectually Handicapped
Special Olympics		Ra Society For The Disabled

SERVICE PROVIDERS	OPD'S	SPECIAL SCHOOLS
Lupus Foundation Fiji Fiji Council of Special. & Inclusive Educators (FCOSIE)		Savusavu Special School
Foundation of the Education of the Needy Children in Fiji (FENC)		Labasa Special School
New Vision Fiji		



1. COUNCIL MEETINGS

a. Advisory Committee on Employment.

- Discussions have been made on the 2% quota given to employers in employing persons with disabilities and the 400% tax rebate incentive provided by the government.
- The secretariat has been liaising with FBOS, MoE and MWCPA on the data to create a platform for the employment committee to deliberate on the employment opportunities of persons with disabilities.
- The Ministry of Employment is assisting the Council in setting up its data system by providing technical support in terms of IT personnel. This will be materialized when our Database officer is recruited next month. The collaboration will assist in the employment data space for persons with disabilities.
- Liaise with the National Employment Centre on the opportunity for persons with disabilities to be included under

b. Advisory Committee on Women

- Advocate for women with disabilities to be part of the any National Policy consultation
- Terms of Reference has been finalized and endorsed.

c. Advisory Committee on Education

- Work with the Ministry of Education on the Special Inclusive Education Policy which now has been completed.
- Work with the Ministry of Education on other inclusive education issues for students with disabilities.

d. Advisory Committee on Vocational Training

- Work with the Ministry of Education on the curriculum for FVTTCPD (still in progress)
- Collaborate with APTC on the improvement of the school programs. (In progress)
- Currently working with the Fiji Higher Education in the recognition and registration of vocational programs

e. Advisory Committee on Legislations

- Review of legislations like National Disability Policy, Implementation Plan and Strategic Plan.
- Work on other legislations in the relevant Ministries to be disability inclusive.
- Develop its term of reference

2. ADVISORY & DISTRICT COMMITTEES

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2. ADVISORY & DISTRICT COMMITTEES

f. Advisory Committee on Health

- Rehabilitation programs for persons with disabilities.
- Establishment of an organization for Albinism
- Other health issues relation to disabilities

g. Advisory Committee on Sports

- Work with the Fiji Sports Council and Respective Town Council for the accessible sports facilities in Fiji.
- Support the Paralympics Association and Special Olympics Association in the provision of pathways for our children and persons with disabilities in sports.
- Identifying potential sports personnel for special Olympic and paralympic.

h. Advisory Committee on Housing/Transport & Environment

- This Committee did not sit for the year but the Council continues to liaise with relevant stakeholders in terms of accessibility.
- Accessible Audit Team has been set up with the assistance of PDF and OPDs.
- Liaise with LTA on the accessible bus provisions.

i. District Committees have started their meetings after the lifting of COVID 19 restrictions

- This includes Bua, Macuata, Savusavu, Sigatoka, Nadi, Lautoka, Ba, Tavua, Rakiraki & Kadavu. Kadavu and Ovalau was conducted in the 2nd quarter.
- Discussions on the District committees focuses on their work plans, Terms of Reference (TOR) and how best they can coordinate in serving the disability sector in their respective districts.
- The pathways must be very clear and the establishment of committees and OPDs in the district must be strengthened.

3. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The awareness and re-alignment of our Implementation Plan was the main focus for these quarters. The ten (10) objectives on the Implementation Plan were re-visited since most of the activities were put on hold due to the national restrictions during the COVID 19 period.

As we on the 5th year of the Implementation Plan, our service providers, the respective OPDs, other statutory bodies, international and regional bodies and the government work tirelessly with the Council towards fulfilling and achieving its activities.

4. KEY HIGHLIGHTS

4.1 Board of Survey

4.1.1 **Central Disability Centre**

B.O.S has been carried out – Suva and report has been submitted. Acknowledgement letter has been to the Ministry on the completion of B.O.S. Costing of assets and inventories for Suva office has been completed.

Committee liaise with ITC on the recommendations. Mr. Ledua the MWCPA -Information Technology(IT) personal have carried out the inspections and have submitted the report to ICT for the write off items.

