



Pukapuka Social Inclusive Development Report July 2016



Prepared by the Disability Division
Ministry of Internal Affairs
Government of the Cook Islands

Acknowledgement

The team would like to acknowledge the support of the Governments of Australia and Cook Islands for making this trip possible to visit Pukapuka on a work mission. It is indeed a milestone for the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Our warm acknowledgement to Mayor Mr Levi Walewaoa, Executive officer Ms Pati Ravarua, Island Councils and the entire community on Wale for looking after us during our stay on Pukapuka. Special acknowledgement to Te Kau Pua staff and members of the organization for their effort in helping improve the lives of persons with disabilities and those who are unable to fend for themselves.

Atawai wolo le maneke!

Acronyms

CICC	Cook Islands Christian Church
CIFA	Cook Islands Football Association
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
IATA	International Air Transport Association
JCPC	Juvenile Crimes for Prevention Committee
PJCA	Prevention of Juvenile Crimes Act
SIF	Social Impact Fund

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Pukapuka Social Inclusive Development Report 11th – 15th July 2016

Outcomes

Introduction

1. The Disability Division through the Disability Inclusive Development Project was able to charter a flight to Pukapuka to conduct the awareness training on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as well as review of the Disability Action Plan for the island. Together with this initiative, a Ministry of Internal Affairs team accompanied this trip to Pukapuka, including the Welfare Division, the Labour Division, the Child & Family Division and the Social Impact Fund. All Divisions have program components in their outputs that addresses the issues of persons with disabilities in improving their lives and promoting their human rights.

2. Geographically, Pukapuka is one of the remote islands in the Northern group, hence this was an opportunity for the Ministry of Internal Affairs to make its first visit to support and strengthen the work of its sole officer in carrying out the various responsibilities of the Ministry on the island. It was also an opportune time to support and strengthen the organization of persons with disabilities (Te Kau Pua) and the entire Pukapuka community in promoting and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities as accorded by the Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (CRPD).

Participants

3. The Social Inclusive Development training was conducted for two days (12th - 13th of July), and those present were from government ministries, namely the Ministry of Infrastructure, Agriculture, Marine Resources, Health, Police and the Island Council. Other members of the Pukapuka Community also attended the training, including the CICC Minister, Disability Centre Officers, and Committee members and few persons with disabilities. A detail listing of participants can be found on **Annex 1**.

Meeting

4. On arrival in Pukapuka, the Ministry of Internal Affairs Team were greeted by the Mayor, Mr. Levi Walewaoa and the Executive Officer of the island, Ms Pati Ravarua. The team were then ferried to the main island Wale, where a formal welcome reception was conducted by the Mayor, leaders and community for the team and afterwards to a big feast.

Workshop

Day 1 - Tuesday 12th July

The formal part of the first day of workshop was opened with a devotion conducted by the Religious Advisory Council of Pukapuka followed by the inaugural speech by Mayor, Mr Levi Walewaoa. In reply Ms Nooroa Numanga spoke on behalf of the team extending warm regards from the Minister and Secretary and staff of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. She also acknowledged the support of the Governments of Australia and Cook Islands for making this trip possible.

Session 1 - Introduction to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) & Progress review on DID Island Action Plan



Mayor of Pukapuka, Mr Levi Walewaoa delivering the inaugural speech on day one of workshop

5. This session was conducted in Cook Islands Maori by the Director for Disability, Ms Nooroa Numanga. She took the participants through the definitions and the articles of the Convention, focusing on Articles 1 to 30 on the specific rights of persons with disabilities. Ms Numanga gave a background of our journey with disability from a humble beginning to where we are now and our attempt to continue improving the lives of persons with disabilities by respecting them and recognition of their rights as human beings as well as Pukapukans and Cook Islanders. In addition, encouraged participants to treat persons with disabilities similarly to what they expected to be treated after all we are all created by God so the essence of CRPD register in their minds.

