



# PPDVP Conference

Regional Conference Newsletter - Monday 11 October 2010

## Ni sa bula

"It's great to have everyone together again and especially to have the NGO's and the Police from around the region together" said PPDVP Programme Manager, Cam Ronald, when opening the 2010 PPDVP Regional Workshop in Nadi. He outlined the challenges that are faced, the reasons for getting together, and emphasised the benefits of sharing best practice and successful ideas.

Cam took the chance to let participants know of some of the activities planned for this year. He also provided some options and some of the challenges for participants to consider what might lie in the future as the current PPDVP comes to an end in June 2011.

"The police participants looked fantastic in their national uniforms for the formal workshop photograph" said Cam.



## Vinaka vaka levu

### Mentor's View



What challenges faced the participants! Working with their counterparts in-country to provide a joint presentation, public speaking in front of a host of representatives from around the Pacific and compacting their whole DV response into 10 tiny little minutes. Everyone did such an amazing job of rising to the challenge with some very poignant reminders of how sad and difficult some situations are in our countries.

There were some common issues arising such as the need for effective legislation and how important it is for both police and agencies to support DV processes. Clearly established customs can become a barrier to making effective and positive change to resolving domestic violence situations.

There were some positive words around the support provided by the PPDVP, the introduction of key legislative changes and, in many cases a growth in positive support for the development of partnerships in the DV arena.

It is clear from listening to the presentations today that we have all come a long way and have already learned so much from our work together and from the vast collective experience that exists within our partnerships. However, it is just as clear that we still have a long way to go but we have the commitment and passion to forge the way ahead together.

Sergeant Alan McGlade, Vanuatu Mentor

### Country sessions

It is always difficult to get your own reports and details across when there is so much to say, and so little time. However, the next few days will allow further discussions and sharing of information especially in the sessions on sharing information on Wednesday and targeting and profiling on Thursday. Some of the features of all of the presentations, so far, were the need for greater support and specialized training in areas such as counselling and investigations; the collection and sharing of data; and the need for NGO's and agencies to work together.

There are many similarities, and just as many differences, in the problems and issues faced by all countries.



New Zealand Government





**“It’s not OK, but it is OK to ask for help!”**

Vic Tamati led us through the story of his life and the lives of his family. Vic’s powerful session had us all captured as he fired a number of questions at us and sought our response. There were few of the participants who were not personally effected in some way by violence either against them or their family.

The session moved along to follow a timeline of events, various crisis periods and the outcomes of these – with the harm being caused being the overriding factor. Vic took a hard look at himself and he spent time and commitment with a support group to make a change in his life to protect his family from further harm.

It was especially interesting to hear how he made contact with a support group and how he maintained that commitment no matter what the problems and challenges were. His family, and his children, drove him forward to take some affirmative action to change his violent behaviour.

**“ARE YOU OK?”**

