

Nauru Disabled People's Association Submission to the United Nations Periodic Review

Issues:

1. Public Accessibility
 2. Unemployment
 3. Disability Pension/Allowance
 4. Center for the Disabled
 5. Prosthetics
 6. Conclusion and Recommendation
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Background information:

Nauru Disabled Peoples Association (NDPA) is an NGO body formed by the people with disabilities with the support of their families and friends, established in 1988 and simultaneously adopted its own constitution. Currently the disabled population is around 140 and any person with disability is a member. Apart from person with disabilities, any family members, carers, friends and interested persons are included as the supporting members. NDPA now stands as the umbrella for the 7 proposed areas, these are Sports, Women's Group, Education, Rehabilitation, Sheltered Workshop, Community Education and Parents Group. However at this stage only Nauru Disabled Sports Association, Able Disabled Parents and Friends Association (Education only for Disabled Children) and Women's Disabled Group are in existence.

Since its inception, NDPA has struggled in its endeavor to move forward and to accommodate the needs of its members. On a number of occasions executives members have approached government and its subsidiaries on a the needs and objectives of the NDPA, and its recognition on their rights for a better standard of living but very little was achieved.

1. Public Accessibility

- (a) Most public buildings and work places do not adequately cater for the disabled by way of ramps and lifts for upstairs accessibility except for a few places where for example, the new secondary school has excellent facilities, catering for disabled students. The airport and the civic centre has fair to good facilities but still a lot of room for improvement.
- (b) Public Transport definitely needs looking into as there is no accessibility at all for disabled commuters. It is Nauru Disabled People's Association (NDPA) challenge to acquire suitable buses/vans specifically for the disabled community and members. Presently there is one van at the disposal of only disabled children; Able Disabled Parents and Friends Association (ADPFA) It is also the aim of the NDPA to acquire an extra vehicle for staff to be able to do house visits, clinic purposes, and other activities as needed.

- (c) Homes and housing facilities do not cater for the specific needs of the disabled, causing inconvenience and problems for most in enabling independent and safe mobility within the household premises. An independent survey to visit and assess these requirements and rectify and upgrade homes would be need to be conducted by government.

2. Unemployment

- (a) Equal rights for job opportunities within the workforce and to enjoy the right to life by being able to earn a living without discrimination or prejudice.
- (b) To be able to choose a career or job which would suit based on our abilities and not our disabilities.
- (c) To be able to participate in on the job training, vocational training, literary/numeracy programs.
- (d) Technical skills training to encourage self-employment.

3. Disability Pension/Allowance

- (a) Government is paying a disability pension allowance of \$50 per person, per fortnight. At present there are still members without this benefit and the question is what is government's selection criteria concerning eligibility. Who is entitled? Or what type of disability would qualify a member to be in receipt of this much needed benefit.
- (b) This amount of \$50.00 is proving to be inadequate during this time and an increase in this amount or a revision by government should be forthcoming.

(4) Center for the Disabled

a) In the past we have been pushing for a centre to enable the association to conduct general meetings for the group and to generally congregate.

b) Government need to prioritize our needs, all people living with disability especially the adults and elderly by providing a centre to accommodate adequate rehabilitation services intended to build our confidence and develop our learning capacity to enable us to mobilize independently. Furthermore, this centre will provide all person living with disability the necessary means under the following –

- Give a Disable person (DP) a sense of security and wellbeing; a chance or a normal interactive life without discrimination.
- To enable the organization to participate fully in community/society's educational, social and recreational activities
- To develop their knowledge and skills to take up roles and responsibilities by knowing their rights, and be advocates
- To take part in capacity building training
- To recognize their potentials hence, contribute to their personal development and contribute to society.

(5) Prosthetics

- (a) The need for specialists to attend to the servicing or repairing of limbs, wheelchairs etc.
- (b) Training of specialist staff within the membership.

(6) Conclusion and Recommendation

NDPA is interested in exercising and expanding its role and responsibilities in developing the areas that distinguishes specific needs that will promote and improve the welfare of all people living with disabilities in Nauru. Hence, to maintain its profile it is prepared to seek support and work in collaboration with government instrumentalities, civil societies and other NGO groups and also the members of the Pacific Disability Forum (PDF).

In conclusion, Nauru Disabled People's Association has a multitude of needs that should be addressed by government, or in some way to assist to better improve and enhance the welfare of disabled people in Nauru.

Therefore, it is of great importance and absolutely imperative that the government ratifies the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability to guide the government to address the human rights issues of people of Nauru.