Team to work on the recommendations by the B.O.S. Tally card is filled/entered and currently used as per stock update and monitoring. Mr Nathen Michael is now the officer in charge for all inventory stock issues.

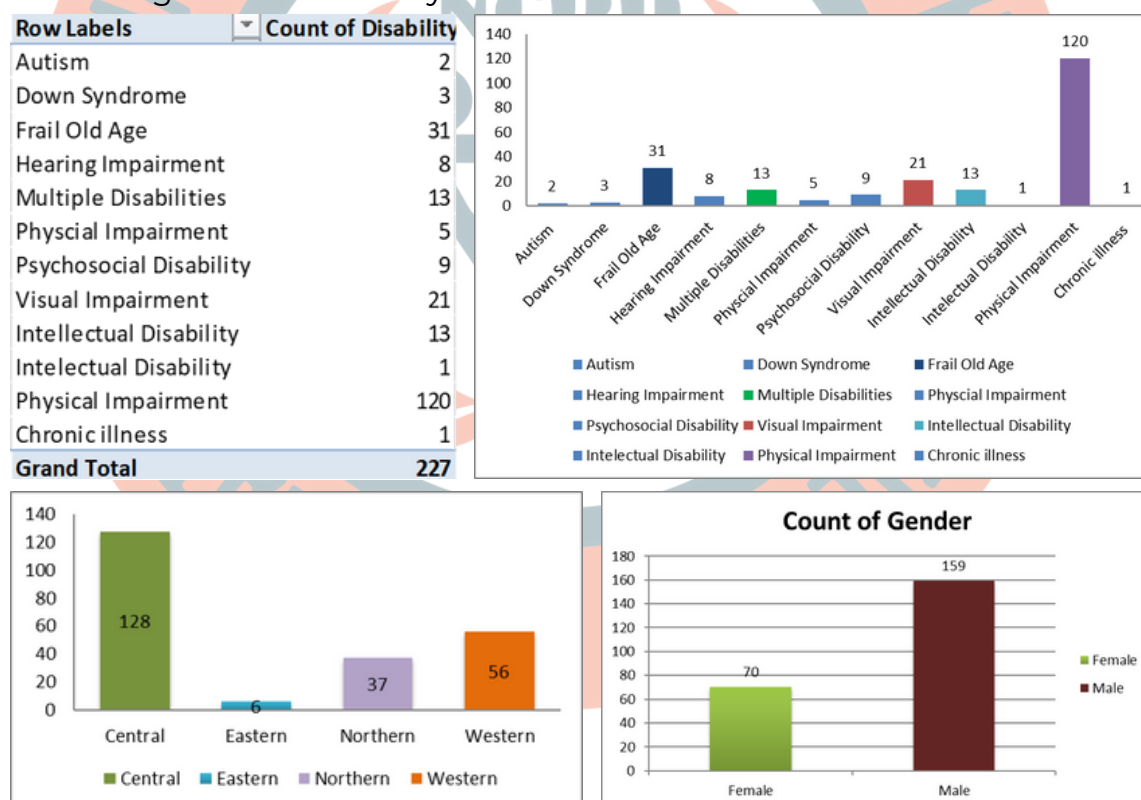
4.1.2 **Northern Disability Centre**

The B.O.S. Labasa committee has been established with Mr. Tevita Wara as the chairperson representing MWCPA, alongside members Mr. Atulesh and Ms. Monisha from FVTTCPD. Currently, the team is in the process of conducting the costing of assets and inventories in B.O.S. Labasa; however, the chairperson is awaiting his official letter of appointment from Corporate Services to fully initiate this task.

4.2 Housing Application Support

The document verification process is ongoing, involving the dispatch of a total of 140 applications thus far. A spreadsheet has been compiled containing data for the National Council of Persons with Disabilities (NCPD), supporting the individuals applying. These applications are being regularly sent to the Ministry of Housing on a daily basis as soon as they are received, ensuring a consistent and timely submission process.