6. Following this session was the review of the Disability Action Plan for Pukapuka which was formulated and developed by the Pukapuka Community during the initial CRPD awareness held on Rarotonga in 2015, during the 50th Celebrations of the Cook Islands self-government. This part of the session was conducted by Ms. Lanieta Matanatabu, who took the participants through the six Key Result Areas of the Action Plan, aligned with the Key Result areas of the Disability Inclusive Development Project. ***Refer Annex 2 of report.***



Rights Articles of CRPD 1 - 30

Session 2 - Child & Family presentation Roles & Responsibilities

7. This session was conducted by Mr. Edward Browne from the Child & Family Division covering care, protection, juvenile justice and support of children under the Prevention of Juvenile Crimes Act (PJCA) and upcoming Family Law Bill and linking to relevant articles of the Convention on the rights of the Child (CRC) including children with disabilities.

8. Mr Browne emphasised the roles and responsibilities of parents in ensuring that children are protected from any forms of abuse and how the court addresses such complaints. However, in the case of Pukapuka, as there is no formal Juvenile Crimes for Prevention Committee (JCPC) as prescribed by the (PJCA) participants were encouraged to deal complaints of such nature within the family circles, police and also the Internal Affairs officer on the island. The leaders also have an important role in such situations. Culturally, they have strong influences in mediating of various problems on the island therefore were encouraged to maintain those mediation roles.

9. One question raised was the court's decision to change its system in dealing with children who has committed offences. In response, it was found that some cases brought before the court were trivial that can be dealt at family levels without the court's involvement. Unlike in the past, where a child is to be under the supervision of the Child and Family Officer according to court order for a period of 12 prolonging months.



Mr Edward Browne presenting on care, protection & support of children under the current law, upcoming Family Law Bill including Convention on the rights of the Child

10. Regarding CRC, Mr Browne explained the principles of Article 5 regarding respect for the rights of the child by the State and the responsibilities of parents to provide guidance to them while growing up. Article 12 regards the child's right to express their opinion. Surprisingly this was the first time for the participants to be made aware of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Participants were affirmed that the rights and responsibilities of parents over their children has not been removed by the convention unlike the peoples past belief that those rights and responsibilities over their children have been removed by the convention. Therefore parents were encouraged to take time to listen to the views of their children and not to ignore them. Having that right

to express their opinions, does not give children the authority over their parents and that the children do not have the final decision.

Session 3 - Social Impact Fund (SIF) Presentation

10. The Social Impact Fund (SIF) presentation was the last presentation for the day presented by SIF Manager, Mrs. Angeline Tuara. Much information was shared here but the groups interest was on funding options as a number of participants were interested in how to prepare funding proposals.



*Mrs Angeline Tuara SIF Manageress
presenting on the scope of support of the
Social Impact Fund to NGOs including
organizations of persons with disabilities*

11. The SCRIC officer on the island was invited to share as a project example, which made sense to the participants who were interested in projects intended for their own island, SCRIC has a number of projects planned, one of these is working in partnership with Te Vaerua whose outer island work is funded by SIF, i.e., Te Vaerua had an engineer assessing ramps for Persons with Disabilities to access buildings or even community people needing wheel chairs. Other funding options continued to be explored and their criteria's including India/Japanese/Cooks Foundation/HOMF, and as a result of this more questions were raised about the unfinished disability building which none of our team members were fully aware of. It was evident that the Pukapuka disability centre committee were not happy with their current situation, the lack of information on their unfinished building, the concerns over their finances etc. A reassurance was given that these matters will be dealt with before the team left the island. By the end of the workshop, the participants were receptive and better informed on all areas presented.

13. Before the wrap up of the days sessions, participants were asked to write questions on certain areas of the presentations they need more clarification or information and attach to the 'parking lot' for presenters to elaborate the following day.

14. Before retiring for the night, the team had a debriefing of Day One's session and encouraged each other for next day's program in the workshop and on the field.

