

Open Hearing 2012

Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in the Pacific



The New Zealand All-Party Parliamentary Group



THE HEARING



- Held in Wellington – 11th of June, 2012
- New Zealand parliamentary complex
- NZPPD
 - 15 individuals / organisation invited to make written submissions.
 - 12 selected to orally present their submission.
 - Included 4 young people from Pacific
- NZ Parliamentarians were from different parties
- Pacific Parliamentarians
 - Hon. Maere Tekanene, Minister of Education, Youth & Sports, Kiribati
 - Late Hon. Lotoala Metia, Minister of Finance & Economic Planning, Tuvalu
 - Dame Carol Kidu, Leader of Opposition, PNG
 - Douglas Ete, MP, Solomon Islands
 - Eta Rory, MP, Vanuatu
- Open Hearing was followed by a closed round table session amongst Parliamentarians and key regional stakeholders.

RECOMENDATIONS



- Overarching recommendations
 - Country-specific structure be established in each country which links MPs and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) organisations so that supportive political leaders can advance an SRHR agenda with a particular focus on adolescents and youth;
 - These structures be actively linked into international and regional networks for technical support purposes;
 - Each country develop their own programme for advancing the SRHR agenda, with each structure engaging with community leaders as appropriate (e.g. tribal, church, civil society) and with particular focus on adolescents and youth.

FURTHER ACTION



- Youth engagement especially amongst young Pacific women
- Access to services and commodities including information especially in rural areas
- Comprehensive sexuality education in-school and out-of school including supportive school environments for vulnerable groups
- Legislative reform to protect women and girls; against discrimination based on sexual / gender identities and reduce unsafe abortion
- Political prioritisation to address adolescents in reproductive health and population and development policy documents, including realisation of SRHR in the Pacific Forum Leaders Communiqués.
- Resourcing to be made available to enable service delivery, provision of infrastructure, commodities and, capacity building, gender equality and community participation
- Research and data on adolescent sexual and reproductive health.

GOOD PRACTICES



- Commitment from Parliamentarians
 - Passionate and knowledgeable about issue
- Evidence-based
- Involvement of affected population
 - Results are more valid, and process is also empowering
- Cross – party committee
 - Issue not owned by one side of the house
 - Issue not linked to political mandate of one / ruling party
 - Better sustainability during political changes
- Action oriented recommendations

Reference

- NZFPI Website

[http://www.fpi.org.nz/what we do/advocacy/parliamentary_group/nzppd open hearings/open hearing 2012](http://www.fpi.org.nz/what_we_do/advocacy/parliamentary_group/nzppd_open_hearings/open_hearing_2012)

THANK YOU