This effort involves thorough document scrutiny with 227 applications sent out thus far. The team has compiled a comprehensive spreadsheet containing data for the National Council of Persons with Disabilities (NCPD) to support these individuals. The applications are promptly dispatched to the Ministry of Housing as they arrive, indicating an efficient daily submission workflow.



During this period

4.3 Occupation Health & Safety (OHS)

An Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Training Course, encompassing Modules I & II, was conducted specifically for the disability sector, targeting individuals and representatives of different organizations stationed at the NCPD Complex, including the Vocational Technical Training Centre.

This introductory program aims to equip health and safety representatives with fundamental skills, enabling them to effectively represent their workgroups. The course focuses on instilling a working knowledge of the Health & Safety at Work Act 1996 and relevant legislation, fostering understanding of hazard identification, risk assessment, risk control principles, and promoting positive attitudes towards occupational health and safety.

The session's objectives include elucidating the OHS Act's intent, delineating duties of various stakeholders, describing committee representation, understanding committee functions and powers, and imparting skills such as workplace issue resolution and effective communication.

The comprehensive curriculum spans topics like the OHS Human Dimension, Historical Background of Legislation, Health & Safety at Work Act 1996, Health & Safety Committee, Managing OHS in the Workplace, OHS Technology, and Accident Investigation.

The teaching methods employed involve lectures, group work, and workplace inspections, with reference materials drawn from the Health & Safety at Work Act 1996, Legal Notice 168, and Workplace Health & Safety Risk Management Standard.

After the completion of OHS training the OHS Committee was formed as this will surely benefit the Council and OPDs in terms of health and safety of all workers.

4.4 TAC-TWG

Parliament Order paper No: 56 of August 2021 is slated for debate, with the Technical Working Group (TWG) actively working on assembling necessary documents to support the discussion. An implementation update summary has been prepared for review. Additionally, the Land Transport Authority (LTA) has responded with answers addressing inquiries specifically directed to them regarding transport accessibility for Persons With Disabilities (PWDs).

4.5 FVTTCPD

4.5.1 ADMIN

Preparations are underway for the car wash opening, involving the renewal of the contract or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Fiji Deaf Association, indicating their continued partnership in this initiative. Meanwhile, the Fiji Vocational Training & Technical Centre for Persons with Disabilities (FVTTCPD) has completed the crucial task of cataloging assets and inventories, a significant step toward effective organizational management.

FVTTCPD held its School Annual General Meeting on 21st June 2022.

4.5.2 FINANCE

A new MYOB system has been installed, initiating the process of inputting data from 2015 to 2020, with a target completion date set for December 30th. However, there's a delay in releasing the quarter grants for term 2 and term 3 for SEG-Ministry of Education (MOE).

4.6 Elections Disability Access Working Group

The Executive Director with the Executive officer had a meeting with the Fijian Elections office, Director Ms. Anaseini Seinimoli collaborated with the team to discuss the Terms of Reference for the organization for Persons with Disabilities as the election is coming up.

The meeting was held on 25th October, 2021 to discuss the Terms of Reference (TOR) with Executive Director and his team. The last terms of Reference was signed in 2016 and the new TOR has been amended and the segments of the TOR is been incorporated using the rights for persons with disabilities Act.

After the OPD's had sighted the Terms of Reference and incorporated their views, the Terms of Reference was signed by 14 affiliates (OPD's). The signing took place on Saturday 20th November, 2021 at Grand Pacific Hotel, with the presence of respective Presidents of each organization and members of affiliated organization together with the Supervisor of Elections Mr. Mohammed Shameem and other invited guest to commemorate the signing of the EDAWG.

The working group which consists of the organizations will now work on making the next election more accessible for persons with disabilities and other matters that may need to be addressed during elections for all the people living with disabilities.



4.7 Fiji Disability Monograph Workshop

MOH, Government ministries and CSO's came together to track where the strategic plan 2023-2027 for Wellness and Non-communicable Diseases Prevention and Control should find it's importance.

