



MOBILE ME

Using Technology to Empower People with Disability

"How do we improve accessibility and lifestyles for people with disability in Fiji?" This question, asked at the *Pacific Connect* Dialogue on Assistive Technology (July 2019, Fiji) sparked an innovative collaborative project between Australian and Pacific Islander technology, business and disability leaders. "All persons with disabilities have the following rights - to resemble access to all indoor and outdoor places, public transport and information..." Fiji Government Right of Persons With Disabilities Act 2018 (Act No.4 of 2018) Section 29 (a)

Mobile Me Project Team - Collaboration and Planning In July 2019, a group of individuals attended a *Pacific Connect* Dialogue that facilitated discussion and recognition that there was no map of Suva which identifies easily accessible places for people with disability. Out of the Dialogue, the *Mobile Me Project* was formed. After months of collaboration and planning, the *Mobile Me Project* was provided financial support by the International Centre for Democratic Partnerships (ICDP) for the development of a mobile app to collect accessibility data by Australian technology company Common Code (a member of the *Pacific Connect* Community).

Mobile Me Mapathon - Inclusion and Celebration On International Day of People with Disability (2019), the *Mobile Me* Team launched Phase 1 of the project via a coordinated, street-level data collection (mapathon) in the Suva business district. Over 100 volunteers collected more than 300 pieces of data using the easy-to-use mobile app that stores the type, location and description of infrastructure.

Through *Pacific Connect*, ICDP brings together Australian business and emerging with Pacific Islander counterparts to deliver locally led solutions to challenges, and to create an active network of engaged change makers. *Pacific Connect* - Offering a powerful platform for cross-Pacific collaboration and relationship-building. Creating informal, consultative environments that encourage positive, fresh-thinking and personal interest in achieving practical results.

PARTNERS: Fiji Disabled Peoples Federation, Pacific Disability Forum, CommonCode (Aust), HFC Bank, Pasifika Australia, Insight Collective Group (Aust), Vspatial GIS Consultancy (Fiji)

Tangible outcomes

- Development of a mobile app that can map accessible key services and locations for people with disability. (Phase 1)
- Collection of valuable data to provide to all industry sectors to assist in the development of disability infrastructure and the revision of building codes. (Phase 2)
- Development of a one-stop online services platform to enable access to mapped data, disability service & goods providers, and to create employment opportunities to empower People with Disability (Phase 3).

What's next?

Phase 1 raised significant awareness and stakeholder interest in Suva. The *Mobile Me* team will progress work on Phases 2 & 3 and ICDP will support broader usage of the app across the Pacific through its networks.

"To bring the diversity of expertise, business and organisational backgrounds in a collaborative way, has been really informative, insightful and conducive to growth and productivity." - Fiji Dialogue participant