

Staff nurses on duty at CWM Hospital in Suva yesterday.

NATIONAL CONCERN

Family Wellbeing **'Should Be** Govt Concern'

Chief says wellbeing of family should be assessed continually so that policies that support and strengthen them are introduced

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he wellbeing of a family is not merely a concern for leaders; it is and should be our collective and highest priority because it is the heart of our existence as human beings.

These were the words of Roko Tui Bau Ratu Joni Madraiwiwi at the Families in Tomorrow's Development Agenda meeting that was held in the Oceanic Centre at

USP Suva on Thursday night. Ratu Joni stressed the role of the national leadership in evolving family structures.

"There needs to be continual assessment and appraisal of the family profile in our communities to determine the policies and support to best strengthen family structures as presently constituted," he said.

The Roko Tui Bau said social transformation was not

easy,
"Social transformation is not a tidy exercise; it is disorderly and haphazard because of the places of influences which shape social change interacting and effecting outcome in varying degrees and different ways," he said. Ratu Joni said the State could support this issue by

providing gender equality and career opportunity for

women and it also meant expanding child care facilities to cater for the demands of working women.

Strongly emphasising gender equality, the Roko Tui Bau said gender equality, could be best described as a state which provided women with choices and options

whether to have a career sto be in the home or both.
Referring to youths, Rafu Joni said they required broad exposures to civic values in schools and places of worship and during organised sport.

He said this would help shape individual and familial perspective and foster mutual respect, tolerance, stability and compensation.

Ratu Joni said it was important to note the role of tradition and custom in our community.

"They have a role in reinforcing the familial structure in the 21st Century recognising them and affirming them familiarises and reinforces societal and community acceptance. It also strengthens kinship ties and social cohesion," he said.

Present at the conference were the Minister for Social Welfare, Women and Poverty Alleviation Dr Jiko Luveni, Reverend James Bhagwan, Advocate Paulini Turagabeci, University of the South Pacific Dean Dr Bruce Yates and United Nations Population Fund Pacific, gender adviser Maha Muna.

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HEALTH CARE

New training initiative to upskill nurses

n-its continuous effort to improve professionalism and ethics in the Inursing practice, the Ministry of Health has embarked on forming an Elite Nursing Squad.

Director nursing Silina Waqa-Ledua said the objective to form such a group; "was to adequately train a cohort of nurses who will role model the concept of professionalism and ethical practices in the delivery of nursing services."

address patient complaints more effectively and allow for better response to patient needs," Mrs Waqa-Ledua said.

"To date over 80 nurses have been trained in the three divisional hospitals and a number of sub-divisional hospitals in the country.

Twenty-five nurses have been trained for the Colonial War Memorial Hospital and the Central Division, 30 for Lautoka Hospital and Western Division and 25 for Labasa Hospital and the Northern Divitraining was three days in average.

Those who provided training included former High Court judge and Fiji's first Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva, Nazhat Shameem, former USP academic and psychologist Professor Roland Schultz and excellence trainer Shankat Ali They provide an outstanding prestige to the training package.

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