Day 2 – Wednesday 13th July

Session 4: Welfare presentation Roles & Responsibilities/Benefits/Assistances

15. The second day of the workshop commenced with a recap of the previous day's sessions by Mrs Nooroa Numanga. After the re-cap, the Welfare Director Ms Ngatuaine Maui, together with Pukapuka's Internal Affairs Officer Ms Edwina Nimeti, presented on the various types of Welfare benefits that are paid to beneficiaries. These include, Old Age Pension, Child Benefit, Infirm Benefit, Caregivers allowance, destitute payment, New Born Allowance, maternity leave and Funeral Allowance and the eligibility criteria to adhere to and required supporting documents.



*Ms Ngatuaine Maui Director for Welfare
presenting Governments various welfare
support to entitled recipients - children to
the elderly including persons with
disabilities*

16. The Welfare Director highlighted the primary role of the Welfare Division in distributing government's welfare benefits. The current national budget for Welfare stands at \$16 million dollars. It means 2.5% of the budget is allocated for beneficiaries on Pukapuka and this amount include persons with disabilities and their caregivers. Responsibilities for coordinating the distribution of these welfare benefits lies with the 9 Internal Affairs officers

in the Pa Enua. In 2012, additional responsibilities were assigned to the officers that are core functions of the Ministry including;

- i. Price inspection for fuel and goods prices
- ii. Dangerous goods inspections
- iii. Child and family investigations
- iv. Monitoring of the implementation of the CRPD on each island
- v. Assist with funding applications for Social Impact Fund

Special Assistance for disabled persons and the very elderly

17. The purpose of this category of assistance by Government is to assist with home modifications to enable easy access around the home for disabled persons as well as the very elderly who are disabled due to age and impairments. In addition, this assistance also provide accessible and sanitary amenities for the needs of this vulnerable group.

18. To date, 5 homes have received materials for improvement to their homes while more materials are also purchased for another 5 additional homes. This category of support aligns with Articles 9 & 10 of CRPD on Accessibility and Right to enjoyment to life by persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others.

19. The Women Development officer on Pukapuka Mrs Riata Maru also made a presentation of her role on the island in supporting women programs and in collaboration with the Internal Affairs officer and Disability organization in community activities.

20. The coordinator for Te Kau Pua (Disability organization) Ms Peria Daniel presented the current role and programs of the organization on the island. She highlighted the activities they have been doing throughout the entire island in collaborating with the Internal Affairs officer and community groups. Most of their work involved visiting persons with disabilities and elderly in the villages and on the neighbouring islets of the island when permission to resettle on those islets are given by the governing authority of the island. Pukapuka is one island that holds dearly to their traditional rules and everyone complies to those rules even the young people.



Ms Peria Daniel, Te Kau Pua (DPO) Asst. coordinator presenting on centre's activities

21. The Dangerous Inspector from Labour Division raised the awareness on substances that are capable of posing a risk to health, safety, property and environment listed in the schedule of International Air Transport Association (IATA). In his presentation the

Remedial: LPG cylinders must be separated from Diesel Square Tanks and be stored in a secured compound



Inspector noted the vulnerability of the community to dangerous goods and containers lying around without protection measures from people including children and those with some form of disability. Another noted evidence is the location of the new Disability Centre close to the Island Government's gas storage. He also gave illustrations of empty gas containers and outlets servicing the community with LPG, unleaded petrol and diesel and the need to secure these places as required under the 1984 Dangerous Goods Act and the 1985 Regulations.

Session 5: Women & Girls with Disabilities presentation

22. This session was presented by Disability's Division, Ms. Lanieta Matanatabu who deliberated on Article 6 of CRPD, on women and girls with disabilities and how they are treated unfairly in so many different ways, and the need for countries to make sure that they have and lead full, free and equal lives.

23. In addition, this article is also reflected in Priority Area 9 of the Disability Inclusive Development Policy 2014- 2019. There is a need to establish a support group for women with disability and work with Gender & Development Division of MIA (Women's Officer) and Ministry of Health on advocating for reproductive rights of women with disability. With this, she illustrated a few project examples in Rarotonga that could help challenge the support for women and girls with disabilities in Pukapuka.