The main issue that found it's main common denominator in all multi-sectorial groups was the area in Data. Teams found that there are a lot of data floating

in each respective Ministry and CSO group that everyone can benefit from rather than doing a survey that would cost a lot.

Recommendation:

- Continue to build bridges with all Ministries and CSO's and their respective reps so that NCPD is recognized as the disability focal point to government.
- Continue to work closely with Dr Devina as she will be our focal point for Health.
- Hold a workshop/training for ALL ADCOMS, DISCOMS and OPD's on disability with the main focus on data sharing, disability awareness and networking.



4.8 COVID-19 SAFE WORK PROCEDURES

The NCPD Secretariat office was operational from the end of July with full staff and office for persons with disabilities also follow suit upon verifications of vaccination card as per Covid protocols.

Please note that the Standard Operational procedures have been put in place as it is very important to monitor the effectiveness of preventive measures, and the compliance of workers, visitors and clients with the measures.

4.9 Clarification of Issues – Performance Audit on the Access for Persons with Disabilities to Public Offices and Public Transport (PP No. 268 of 2020)

- The Committee thoroughly examined five key areas in the audit, which encompassed the following:
 - legislation and policy framework,
 - stakeholder arrangements and engagements,
 - policy implementation on access for disabilities,
 - disabled accessibility to public transport,
 - monitoring, evaluation, and reporting.
- The findings necessitate serious consideration by the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD) and relevant stakeholders for the swift implementation of measures to enhance accessibility for individuals with disabilities in public offices and public transport.
- The Committee presents several recommendations for the NCPD, emphasizing the importance of honouring international and regional commitments through well-recognized and adequately resourced national policies and action plans.
- Periodic reviews are advised to ensure continued relevance, and closer collaboration with relevant bodies is encouraged, specifically regarding legislative amendments.
- Additionally, the Committee suggests regular meetings for advisory committees to expedite the execution and monitoring of the Implementation Plan, emphasizing alignment with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to improve access and mobility, contributing to poverty reduction, and enhancing participation in various processes.
- Furthermore, the Committee underscores the need for adequate resources to facilitate effective coordination and consultation with stakeholders by the NCPD.
- The importance of scheduling meetings to minimize delays and ensure timely policy implementation is highlighted.



Despite these recommendations, the Committee commends the efforts of the Fiji National Council for Persons with Disabilities and relevant stakeholders in raising awareness and committing to removing barriers to accessibility in Public Offices and Public Transport.

4.10 International Day for Persons with Disabilities 2021

A. Central Disability Centre

December 3rd saw a collaboration between Organizations for Persons with Disabilities in celebrating the achievements of our leaders and volunteers and also raising awareness on issues in alignment with the theme, “Leadership and participation of persons with disabilities toward an inclusive, accessible and sustainable post-COVID-19 world.”, with particular emphasis on the distinctive services that each Organisation for Persons with Disabilities (OPD) provides to Fiji citizens, in ensuring that no one is left behind. The steering committee for this year’s IDPD celebrations are:

- National Council for Persons with Disabilities
- United Blind Persons
- Fiji Association of the Deaf
- Viti Spinal Injury Association of Fiji
- Psychiatric Survivors Association
- Counter Stroke Fiji
- Spinal Injury Association Fiji
- Fiji Disabled Peoples Federation
- Fiji Vocational Technical Training Centre for Persons with Disabilities
- Western Association for Persons with Disabilities



This year All Freights Logistics had gladly taken the baton in sponsoring our IDPD Celebrations with a donation cheque of \$6000.00 FJD

The Permanent Secretary for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Ms. Jennifer Poole officiated a special celebration marking the International Day of Persons with Disabilities in Suva but due to COVID-19 restrictions, we only had 80% capacity seating as we had 90+ people attending the celebration.



B. Western Disability Centre

This year's theme was "Leadership and Participation of Persons with Disabilities Towards and Inclusive, Accessible and Sustainable Post COVID-19 World".

