

Fiji National University (FNU) celebrates International Day of Persons with Disabilities



“For us it’s really an important event because we have been closely linked with working and empowering people with disabilities. We are partnering with Fiji National Council for Disabled Persons and the Spinal Injury Association to upgrade and upskill their workforce to go out and carry our inclusiveness programs,” Ramabuke said.

“We ran mobility devices workshop for all our students which is embedded in the curriculum and we also do that for people in the communities under our outreach activities,” he said.

Harshita Singh, Certificate IV in Child Care student, said her visual impairment did not deter her from pursuing studies at FNU.

“The coordinators at the Disability Unit were very helpful to me throughout my studies at FNU and they provided all the support that a student with disability needs while studying,” she said.

Singh said she knew many students with disability who had completed courses at FNU.

“There needs to be hope and with right guidance, any person with disability can attain proper education,” she said.

FNU’s Disability Unit Coordinator, Sovaia Coalala said they had an open door policy.

“I would encourage students to come and study at the University and be assured that they will be provided support to progress them in their academic and career goals,” she said.

Coalala highlighted that since FNU was a dual sector University, it had a wider variety of programmes that the students could choose from taking into account their preferences and strengths.

“The University invites persons with disabilities who are interested in furthering their studies to engage with the Unit to identify suitable academic pathways that they can explore to further their career goals,” Coalala said.

Free consultation is available with the Coordinator Disability on academic pathways for potential students.

The Fiji National University (FNU) is committed to providing an accessible, welcoming, working and learning environment for individuals with disabilities.

FNU today observes International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD), which was proclaimed in 1992 by the United Nations General Assembly resolution 47/3.

“As Fiji’s national university, we have a duty to ensure that we provide quality tertiary education, training and skills development to all students without any prejudice and bias,” said FNU Vice Chancellor Professor Nigel Healey.

“Our Disability Unit under the Registrar’s Office is taking a lead role in facilitating requests from our University students with special needs to ensure they are able to study in a comfortable environment,” Professor Healey added.



Venasio Ramabuke.

FNU’s College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences’ Head of Department of Physiology and Physiotherapy, Venasio Ramabuke said they planned a week-long wheelchair service training last week as part of their community engagement activities.