



The Ministry of Health establishes Inclusive Health Committee To ensure accessible health services for all

The Ministry of Health has announced the constitution of the Inclusive Health Committee (IHC), a significant step towards ensuring that all people in Vanuatu have access to quality and inclusive health services. The IHC aims to improve healthcare accessibility by ensuring that health facilities meet requirements for people with disabilities and that healthcare workers are equipped with the necessary skills to provide inclusive care.



Director General of the Ministry of Health, Mrs Shirley Tokon with Director of Corporate Services, Policy and Planning, Dr Posikai Samuel Tapo and chair of the newly established Inclusive Health Committee.

The IHC recognises that disabilities are not always visible and can be physical, sensory, or mental. As a result, healthcare workers, including nurses, require specialised training in communication, patient management, emergency handling, and appropriate interactions with individuals and their cares.

“The more inclusive our health services are, the better it is for the entire community. Strengthening accessibility improves both the health facility itself and the skills of our health workers,” said the Chair of the Inclusive Health Committee, Dr Posikai Samuel Tapo.

“Inclusive health services benefit everyone. At some point in our lives, we all require such services. If you have a broken leg, you need a ramp to enter the health facility and a wheelchair to access the consultation room for example. As we age, we may experience mobility issues, hearing loss, or reduced vision. This is why it is essential that our healthcare facilities and workers are fully equipped to support all people.”

The establishment of the IHC aligns with the Health Sector Strategy 2021-2030, which sets out six key goals, including ensuring that all people in Vanuatu – particularly women, youth, the elderly and vulnerable groups – receive the health services they need without financial hardship. The IHC’s work is also in line with Vanuatu’s National Sustainable Development Goals 2030, under the national motto: “Leave no one behind.”

The Inclusive Health Committee is led by the Ministry of Health with support from the Australian Government through the Vanuatu-Australia Health Partnership and the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

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