The Western Disabled Peoples Association, Lautoka Special School and Ministry for Women and Poverty Alleviation organized the celebration on Friday 03rd December, 2021 held at the Fiji Girmit Cultural Centre. The Director Social Welfare, Mr Rupeni Fatiaki was the Chief Guest for the Day, and the Special Guests were Commissioner Western, Mr Mesake Ledua and CEO Lautoka City Council, Mr Anees Khan.



The funding for refreshments and lunch was provided by the NCPD Secretariat and Western Association for Persons with Disabilities. There were fifty-four (54) members, staff and carers who attended the Celebration. Stipulated measures were strictly enforced with all details recorded on the registration forms in accordance to the COVID19 Protocol.

The crowd was entertained with Dance, Songs and other items which were presented by the staffs of Lautoka Special School and Persons with Disabilities.

Ministry of Health conducted the medical checkup such as sugar and blood test and screening for everyone who attended the celebration.

Before the program concluded Fiji Table Tennis Association showcased skills on how to play table tennis and persons with disabilities participated during the games.



Many of us will experience disability in our lifetime, particularly as we grow older. COVID-19 has resulted in further disadvantage and increased vulnerability for many persons with disabilities due to barriers in the health and social sectors, including discriminatory attitudes and inaccessible infrastructure.

C. Northern Disability Centre

On the last Month of 2021 has been much anticipated for the Northern Disability Centre. We had our International Day for Persons with Disability on Friday, 03rd December, 2021 to show case the talent and skills of the persons with disability. The Chief Guest for the day was the Divisional Education Officer - Mr Dharmendra Dayal. Also present was the Divisional Youth Officer – Mr. Walter Matalua. The other invited guest was Fiji Disabled People Federation (FDPF), Ministry of Social Welfare, Women & Poverty Alleviation, Old Age Home, Labasa Special School, Medical Services Pacific (MSP), Women Crisis Center, Labasa Town Council, Fiji Police Force and Ministry of Health.

The day started off with Prayer lead by Angelline the National Council persons with disabilities Trainer. During the program we had success stories from 3 members with Disability Dharshani Chand of Nadago Secondary School, Eparama Warua FDPF member Bua and Elenoa Kaisau FDPF member Cakaudrove. Northern Disability Center with FDPF Members setup booths to display talents. Free Medical checkup with MSP booths were setup as well. After the official program, the Chief Guest together with all relevant Stakeholders and invited guest present had a tour around the complex to witness and see items showcased made by the Center and Other DPO. We had (fifty) 50 participant presents for the Day. The International Day of People with Disabilities is more than just an annual day in Northern Division and a movement used to break down barriers to inclusion and advocate for the rights of people with disability. In the program we also request few stakeholders to act like a person with disability throughout the program and share the experience that how they felt being a person with disabilities.



4.11 Official Opening of the NCPD Western Disability Complex

The Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Honorable Rosy Sofia Akbar officially opened the Western Disability Complex at Lot 4 Drasa Avenue in Lautoka. This was a great milestone achievement for the Council and the Disability Sector as a whole. Based on the 2017 National Census there were 40,369 persons with disabilities in the Western Division.

The Western Disability Complex had taken four (4) years to become a reality. The Centre came up through a request by the Western Disabled Peoples Association as well as Organizations for Persons with Disabilities in a budget consultation with the Minister of Economy, whereby the need to have a Western Centre where persons with disabilities can be trained and venture out in open market employment.

The Centre has four (4) training rooms (Woodwork/Computer/Sewing and Cooking), two (2) office spaces (NCPD & Western Disabled Association), accessible walk ways as well as accessible convenience. The Western Disability Centre will be the focal point for Disability here in the Western Division and we will start to build our network with stakeholders.

This complex is a dream come true to persons with disabilities here at the Western Division.

Persons with Disabilities, Stakeholders and NCPD Staffs from Suva witnessed the opening of the Centre.

We started off with a recruitment drive for students from the Special School in the West who wants to attend Skills Training Program at the Centre. We managed to recruit five (5) new trainees to start the Sewing classes with the help of the staff's and one (1) of our former students from our Centre in Suva. He completed his Certificate in Fashion Design, Clothing & Textile and also was working at Ranjit Garments as a Machinist from 2017-2019.

