



SAAC News

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SUBSTANCE ABUSE ADVISORY COUNCIL

ISSUE 2, 2019/2020

VISION

A DRUG FREE FIJI

MISSION

TO PROMOTE A DRUG FREE ENVIRONMENT IN OUR SCHOOLS AND OTHER SETTINGS BY ESTABLISHING POSITIVE EDUCATION APPROACHES EFFECTIVE SUBSTANCE CONTROL PROGRAMMES AND APPROPRIATE

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A/CEO'S WELCOME MESSAGE:



A/CEO- MR JOSUA NAISELE

Welcome to another issue of SAAC News. The news-letter highlighted the main activities conducted within this financial year.

The Hon. Minister of Education Heritage & Arts appointed 9 members of the SAAC

Council and the first meeting was conducted in January. The training conducted were the Student Leaders Training [SLT] for Prefects and Training of Trainers [TOT] for teachers. The Student Mentoring programme also continued this year and SAAC recruited 31 retired teachers to be Mentors to students in selected schools in Fiji. The counselling services continued as referral were made

from schools.

SAAC also welcomed the new Senior Advisor Student Support Service Mrs. Akashni Goundar. Mrs. Goundar joined SAAC at the beginning of this year. SAAC acknowledged MEHA and our stakeholders for their support.



Mrs Goundar-SASSS

Student Leaders Training

The Substance Abuse Advisory Council initiated the programme with an aim of empowering the student leaders with knowledge and skills to assist them in their leadership roles in school. The workshop is targeting the secondary schools students only with plan in place to also include the primary school leaders also.

their roles and responsibilities well in schools. The Council conducted the one[1] day comprehensive training to a total of 274 students from 124 school from the Central, Western, Northern and Eastern education divisions. The workshop covered these main topics

that a empower them to carry out their duties well in school. The teachers and students that attended were to empower the other school prefects. The feedback provided by the students indicated their confidence level were boosted as they can go back and help teachers and students in school.

Most were appreciative of the workshop as it provided them an opportunity to form network with student leaders from other schools and to share experiences. The workshop has provided a pathway to help leaders of tomorrow to be leaders of good characters with outstanding personality.



The workshop covered the central, western, northern and eastern education divisions and district.

The main objective of the workshop:

To empower student leaders with knowledge and skills that can assist them to carry out

- ⇒ Understanding Myself better
- ⇒ Character and personality development
- ⇒ Leadership Qualities
- ⇒ Issues in schools and how to address them
- ⇒ Leadership life skills
- ⇒ Self-Care

The workshop was able to provide the necessary information



Lautoka—Training of Trainers



Lautoka TOT Participants

In view of the growing of discipline cases from schools SAAC organized a Training of Trainers [TOT] for 19 Teachers representing 19 schools within Lautoka. The training were conducted for three days from 13th – 15th November, 2019 at the Ministry of Youth training room, Lautoka..

For this training the main objectives are:

- To empower teachers with knowledge and skills that will enable them to understand and

identified students that are at risk in their schools.

- To help teachers with knowledge and skills on different level of interventions during crisis situation in schools.
- To be updated with information from SAAC and other stakeholders [Police, Health Social Welfare] for student's welfare case referral.
- To relook at home & family values and learn decision making skills to help student in schools.
- To understand the important of teacher's self-care while dealing with student's issues.



Various stake holders were also invited to speak on various issues to the participants these were:

- The Fiji Police Force (Sexual offences / drug unit)
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Women Children & Poverty Alleviation :Child Welfare Unit.

PTSM 2020 Training

The Part Time Student Mentor [PTSM] programme involved the engagement of Retired teachers who will act as a student mentor in selected schools. The programme initially started in 2018 and has continued since then because of the positive impact it has created in school. This year the Hon Minister of Education gave her full support for the PTSM programme as there are no counsellor in schools to provide the psychological support needed for the students. PTSM has filled the gap in the last two years in selected schools. For the past 2 years, reports from



2020 PTSM

school heads indicated that the PTSM program have brought about positive changes to the students behavior of those who were under their care.

All the PTSM joining this year had to give their expression of interest and 2 were selected based on their experience and

willingness to help students who are "At Risk" in schools. A total of 31 PTSM were selected and attended a 2 days training . They were all contracted for 1 year.

The Substance Abuse Advisory Council acknowledged the support of the various stakeholders i.e Fiji Police Force, Min of Women & Children and Poverty Alleviation, Ministry of Health ,Peace Building Fiji and Online safety Commission in the facilitation of training organized for the 2020 PTSM.

