

BIODATA: LAISANI PETERSEN



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WORK EXPERIENCE

Child Protection Officer

April 2007- date UNICEF Pacific Office, Suva. Fiji

- Analyze and support Programme Progress and evaluate against established programs and plans of action (Annual Work Plans) with Outputs related to Social Welfare Systems in Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji and Samoa
- Support collection of Data and Information through a Baseline Research for Project Planning, management, monitoring and evaluation purposes
- Assist Government counterparts in reviewing Work Plans and related documents as required including Mid-Year and Annual reviews
- Report Outcomes of analysis proposing corrective actions
- Visit UNICEF Project sites, assess local conditions and resources monitoring UNICEF inputs
- Communication with local counterparts and authorities on project feasibilities and effectiveness including monitoring flow of supply and non-supply assistance specifically in relation to Fiji's Annual Work Plan
- Follow Up on the review of materials for the Communication for Social Change Plan
- Identify and assist in selecting technical services, supplies and equipment required for program implementation
- Select, compile and organize training for involved program implementation and conduct training when required
- Evaluate and analyze financial and supply reports to ensure appropriateness of documentation, expenditure are within allotments.

- Coordinate Emergency Issues within the Child Protection Team specifically responsible for the Emergency Preparedness Plan and as a conduit for information sharing as member of the UNICEF Pacific Emergency Response Team.
- Conduct training of government partners on Child Protection In Emergencies
- Draft relevant sections of reports (required for donors, management and annual reports)
- Represent Staff Relations (in capacity as Chair of the Pacific Staff Association & the East Asia Pacific Region).

National Program Manager

September 2001 – March 2007 Pacific Children’s Program, Suva. Fiji

- Supervise Work Plans and implementation of three Community Program Officers and Program Administrator engaged on the Pacific Children’s Program in Fiji
- Report regularly on the progress of the Pacific Children’s Program to the Assistant Director, Child and Family Services, Finance Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Women, Social Welfare and Poverty Alleviation (MWSWPA)
- Work in close liaison with other key staff in the MWSWPA in particular at Divisional level, to link prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect to other efforts in the Ministry to promote Child Welfare and the rights of Women in Fiji
- Responsible for consolidation of quarterly program planning, expenditure forecasting, narrative and financial reporting on the Program in Fiji
- Maintain close contact with other government and non-government officers who are a part of the National Coordinating Committee on Children (NCCC) and the Inter Agency Committee on Child Abuse, Neglect and Abandonment
- Travel regularly in Fiji to assist the implementation of activities at Divisional, District and Community level to promote community based child protection
- Coordinate production and utilization of all information, Education and Communication strategy and activities
- Coordinate the organization and implementation of annual national campaigns for prevention of child abuse and neglect and support other national events for children such as National Children’s Day
- Coordinate the implementation of the community Small Grants Scheme
- Support the development and implementation of monitoring and evaluation of PCP activities (Facilitation Package implementation, small grants scheme, IEC and advocacy activities) in liaison with PCP staff, other ministry staff and partner organizations
- Support the work of PCP short term technical advisors occasionally assisting country teams to develop new strategies and programs

- Maintain appropriate records and files to assist ongoing implementation and monitoring of program activities
- Review and recommend improvements on community prevention training and IEC strategy and materials as required from time to time and propose new materials for communities as the need arises.
- Develop and assist partners to implement agreed methods to monitor and evaluate the outcomes of the Program activities and strategies, ensuring a participatory and strongly gendered approach (gender disaggregated data, gender perspectives on roles of males and females)
- Support KABP Surveys and contribute to analysis, distribution of results and implementation for planning purposes
- Participate and contribute ideas based on experience to Regional Program Planning, review meetings and other technical workshops and conferences.

Divisional Senior Social Welfare Officer

February 1987 – August 2001

**Ministry of Women, Social Welfare and Poverty
Alleviation**

- Court Work:

- Governed by the Juvenile s Act; Probation of Offenders Act; Adoption of Infants Act and Matrimonial Causes Act (now Family Law Act)
- Investigative Reporting for Custody and Access of Children; Means Tests for maintenance; Guardian Ad Litem Reports for the adoption of infants; Social Enquiry/Background reports for juvenile offenders and probationers and affiliation cases for children.

- Family Assistance Scheme (now Income Support), Care & Protection Allowance and Income Generating Projects for the underprivileged:

- Facilitate payment of financial support and in kind for families in need (based on certain criteria under various categories) and means testing
- Assessment of circumstances that necessitate financial support for children in need of assistance (Care & Protection Allowance for children in kinship and institutional care)
- Referrals to NGOs for assistance in kind for very needy families
- Assist potential clientele to be weaned off the Family Assistance Scheme through identified Poverty Alleviation/Income generating projects

- Generic Responsibilities

- Marriage counseling for couples as per advice of the Domestic Court and submitting associated reports based on nature of disagreements
- Placement of children in residential care and kinship care with needed support after thorough assessments
- Cross sectoral conferences when necessary or called by the courts

EDUCATION

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| March 2011 | Masters in International Relations & Diplomacy University of the South Pacific, Suva. Fiji |
| 1995-1999 | Bachelor of Social Work , University of Western Sydney, Bankstown, New South Wales |
| 1992-1994 | Diploma in Community Development , University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji |

VOLUNTARY WORK

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| 2002-2006 | Field Instructors for Social Work Students from <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ University of Western Sydney-Australia▪ James Cook University – Australia▪ University of Queensland – Australia▪ Brigham Young University – Hawaii |
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GLOBAL CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION & PRESENTATIONS

3-6 January 2009 World Congress 2009: New Delhi, India. Giving Children a Voice: The Transforming Role of a Family in a Global Society ***“Building on Strengths &***

Synergies – A Strategy for Achieving the Best Outcomes for our Children in Fiji”

- 4-7 June 2007 Indigenous Social Workers Conference, Makaha, Hawaii. Indigenous Voices in Social Work: Not lost in Translation. ***“A Professional Social Work Association on a Pacific Island – The Fiji Experience”***
- Nov 19-22 2006 World Forum 2006, Vancouver, Canada. Future Directions in Child Welfare. ***“Building On Strengths within Communities to Bring the Best Outcomes for Children in Fiji”***
- 2-5 October 2004 Global Social Workers Congress, Adelaide. Australia. Reclaiming Civil Societies ***“Capacity Building in Communities in Fiji for Child Protection”***.

SKILLS

- Languages:** English – Good; Fijian – Good; Hindi – Basic
- Computing:** Microsoft Office (Access, Excel, Internet Explorer, Outlook, Power point, Word)

REFERENCES

Available on Request.