The Centre Manager West and the Secretary for Western Disability Centre was so fortunate to be part of the REACH Team to reach out to persons with disabilities in Villages and Settlements in Tavua and Vatukoula to issue assistive devices, food packs, re-usable sanitary pads this was done with the great help from Western Disabled Peoples Association (WDPA). The team also created awareness on the services we provide to Persons with Disabilities.



The Centre has four (4) training rooms (Woodwork/Computer/Sewing and Cooking), two (2) office spaces (NCPD & Western Disabled Association), accessible walk ways as well as accessible convenience. The Western Disability Centre will be the focal point for Disability here in the Western Division and we will start to build our network with stakeholders.

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Persons with Disabilities, Stakeholders and NCPD Staffs from Suva witnessed the opening of the Centre.

We started off with a recruitment drive for students from the Special School in the West who wants to attend Skills Training Program at the Centre. We managed to recruit five (5) new trainees to start the Sewing classes with the help of the staff's and one (1) of our former students from our Centre in Suva. He completed his Certificate in Fashion Design, Clothing & Textile and also was working at Ranjit Garments as a Machinist from 2017-2019.

The Centre Manager West and the Secretary for Western Disability Centre was so fortunate to be part of the REACH Team to reach out to persons with disabilities in Villages and Settlements in Tavua and Vatukoula to issue assistive devices, food packs, re-usable sanitary pads this was done with the great help from Western Disabled Peoples Association (WDPA). The team also created awareness on the services we provide to Persons with Disabilities.



The honor for the cake cutting ceremony was done by the Honorable Minister, Assistant Minister, Chairperson, Commissioner Western, Executive Director and Persons with Disabilities.

The cake was officially sponsored by Ali's cake shop in Lautoka.



ACCESSIBLE ROOMS

The Centre has four (4) training rooms (Woodwork/Computer/Sewing and Cooking), two (2) office spaces (NCPD & Western Disabled Association), accessible walk ways as well as accessible convenience.



4.12 Tropical Cyclone Yasa



The recovery response in the northern region, following TC Yasa, is being led by the disability sector based on data collected during the scoping conducted by the sector in December 2020. The initiative, a collaborative program involving the Spinal Injury Association of Fiji, the Pacific Disability Forum, various organizations for persons with disabilities, and the NCPD secretariat, had its team response delayed until November of the following year due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. The program aims to benefit 700 recipients in the North, addressing the specific needs identified during the scoping process.

Three teams were prepared from the Disability sector to carry out this response activity.

- Team 1 – Province of Macuata
- Team 2 – Province of Cakaudrove
- Team 3 – Province of Bua

All teams are required to utilize data gathered from Tropical Cyclone Scoping to identify individuals with disabilities, conduct assessments, distribute packs, and conduct interviews using Washington Short Set Questions (WGSS), with teams tasked to identify and report on 5 cases as case studies.

The service information provided the quantity of listed items that the team distributed in the North.

	<u>Type of Equipment</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
01	Wheelchair – Push type & Self Propel	44
02	Walking Aids	247
03	TC Yasa/Physio net pack	400
04	Diapers	Packs
	1.Drypers (M) - 8 X 20s	5
	2.Drypers (L) - 4 x 44s	5
	3.Drypers (XL) - 4 x 36s	10
	4.Drypers (XXL) - 4 x 32s	5
	5.Drypers (XXL) - 8 x 14s	6
	6.Tena (M) -12 x 10s	10
	7.Tena (L) -12 x 8s	22
	8.Tena (XL) -12 x 8s	30
05	Food Packs	200
06	Dignity Kits	95

All finances in taking the team to the north is being looked after by the ***Pacific Disability Forum.***

For most Fijians, the hardships of 2020 and the effects of the recent TC Yasa have been personally to many, with the loss of employment opportunities, loss of close family relatives, damages to infrastructure and agriculture to name a few.

4.13 Assisted Persons with Disabilities

A. Housing Assistance

Northern Disability Centre was able to assist people with disabilities in providing application form and guide them in filling the form as well, all complete application form are send to our Headquarters for further process.