Session 6 - Panel Discussion on presentations & other issues

24. This session was conducted after lunch break, whereby a discussion on the status of the Disability Committee on Pukapuka was discussed. This discussion embarked on the formulation of a new Disability Committee that will follow the guideline of CRPD since everyone is now aware of the convention. There were also other issues mainly with special assistances through the Welfare system and also the social impact fund.

Day 2 - Visitation to the Motu for Child Welfare Presentation by SIF & Child & Family Division

25. SIF Manager, Mrs. Angeline Tuara and Senior Child & Family officer, Mr. Edward Browne accompanied the island nurse practitioner to Motu Ko, one of the islet of Pukapuka to conduct a session on child negligence and abuse to the population of people who have relocated there temporarily with the clear message that such unacceptable practices are prohibited under the law. In terms of education, he also reminded them that it is compulsory for children to attend school at age 5 according to the Education Act. In addition, the wellbeing of the children is paramount during their development.

26. Mr Browne encouraged the young people to be mature and take good care of themselves in order to have better lives in the future. Lastly, he spoke about child support whilst in de facto relationships and to be aware of responsibilities including supporting of a child.

27. Mrs Tuara spoke about the criteria's of SIF and the need to form an organisation or group as SIF is for organised/registered CSO/NGO's and will focus on service delivery. She encouraged groups to start their planning now if they were serious about applying for funds.

28. Mrs Tuara also praised the efforts of the Nurses and Child Welfare members to improve the health and welfare of the Pukapuka babies and young children she acknowledged their isolation and lack of communication but hoped that this visit would be the beginnings of a fruitful relationship in the future.

Evaluation of workshop

29. At the end of day two, participants evaluated the presentations for the 2 days and their recommendations. *Refer Annex 3 of report.*

Day 3 - Visitation to Niua School

30. The team visited Niua School which is the only school on the island for a session on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as well the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Both Conventions were presented by the Disability Issues Director, Mrs. Nooroa Numanga and the Senior Child & Family Officer, Mr Edward Browne. This session was conducted in Cook Islands Maori as preferred by the students. Both presentations were participatory where students were engaged in the readings of the Convention Articles with familiar illustrations given so that the essence of the conventions register in their minds.



31. Also as part of the presentation package was the Just Play Program, which has been a partnership between the Cook Islands Football Association (CIFA) and the Ministry of Internal Affairs which has been introduced to the school children on Rarotonga. In addition, because it was important for the

children to know about the dangers of gasoline and petrol, a session on dangerous goods was also conducted by Labour Division's Dangerous Goods inspector Mr. Rei Enoka.

Te Kau Pua Session

32. An additional session was held with the Te Kau Pua organization with the election of a new coordinator following the retirement of the former coordinator. Discussions also included the review of their organization structure as a way forward to strengthen and support persons with disabilities on Pukapuka. ***Refer Annex 4 for structure.***

33. On Friday 15th July 2016, prior departure for Rarotonga, the team were fare welled by the Mayor, leaders of the island and the whole community through a formal reception and presentation of gifts. The team reciprocated their gratitude to the Leaders and people of Pukapuka for their generosity and support during their stay on the island. Atawai wolo.

