

International Year of the Family: Families in Tomorrow's Development Agenda

**Question: Are families in Pacific Societies prepared for
tomorrow's development agenda, socially and
economically?**

Bruce Yeates, The University of the South Pacific, 15th May
2014

A View from Social and Community Work Education

- THE outgoing British High Commissioner to Samoa says more work needs to be done to change attitudes towards domestic violence. Vicki Treadell says she was shocked to hear statistics from UNs research that 50 per cent of teenage boys and 58 per cent of adolescent girls in Samoa thought domestic violence was normal.

<http://www.fijitimes.com/story.aspx?id=266413> 23

April 2014

A View from Social and Community Work Education

- “I did not know I was breaking the law.” Participant feedback Youth Justice Forum – Vanuatu on the Issue of Domestic Violence. Personal Communication: Donna Evans, Legal Literacy Programme Coordinator, School of Law, Emalus Campus, The University of the South Pacific, 10 May 2014

A View from Social and Community Work Education

- (3) A person must not be unfairly discriminated against, directly or indirectly on the grounds of his or her— (a) actual or supposed personal characteristics or circumstances, including race, culture, ethnic or social origin, colour, place of origin, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, birth, primary language, economic or social or health status, disability, age, religion, conscience, marital status or pregnancy;
Constitution of the Republic of Fiji, Chapter 2 – Bill of Rights, Section 26.

Issues of Power

- The Politics of the Family – R.D. Laing
- Families are:
 - diverse
 - complex
 - resilient
- Families adapt and change

Contextualisation

- individuals, families and living groups, communities
- social and ecological justice

World Views

- Corporate Globalisation
- Human Sustainable Development
- Social Transformation and Indigenous Movements

Approaches to Working with Families

- Top down and community orientated
- Bottom – up and community strength - based development

Question

- **Are families in Pacific Societies prepared for tomorrow's development agenda, socially and economically?**