The Centre managed to handover 230 application forms to persons with disabilities.

B. Neglect & Abuse Case

On 2nd September we at the northern disability center had receive complain from one of the family members of Sunita Wati that she has been abused by her mother Ramraj as the family member has seen some physical mark and bruises on Sunita's body upon her visitation. Sunita Wati is a person with intellectual disability just because of all the neglect and abuse she went through now she is bed ridden. As the first respondent of the case we gave this case to the Fiji police force and Ministry of Social welfare whereby Sunita Wati was hospitalized upon her condition and was moved to her sister in law home. Our Centre also managed to assist her with the Food pack and the diapers .

We at the northern disability center had received a call from Savita's father inform the center about the family issues with Savita and was requesting us to assist in arranging a suitable accommodation for Savita. This case was discussed with our Executive officer and referred to the disability welfare officer for the possible action to be taken.

C. Food Pack Distribution

Northern Disability Centre distributed food packs to Persons with Disabilities in the Labasa & Bua. Some Food Packs included Diapers.



Northern disability centre has assisted Fiji Disabled Peoples Federation in distributing food pack in Labasa area to persons with visual disability. All together there were three (3) Food packs sent from Fiji Disabled Peoples Federation HQ in Suva. Our clerical officer Monisha Rao had managed to the delivery for the food packs.



D. Assistive Devices

Northern Disability Centre has assisted Spinal Injury association in distributing food pack in Labasa and Bua area to persons with physical disability. All together there were forty Food packs sent from Spinal Injury Association HQ in Suva, twenty pack were for Labasa area and twenty was for Bua area with four pack includes diapers.



5. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 JULY 2021

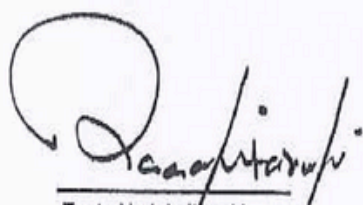
	Note	31 July 2021 \$	31 July 2020 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash at bank	3	40,253	6,900
Telephone Deposits		800	800
Electricity Deposits		1,024	1,024
TOTAL ASSETS		42,077	8,724
 TOTAL ASSETS		 42,077	 8,724
 TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS		 42,077	 8,724

(The accompanying notes are to be read in conjunction with the financial statements).

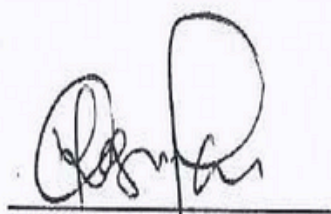
Council's Statement

In our opinion, the financial statements have been properly drawn up to give true and a fair view of the Fiji National Council for

Persons with Disabilities state of affairs as at 31 July 2021 and the results of its operations for the period then ended.


Eseta Nadakuitavuki
Chairperson

Date: 18/10/23


Lemeki Cagialau
Executive Director

Date: 22/09/23

5. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AS AT 31 JULY 2021

	31 July 2021 \$	31 July 2020 \$
RECEIPTS	416,568	417,164
Government Grant	—	20
Affiliates Registration fees	2,845	172
Bank Interest	4,350	5,850
Rent	—	10
Donation	785	670
Hire of Facilities & Equipment	207	846
Miscellaneous	2,889	—
Sheltered Workshop Earnings	29,940	—
British High Commission	457,584	424,732
TOTAL RECEIPTS		
PAYMENTS	314,297	274,014
Salaries, Wages and Related Payments	15,688	22,977
Fiji National Provident Fund Contribution	1,038	653
Board and Committee	10,498	7,110
Repairs and Maintenance - Motor Vehicle	1,616	5,128
Miscellaneous - Petty Cash, Advertisement	5,501	9,074
Telephone and Fax	6,511	11,424
Electricity and Water Rates	4,482	4,617
Insurance - Motor Vehicle	13,636	13,491
Office Equipment Purchase and Repairs	5,110	7,210
Travel and Subsistence Fuel	5,151	3,360
Office Expenses, Printing and Stationery	770	562
Bank Charges	691	599
City Rates and Lease Rental Fees	—	78,097
Fiji Vocational Technical Training for Disabled People	—	3,460
International Disabled Peoples Day Celebration	7,852	24,449
HQ Expenses - Building Repair & Maintenance	30,225	18,486
District Committee Awareness and Training	1,166	379
Skill Training Workshop	—	9,886
Consignment	424,232	494,976
TOTAL PAYMENTS		
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	33,352	(70,244)

5. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY AS AT 31 JULY 2021

	31 July 2021 \$	31 July 2020 \$
ACCUMULATED FUNDS		
Opening Balance	8,826	79,070
Add Surplus/(deficit) for the year	33,352	(70,244)
TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS	42,178	8,826

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT 31 JULY 2021

Note 1 Principal Activities

The Council was established under the FNCDP Act No. 21 of 1994 to be a coordinating body for all organisations dealing with the care and rehabilitation of the disabled and to formulate a national policy that would ensure that services are provided to all disabled persons in Fiji.

Note 2 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Set out hereunder are the significant accounting policies adopted by the National Council of Persons with Disabilities in preparation of the accounts for the period ended 31 July 2021. Unless otherwise stated, similar accounting policies were followed in the previous year.

(a) Basis of Accounting

The cash basis of accounting is adopted for all financial transactions.

(b) Acquisition of Assets

The Board has adopted the policy to expense the full cost of assets at the time of acquisition. The control over assets is exercised through inventories and stores records of quantities but not of values.

(c) Income Tax

The Council is exempt from paying Income Tax under the Income Tax Act. As a Charitable Organisation, the Council is also exempt from paying VAT under VAT Decree 1991 (First Schedule - Exempt Supplies (Section 2)).

(d) Comparative Figures

The comparative amounts in the Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Financial Performance, Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Cash Flows and related notes are not entirely comparable.

Note 3 Cash at Bank

	31 July 2021 \$	31 July 2020 \$
Current Account	34,719	2,512
Project Account	5,534	4,388
	40,253	6,900

Note 4 Council Details

Registered Office and Principal Place of Operation

The registered office and principal place of operation of the Council is located at:

FNCDP COMPLEX
Brown Street
GPO Box 16867
SUVA

Staff Establishment

As at balance date, a total of 25 employees were employed by the Council. There are 17 Officers in Head Office in Suva and 8 Officers are in Labasa Office.

Conclusion



In conclusion, the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD) faced formidable challenges during the financial year of August 2020 to July 2021, marked by the unprecedented impacts of the global pandemic and other unforeseen obstacles. Despite these hurdles, the Council demonstrated resilience and determination, successfully navigating the uncertainties through strategic planning and collaborative efforts. Key achievements during this period underscore the NCPD's commitment to inclusivity and empowerment, reflecting a steadfast dedication to advocating for the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities.

Looking ahead, the NCPD acknowledges the valuable lessons learned from the past year and is poised to leverage these insights for continued growth and impact. With gratitude to partners, sponsors, volunteers, and the entire community, the Council is confident in its ability to build upon these achievements, fostering a society that recognizes and values the contributions of persons with disabilities. As the NCPD enters the next fiscal year, the focus remains on advancing the rights and opportunities for persons with disabilities, ensuring their full participation in all aspects of life.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our partners, sponsors, volunteers, and the entire NCPD community for their unwavering support. Together, we have not only weathered the storm but have emerged stronger and more focused on our mission. As we embark on the next fiscal year, we are confident in our ability to build on these achievements and further advance the rights and opportunities for persons with disabilities across the nation. Below are those people and organisations:

The Chairperson - Dr. Josefa Koroivueta
The members of the Council
The Centre Managers and their team
The Organisations for Persons with Disabilities
Donors and Stakeholders
The Government Ministries

Contact

National Council for Persons with Disabilities

03 Brown St., Toorak,
Suva
+679-331-9045
www.ncpdfiji.org
secretariat@ncpdfiji.org
fncdp@connect.com.fj