Annex 1 - Participants List

Name	Occupation	Contact
Mariena Papitai	Disability coordinator	
Peria Daniel	Assistant Disability coordinator	
Amy Luita Auora	Dental Practitioner	72196
Iven Rupena	A.P.W.	41154
Charles Frisbie	Pensioner	
Tipereta Vave	Infra/ Ass mech	70816
Tere William	Infra Operator	77578
Lito Tinokura	Island Council	41444
Puiki Paniani	Infrastructure	41139
Varia Marukore	Assistant builder	75521
Yeutu Yeutu	Argiculture	73926
Joe Angaino	Infrastructure	58054
Maara Teopenga		74465
	Min. Of Marine	
Tai Ravarua	Resources	41711
Neiao Neiao	Argiculture	57047
Movingi Maia	Marine	78682
Kii Mataora	Public Health	41130
Brian Opo	Police Officer	41098
Pati Ravarua	Executive Officer	41712
Tutau Punga	Airport Worker	41111
Riata Maru	W.D.O.	79479
Tarapu Williams	BCI officer	74414
Teuamua Malo	Deputy Registrar	79428
Rev. Casey Poila	CICC Minister	57338
Levi Walewaoa	Mayor	76730
Tewoe Luka	Admin Clerk	71711
Lucky Topetai	SRICC Officer	74522
Banaba Hagai	Fisherman	41133
Harris Katoa	Carving Tutor	
Manila Matenga	Assistant Reverend	41008
Auora Mataora		70666
Beni Williams	Island Council Clerk	56289

Annex 2 - Responses to questionnaire on progress with implementing the Island DID Action Plan

INTERVIEW Questions

Disability Coordinators/Island Administration/Island Council/Internal Affairs officer/School principal/Care givers/

Evaluation of actions undertaken in implementing the Pukapuka Disability Action Plan on Disability inclusive development inaugurated in 2015.

1. How many awareness programs have you conducted on the rights of persons with disabilities?
i. None
2. How many places or buildings (government/community halls or residential homes) have been built/adjusted with free access to persons with disabilities on the island? Eg ramps, hand rails etc
i. None but since the visit by Te Vaerua early this month, assessments were done of proposed buildings and households that need accessible adjustments and facilities. We look forward to the implementation of those assessments in the future.
3. Is there a provision and budget to support persons with disabilities or their activities in the island government plan? If yes, how much?
i. No budget but in kind support is provided to the disability organization when requested to the island administration by way of transport.
4. Are there island programs or events that include persons with disabilities on an annual basis? Please list them.
i. Yes, the community programs such as church events, school events, sports, island gatherings.
5. Is there a disaggregated (male/female) data of persons with disabilities on Pukapuka? If yes, where is this held? How many males/females to date?
i. Yes, with the Disability Centre and Ministry of Health.
6. Who is responsible for collecting information on persons with disabilities on Pukapuka? Who are the providers of those information?
i. The disability Coordinator and staff of the Disability Centre. They personally collect them from MOH, Education and themselves during their outreach in the community.
7. Is there a coordinating body responsible for gathering all programs and activities relating to persons with disabilities on Pukapuka? Please name the body.
i. Te Kau Pua organization (Pukapuka Disability Centre)
8. How often does the committee meet and what is the scope of sharing of information to other groups for support? Eg to the Island Council, community groups, schools etc
i. The Committee meet once a month and since they have a big composition of members on the Committee from all areas of the island, information is widely disseminated by them.
9. Have there been successful stories gathered on good practices by persons with disabilities or groups supporting them? Are these available to the public?

- i. There are successful stories especially by Te Kau Pua but these have not been compiled together.
10. Are the different disability service providers coordinated or is there some duplications?
- i. Since the island is isolated from Rarotonga, there are no other groups that does similar work as Te Kau Pua so there is no duplication of services. There is community spirit amongst the people so everyone supports each other in the various programs on the island.

Annex 3 - Workshop Evaluation by participants

CRPD & Social Inclusive Development Workshop Pukapuka 11th – 15th July 2016

Evaluation of workshop by participants

Day 1: 12 July 2016

Total number of completed evaluation forms – 33

Session 1: “Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities”

75% of participants reported this session excellent as it has given them clear understanding on the rights of persons with disabilities and their responsibilities in heeding the Convention.

24.5% recognized this session good.

.5% fair.

Comments:

Participants commended the important of presenting in Cook Islands Maori language as they understood the messages very well similarly to other sessions that were presented in the local language.

Session 2: “Progress review of Pukapuka Disability Inclusive Development Island Action Plan”

38% of participants acknowledges this session as excellent and the need for continuous trainings on their island to register the message to everyone

60% of participants reported this session as good.