SAAC COUNSELLING SERVICE

FACE TO FACE COUNSELLING

SAAC also provides counselling services to students, parents and community members. Nearly all student cases were referrals made from school by the school heads. The student presenting issues were usually drugs and substances, violence, sex related, cyber crime, and mental health issues. In the first three months of this year, a total of 138 counselling cases were seen at SAAC. There were 99 new cases and 39 ongoing. All cases were followed up to assess the progress made by the clients. A total of 35 clients showed improvement and there were 12 successful cases.

Child abuse cases

Teachers were repeatedly reminded that all cases of child abuse or neglect to be reported quickly to Child Welfare Unit by filling the Child Welfare Act form.

Referral

SAAC usually works closely with other stakeholders in referring cases that need further professional help. This include :

- ♦ Ministry for social welfare, women and poverty alleviation —child welfare unit
- ♦ Ministry Health
- ♦ Police
- ♦ Empower Pacific
- ♦ Medical Services Pacific (MSP)

COUNSELLORS PROVIDE:

- ⇒ Individual / Group Counselling
- ⇒ Alcohol & other drugs [AOD] counselling / General counselling
- ⇒ Advocacy / Awareness for students'
- ⇒ Support to teachers & parents



COUNELLING LINES

Substance Abuse Advisory Council—
[MEHA]

7734181 / 7734182

NATIONAL CHILD HELPLINE [TOLL
FREE] **1325**

1325

TRAINING OF TRAINERS SUVA

The Substance Abuse Advisory Council facilitated a three day (04/03/20) – 06/03/20) training of trainers (TOT) workshop at St Joseph Hall, Suva. A total of 45 school Assistant Principals represented their schools.

The main objective of this workshop is to furnish school administrator's with relevant documents and information which will equip



2020 Suva-TOT Participants

them to curb various issues faced in their respective schools today.

The following stakeholders also presented on various issues; i.e

- Ministry of Women Children & Poverty Alleviation: Child Welfare Unit



Presentation by Ms Anne Dunn, of Online Safety Commission, Fiji

- Fiji Police – (Drug Unit / Cyber Crime / Sexual Offences Unit)
- Online Safety Commission/
- Pacific Centre for Peace Building
- Ministry of Health - Wellness

The 3 day workshop was a suc-



SEO Suva—Mrs Serenia Suva— Presenting certificate to one of the participants

cessful one. The participants were imparted with relevant information via presentations from various stakeholders, booklet, handout, power-point slides, group activities and presentations. The training of trainer's workshop was closed with certificate presentation and closing remarks by the Senior Education Officer Suva, Mrs. Serenia Seru. The 3 days workshop was indeed informative, and enriching for school administrators.

TRAINING OF TRAINERS NAUSORI

The Substance Abuse Advisory Council facilitated a three day (11/03/20) – 13/03/20) training of trainers (TOT) workshop at Hexagon Hall., Nausori. The main objective of this workshop is to furnish school administrator's with relevant documents and information which will equip them to curb various issues faced in their

school safe for children and teachers. SAAC stakeholders were invited to facilitate informative sessions. These included :

- ♦ Ministry of Women, Children & Poverty Alleviation: Child welfare Unit.
- ♦ Fiji Police – (Drug Unit / Cyber Crime / Sexual Offences Unit)



The Heath Team, ready to conduct health screening



2020 Nausori ToT Participants

respective schools. A total of 47 teachers within the Nausori education district partake in the training. .

The workshop saw various interactive activities such as the formulation of SOP's, making the

- ♦ Pacific Centre for Peace Building
- ♦ Ministry of Health (Nausori Health Centre) - Wellness.

All participants went through

medical check-up so they know their health status. The SAAC team explained various counselling intervention tactics for the participants to learn - which will equip them to assist students who are "At Risk" in school.

The workshop was officially closed by Divisional Education Officer—Central Mr Parvin Nath with certificate presentation.



Mr Josua Naisele (A/CEO-SAAC) facilitating a session on good parenting skills

UPCOMING EVENTS:

The following are important events that NSAAC supports and align with:

1. JUNE 26th — International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking Theme: "OUR HEALTH, OUR LIFE OUR RESPONSIBILITY".
2. Mental Health Awareness Month— 18th—24th May
3. 31ST MAY—WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY.

**Did You
KNOW** 

CONTACT US:



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Substance Abuse Advisory provides Counselling services.

**Our counselling lines are:
7734181 / 7734182**

The Substance Abuse Advisory Council of Fiji (SAAC) has a role to develop a comprehensive research and education effort into substance abuse prevention in the Republic of Fiji. SAAC aims to create a drug free environment in our communities. SAAC was established on the 1st of March 1999, under the Ministry of Education.



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