

FEBRUARY

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Pacific Sexual Diversity Network  
Research & Leadership Workshop  
The Peninsula Hotel, Suva Fiji

**Pacific Sexual Diversity Network**  
**Research & Leadership Workshop**  
**16<sup>th</sup> February – 26<sup>th</sup> February 2009**  
**The Peninsula Hotel**  
**Suva, Fiji**

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**ACRONYMS:**

PSDN	Pacific Sexual Diversity Network
ACON	AIDS Council Of New South Wales
AFAO	Australian Federation of AIDS Organizations
S.F.A	Samoa Fa'afafine Association.
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection.
PLWHA	People Living With HIV & AIDS
TTA	Te Tiare Association (Cook Islands)
TLA	Tongan Leiti's Association
SAF	Samoa AIDS Foundation

**Participants:**

***Samoa:***

Ken Moala (PSDN Secretariat)  
Fagalima Tuatagaloa (Vice President SFA)  
Resitara Apa (PSDN Project Officer)

***Tonga:***

Joey Mataele (Founder/Executive Member TLA)  
Patrick Mila (Executive Member TLA)

***Cook Islands:***

Teokotai Paitai (Te Tiare Association Vice Secretary)  
Teautoa Vaepeua (Te Tiare Association Member)

***Papua New Guinea:***

Thomas Kawage (The National Research Institute POM, Research Officer)  
George Raubi (Huon Friends, President)

## ***Fiji***

Lepani Kaiwalu (MENFiji Chairman)

Atunasia Dokonivalu (MENFiji)

Marcus Deo (Amithi Fiji)

Deepesh Naucker (Amithi Fiji)

### **1. Title**

#### **PSDN Research & Leadership Workshop**

AmFAR the Foundation for AIDS Research based in New York [www.afar.org](http://www.afar.org) was responsible for the Research Component and the Leadership Component was sponsored by the AusAid Consortium under the auspices of ACON and AFAO. This workshop was organized so that members from the PSDN could access resources and knowledge to support their work within their organizations.

### **2. Facilitators and Organizers.**

#### *Facilitators:*

#### **Research Component**

(Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society,  
La Trobe University Melbourne, Australia)

DR Stephen McNally

DR Jeffery Grierson

#### **Leadership Component**

MR Stephen Scott, Manager International Programs ACON Sydney Australia.

MR Dave Traynor, Manager International Programs AFAO Sydney Australia.

Both Workshops were held at The Peninsula Hotel Suva, Fiji Conference Room. They were to help individual Country Representatives to build on their Research and Leadership so they can further their different Networks abilities to Funding, Lobbying, Advocacy and Media.

### **3. The Objectives for the 10 day Workshop were;**

#### **• MODULES:**

#### **Research Workshop**

1. Introduction to Research/Research and You
2. Community Participation
3. Exploring Research Methodologies
4. How to turn a priority into a Research Project
5. Developing an Effective Advocacy Strategy
6. Getting into the Field/Data Collection
7. Ethics and Research
8. Dealing with ethics and committees/Incorporating ethics into Project

9. Data Analysis/Writing up findings
10. Project Concept Development/Designing a Research Action Plan

### **Leadership Workshop**

1. Introduction to Leadership
2. Community Mobilisation
3. Strategy Planning
4. Skills Training
5. Research Structures
6. Operational Policies

### **Research:**

- That Dr McNally and Dr Grierson from LaTrobe University delivered a Research training program to the PSDN Network, through this the participants held different discussions on Research issues. There was a lot of practical work in developing skills needed for effective research and also a wider understanding on Research.
- Presentations from different PSDN Member Countries were asked to present on the status of Sexual Minorities in their Countries. This is where the participants had different issues pertaining to their individual Countries and how experiences from other PSDN members could help out in their development.
- To provide guidelines for PSDN in Research on what areas they should look at when applying for a fund and the do's and don'ts when applying.
- To ensure that the PSDN will be able to have the capacity when Lobbying for Gender, HIV & AIDS and other issues in their countries and as a region.
- Provide adequate information on Policy Development.
- To enhance all PSDN members to have the ability to provide an effective Research Proposal for each country and also to design a research proposal for two regional studies.

### **Leadership:**

- That the facilitators Mr Stephen Scott and Mr Dave Traynor provide the PSDN members with a comprehensive workshop on Leadership. Other modules relating to leadership were to be incorporated in a later date.
- To ensure that all PSDN members will have the capacity to provide strong Leadership skills.
- To provide guidelines for PSDN in areas of Leadership.
- PSDN Members were given questionnaires on Leadership Skill Building.

#### 4. Outcomes of this 8 day workshop;

- That all members had a strong understanding on Research and Leadership and the different ways of Research/Leadership through HIV and their approaches.
- To have the capacity to build a Research Proposal for each country a Research Proposal for two Regional Studies..
- That the participants had an understanding in writing an effective Research proposal undertake an effective interview and identify and maintain media opportunities and contacts.
- Participants will be able to organize an effective Research document for Proposals.
- That PSDN Members will be able to provide adequate information on Leadership skills and Research documentation.