2% fair.

Comments:

Participants recognized the need for everyone’s joint effort to implement the plan on the island.

Session 3: “Child & Family Roles & responsibilities to children & families”

70% of participants reported this session to be very good and helpful to understand the work of the Child & Family towards families in the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

29.5% acknowledge this session excellent because it gives them good understanding of the divisions role and the session also gave them opportunity to contribute their views

.5% fair.

Comments:

Overall, this is an eye opener for participants as the information delivered were new to them.

Session 4: “Social Impact Fund presentation in support of Disability programs”

65% of participants reported this to be an important session.

34% recognized this session good.

1% fair.

Comments:

Participants found this session interesting as this is new to them and the need for more information on how to access this fund eg criteria. Requested for application forms to be translated in Cook Islands Maori and to be send to Pukapuka before the release of the next round of funds.

Evaluation of workshop by participants

Day 2: 13 July 2016

Total number of completed evaluation forms – 29

Session 5: “Welfare presentation; Benefits & special supports to clients”

70% of participants reported the session to be excellent and informative.

30% reported this session to be good.

Comments:

Participants recommended for more support and improvement to the welfare of the elderly and persons with disabilities by way of providing appropriate and accessible facilities eg convenient rooms.

Session 6: “Women & Girls with disabilities/Pukapuka Disability Centre/Dangerous Goods/Women’s Development presentations”

28% of participants reported this session to be excellent.

70% acknowledge this session good with need for strengthening of services by government and non-government organizations to support the well-being of the people in the community.

2% fair.

Comments:

In general, participants recognize the effective work the Pukapuka Disability Centre is doing and the need for other sectors to synergize their responsibilities as a mean of sharing resources.

Session 7: “Panel Discussions on presentations & other issues”

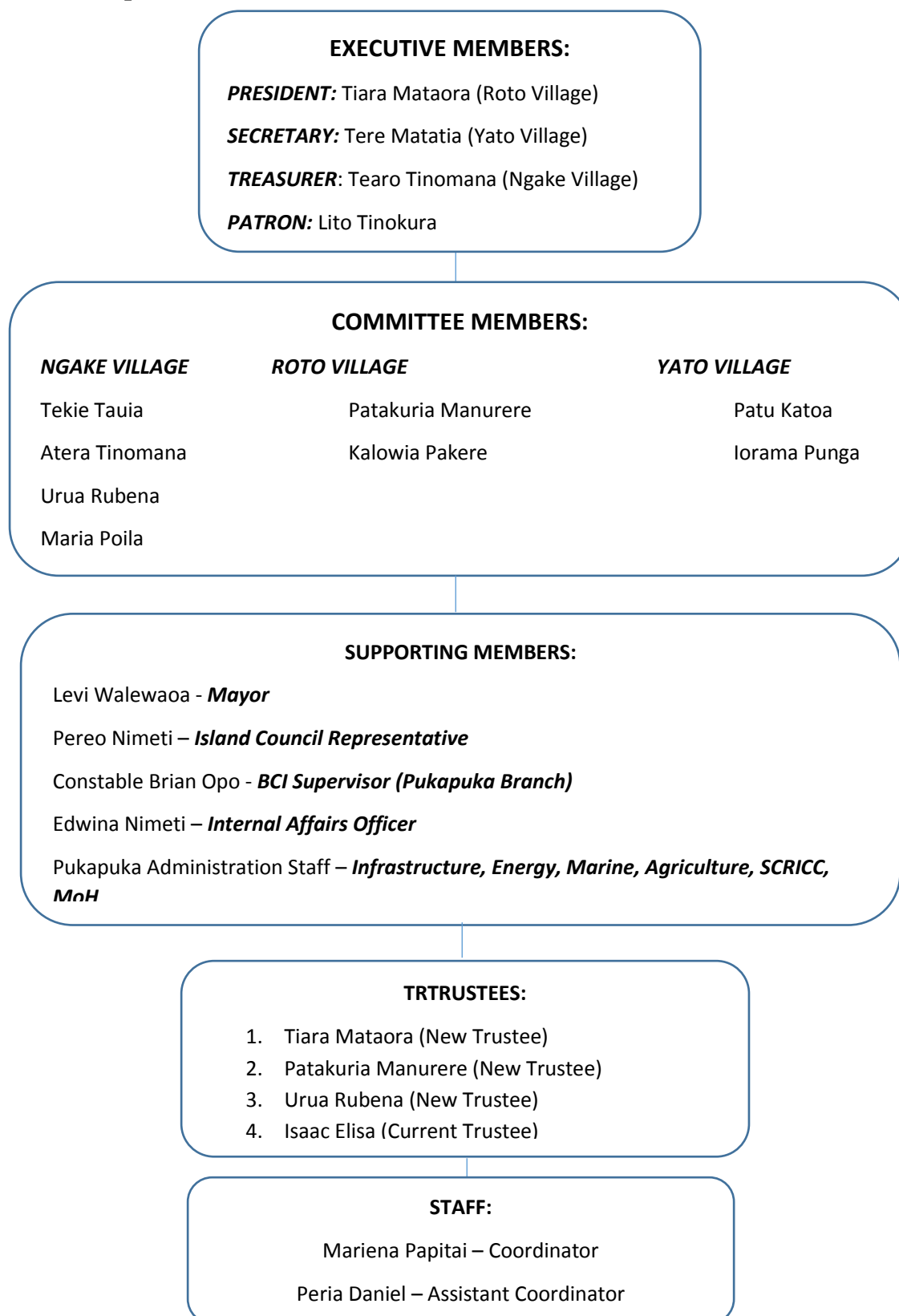
70% of participants reported this session excellent and very informative.

