

Tonga Rehabilitation and Mobility project



Strengthening rehabilitation, mobility device services and diabetic foot care at Vaiola Hospital, Nuku'alofa.

The Tonga Rehabilitation and Mobility (TRaM) project is a two year and five month project (February 2018 to June 2020) implemented in partnership by Motivation Australia and the Tongan Ministry of Health.

Together we will:

- Create consistent, equitable and sustainable access to appropriate mobility devices.
- Increase access to rehabilitation and other services to prevent secondary complications for those at risk, including children and adults with disabilities, NCDs and the frail aged.

The TRaM project will achieve this by strengthening the capacity of the current physiotherapy department, and expanding mobility device services.

Project activities include: renovating and equipping new facilities, training a range of personnel (both in Tonga and overseas), creating service systems, purchasing a stock of appropriate devices, and expanding the scope of services provided at Vaiola Hospital.

Need for services

Many clients require rehabilitation in Tonga due to non-communicable diseases that result in secondary complications such as stroke and amputations.

Due to the number of diabetic related amputations in Tonga, the expanded physiotherapy department will also work closely with the National Diabetes Centre to expand diabetic foot care services.

Rehabilitation is one of the five key areas of Universal Health Coverage, as detailed in Tonga's National Strategic Health Plan 2015-2020. Prioritising rehabilitation is important because it can reduce the impact of disability and functional loss. All people will likely require some form of rehabilitation and/or assistive technology at some point in their life.

Mobility devices such as wheelchairs, walking aids, prosthetic and orthotic devices can improve a person's health, independence and participation in their community.

Diabetic Foot Care is a key service for preventing and treating diabetic foot wounds, in order to reduce the numbers of avoidable diabetic amputations. Orthotic offloading devices are used to aid wound healing.

Project partners

The Ministry of Health is responsible for the delivery of health services in Tonga. The expanded mobility device services of the physiotherapy department at Vaiola Hospital, will be staffed by trained

Tongan personnel during and after the project.

Motivation Australia is a not for profit disability and development organisation that works in partnership with local organisations to enhance the quality of life of people in the Asia Pacific region, including rural and remote Australia.

Project funders

The project is funded by the Ministry of Health, with funds provided through the Australian Government's Disability Inclusive Development (DID) programme.

TRaM project partners also acknowledge LDS Charities who are supporting the service by donating a range of appropriate wheelchairs and walking aids.

If you are interested in more information about the project please contact:

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