#### 5. The Way Forward

##### Research:

PSDN Member Countries were asked to have Presentations on Research Proposals:

- ***Cook Islands***: “How Do Sexual Minorities in the Cook Islands Identify Themselves”
- ***Tonga***: “What are the attitudes of straight men towards Transgender”
- ***Samoa***: “Impacts of Community Leaders Attitude towards Faafafine in Samoa”
- ***Papua New Guinea***: “Creating an effective and appropriate advocacy mechanisms for MSM in Papua New Guinea”
- ***Fiji***: “Increase Condom use amongst MSM in Fiji”

The PSDN were asked by the facilitators that they enforce these Research Proposals when back in their Countries

##### Leadership:

- PSDN Member Countries to have their Strategic Plans set-up.
- Operational Policies to be looked at in individual countries and within the PSDN
- PSDN Member Countries will look into their Laws to see where PSDN stands within their constitution.
- To look at in Country National Policies
- To Launch the PSDN Strategic Plan at the 9<sup>th</sup> ICAAP in Bali, Thailand.

- To look at Constitution on policies.
- That there will be more components for the next workshop.
- For the 9<sup>th</sup> ICAAP MS Rachel Le Mesurier (CEO for NZAF) will have a satellite conference with the PSDN available.
- *Draft Strategic Plan*

### **Strategic Planning**

**Organization Name: Pacific Sexual Diversity Network (PSDN)**

#### **Mission:**

PSDN is a regional network of Pacific MSM/ Transgender Organizations whose mission is to strengthen community leadership in the areas of Sexuality, HIV and AIDS, health and Human Rights.

#### **Achievements:**

1. Mobilization of Individuals and Member Country Organization(s)
2. Supporting establishments of new organization (s)
3. Develop partnerships with Regional and International Organization(s) like APCOM, UNAIDS, ACON, AFAO, NZAF and PIAF
4. Provide Safe environment for members and unity within the member countries and the Network
5. Raise profile about Pacific MSM Transgender issues, concerns, priorities at National, Regional and Global levels.

#### **Current Successes and Strengths**

1. Partnership and Relationship building between member organization and key stakeholders
2. Developing capacities of MSM's, Transgender (Skills & Knowledge e.g. Advocacy & Research)
3. Increase visibility ( Fundraising for the good cause e.g. Australian Bush fire)
4. Initiating increase involvement at Country and Regional level
5. Increasing awareness on safer sex Practices and STI / HIV & AIDS knowledge
6. GIPA involvement – Increase meaningful participation of PLWH

#### **Current Challenges and Weaknesses**

1. Geographical Constraints
2. Resources (Financial/ Technical)
3. GIPA involvement to be ongoing
4. Diverse cultures in the Pacific – diversity within the Network
5. Communication ( PSDN and member countries)
6. Capacities in key areas like Policy analysis, advocacy and project management
7. Stigma and discrimination
8. Set up an office for PSDN to operate.

### **What do we want to achieve?**

#### ***Goal 1:***

- Improve knowledge and understanding of MSM/ Transgender, HIV and AIDS related issues

#### ***Strategies:***

- To develop capacity in research for PSDN member countries
- To share knowledge and information on MSM transgender and HIV and AIDS related issues

#### ***Objectives:***

- Effective Communication mechanism in place (e-forum)
- PSDN member countries representatives equipped with Research capacity
- Research on MSM/ Transgender and HIV and AIDS related issues has been conducted

#### ***Goal 2:***

- To reduce Stigma and Discrimination against MSM's / Transgender and PLWHIV

#### ***Strategies:***

- To advocate for greater community acceptance
- To educate key stakeholders and the community on MSM's and Transgender

- To advocate for equitable access to quality appropriate friendly health services
- To lobby for legal reform with respect to sexual diversity

***Objectives:***

- Established partnership with national and Regional (Law Agencies)
- Health Care Provider provided Training on quality MSM's/ Transgender friendly services
- Key people in the Community publicly speaking in support of MSM/ Transgender(s)

***Goal 3:***

- Improved capacity of MSM, transgender (s) to effectively respond to HIV and AIDS/ STI's amongst MSM's and Transgender(s)

***Strategies:***

- To advocate for adequate resources to effectively respond to HIV and AIDS amongst MSM/ Transgender(s) communities
- To provide and facilitate training for PSDN member organization
- To maintain connections between National, Regional and International Organizations with similar objectives (LGBT Organization(s) ).

***Objectives:***

- Ongoing communication between key national, Regional and International stakeholders
  - PSDN Member countries equipped with proposal writing skills
- Increased commitment from key agencies in response to HIV amongst MSM and Transgender(s)

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:**

We would like to convey our sincere gratitude to APCOM for providing the financial assistance of \$4,500 USD for the hosting of the Partners and Stakeholders Meeting which was held on the 20 February 2009 at the Holiday Inn Function Centre and also the opportunity extended to the members of MEN Fiji and Amithi, who were able to attend the workshops . The Secretariat and Members of PSDN are deeply indebted to APCOM for this kind assistance.

We trust this will be continuous show of support throughout the coming months.

Thank you Shivananda Khan and the Board of APCOM for your kind consideration and generosity.

## **6. Conclusion.**

On conclusion of the Leadership workshop it was noted from all that there would be a follow up workshop on this component in June 2009 pending on Funding. The workshop for most of the participants has given them a wider and broader approach on their Advocacy Skills, Policy Planning, Strategic Planning and Leadership Skills, Grant writing and Research Policy Building.

On a closing note I would like to say to all the PSDN that attended this workshop, congratulations in being and becoming stronger Advocates for PSDN and also for your communities I know that all have walked away with a lot more knowledge than when we arrived there I for one can vouch for that.

Resitara Apa  
Samoa AIDS Foundation  
PSDN Project Officer

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