30% acknowledge the session good.

Comments:

Participants requested all discussions and plans to be actioned in the future.

Annex 4 - Pukapuka Te Kau Pua Structure





CRPD & Social Inclusive Development Workshop Program
Pukapuka Island
Monday 11th – 15th 2016



Monday 11 th July	Tuesday 12 th July	Wednesday 13 th July	Thursday 14 th July	Friday 15 th July
Depart for Pukapuka Time: 8:30am	MC: TBC 9:00am – 9:20am Opening prayer: Papa Orometua Welcome Address & Opening of Workshop: Mayor Response/overview of workshop: Nooroa Numanga	9:00am – 9:05am Prayer Recap of previous day's sessions 9:05am – 10:00am Session 5 Welfare presentation Roles & Responsibilities/Benefits/Assistances Ngatuaine Maui 9.00am Visit to Motu Ko (Tawangake) Angie and Eddie with the nurses	11:30am – 12:30pm Presentation on CRPD & Child & Family roles with teachers & school students at Niua School Nooroa/Lanieta/Edward	
	9:20am – 10:00am Session 1 Introduction to CRPD Nooroa/Lanieta		Home/Child welfare project visits by team 1pm onwards 9.00am: Visit to Tawalalo Child Welfare Clinic Angeline Tuara	Depart for Rarotonga Time: 11:00am Arrive 3:00pm
	10:00am – 10:15am Morning Tea			
Arrive Pukapuka Time: 12:30pm	10:15am – 11:00am Session 2 Progress review on DID Island Action Plan – Nooroa/Lanieta	11:00am – 12:00pm Session 6 Women & Girls with Disabilities & Pukapuka Centre presentations Lanieta/Peria		
	11:00am – 12:00pm Session 3 Child & Family presentation Roles & Responsibilities Edward Browne			
	12:00pm – 1:00pm Lunch			
	2:00pm – 3:00pm Session 4 SIF Presentation in support of Disability programs Angeline Tuara 3:30 – 4pm	1:00pm – 2:00pm Session 7 Panel Discussions on presentations & other issues Team Presentation of Certificates		

	Wrap up of day's workshop	Close of workshop 2.00pm – 5.30pm: Visit to Sailing Pukapuka by Angeline Tuara		
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