



2006 Annual Report

Advocating for Rights & Promoting Abilities
of People with Disabilities since 1999



DPA at work

**from the remotest
villages and islands
in Vanuatu
to the chambers of
the United Nations
in New York!**

**DPA IS A SELF-HELP NATIONAL UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION OF AND FOR
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN VANUATU & THE NGO FOCAL POINT IN
VANUATU FOR THE BIWAKO MILLENNIUM FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION
TOWARD THE ASIAN & PACIFIC DECADE OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITY
2003-2012**



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This report was compiled by Andonia Piau-Lynch, National Coordinator. Information contained in this report may be used by individuals and organizations as long as DPA is properly acknowledged.

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FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF DPA

VALUE OF LIFE

We believe that the life of a person with disability has equal value to, and shall be accorded the same rights, dignity and respect as that of a person without an obvious disability.

HUMAN RIGHTS

We believe in the equal rights of men and women and that we have equal rights as all other citizens of Vanuatu including the right to participate in all aspects of spiritual, social, economic and political life and that these rights must be protected and promoted.

EQUALITY OF MEN AND WOMEN

We believe in the equality of men and women and promote non discrimination on the basis of sex.

NON-DISCRIMINATION BASED ON SEX

We believe that discrimination based on sex is contrary to our belief in the equality between men and women. We therefore advocate for non - discrimination based on Article 1 of the UN Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and will work toward promoting non-discrimination within DPA and in the nation.

PARTNERSHIP

We believe in the inspirational words of Helen Keller that “Alone we can do so little, but together we can do so much” and will work with individuals, community groups, national and international development organizations that have similar values.

VALUE OF VOLUNTEERS

We acknowledge and value the work that Volunteers give from their hearts and treasure their commitments to provide this invaluable service to the betterment of humanity.

Adopted in June 2006 at the Annual General Meeting

1 INTRODUCTION

The 2006 Annual Report of DPA provides a summary of activities carried out during the year by the Secretariat as well as the Affiliates of DPA. For easy reading it is divided into several parts following as follows:

Part 1 introduces the report and outlines DPA's aims and how it is administered

Part 2 outlines the legal obligations of the organization

Part 3 reports on programmes undertaken by the Secretariat

Part 4 reports on the activities by the Women with Disabilities Committee

Part 5 reports on what activities the Affiliates have done

Part 6 reports on the training and meetings attended in 2006

Part 7 reviews the 2006 plans and what DPA expects to do in 2007

Part 8 reports on the financial situation

Part 9 acknowledges those who have supported DPA throughout 2006

1.1 Aims of DPA

DPA was formed on 4 April 1999. Becoming aware of the 1st Asia Pacific Decade for Persons with Disabilities 1993-2002, the first decision of the Interim Committee to establish this organization agreed to work toward the following aims:

- a) To advocate for rights and promote abilities of persons with disability throughout Vanuatu;
- b) To lobby the national government for the establishment of a National Disability Council which shall be a permanent body with adequate infrastructural support with representation from government agencies, non-governmental organization including representation from persons with disability and organizations working with and for people with disabilities;
- c) To ensure that the Mandate for Actions during the Asia Pacific Decade of Persons with Disability 1993-2002 are implemented;
- d) To raise awareness that people with disability have the same as rights as any one else, no more, no less.
- e) To liaise, promote and support persons with disability, caregivers, family members, communities, non-governmental organizations and governmental agencies to recognize and promote these objectives;
- f) To promote and support the establishment of branches in each province to promote the above aims;
- g) To provide training and other skills for people with disability in order to promote their organizations to participate fully in all levels of society.

In 2002 when the 2nd Asia Pacific Decade of Persons with Disability was extended from 2003-2012 and the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action toward the second Decade was declared, DPA embraced this second decade and have since advocated its support for the implementation of the BMF in the country as well as regionally. In 2004 DPA was recognized by the Asia Pacific Development Centre on Disability (APCD) as the NGO Focal Point for the BMF in Vanuatu.

2006 marks DPA's 7th year of advocacy work carried out voluntarily by members and friends - by adults and children alike, by persons with disabilities and those without an obvious disability - throughout the country. Advocacy from government officials and NGOs themselves to include disability issues on national programmes attest to the success of the approach taken by DPA to be inclusive of all without DPA being physically present. There are some of the glimmerings of hope that the seeds sown over these year are bearing fruit.

1.2 ADMINISTRATION & HUMAN RESOURCES

The Secretariat of DPA is located within the office of the Vanuatu Society for Disabled People in Port Vila. It has a branch in Santo and operates out of the Department of Women's Affairs office. In 2006 the human resources of DPA consisted of 9 fulltime volunteers throughout Vanuatu located in the following areas:

DPA Secretariat	: 2 Volunteers (National Coordinator & 1 Volunteer)
EDA	: 1 Volunteers (Advocator)
Frangipani Association	: 4 Volunteers (Advocators)
Loh Disability Group	: 1 Volunteer (Advocator)
Nisivung Association	: 1 Volunteer (Advocator)

Members of the Coordinating Committee also play a leading role in the advocacy work. This is seen clearly in the roles played by John Suran, Chair of DPA who has been intimately involved with the development of the UN Disability Convention; Nelly Caleb, Vice Chair who also coordinated the advocacy work for the Women with Disabilities Unit in Santo and Dorien Naliupis, Coordinator of the Frangipani Association who also acts as the principle manager of the Frangipani Kids programme in that association.

2 FULFILLMENT OF DPA'S LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

2.1 Legal Status

DPA was legally registered as a charitable organization on 13 September 2002 under the Charitable Organizations Act, Chapter 140. As a legal entity with an approved constitution, there are a number of requirements that must be fulfilled by DPA, one of which is to hold a general meeting of members on an annual basis.

2.2 Annual General Meeting

In 2006 this legal requirement was fulfilled when DPA held its Annual General Meeting on the island of Motalava in the TORBA Province (see map on the back cover). This year's meeting was kindly hosted by the Etveglala Dendeh Association (or EDA for short) and supported by the community on Motalava. DPA was honoured to have the presence of His Excellency Kalkot Matas Kelekele, Head of State & Patron of DPA and the First Lady as well as John Ezra, representing the Hon Minister for Justice and Social Welfare.

At the 2006 Annual General Meeting, 45 delegates from the provinces of TORBA, SHEFA and MALEKULA attended the meeting. The Annual General Meeting endorsed the decisions of the Coordinating Committee, including the approval of seven affiliates, seven policies and the location of the 2007 Annual General Meeting.

HE KALKOT MATAS KELEKELE, HEAD OF STATE AND PATRON OF DPA MEETS PEOPLE OF MOTALAVA AT THE OPENING OF THE 2006 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



The Patron's visit to Motalava opened the eyes, ears and hearts of the people particularly on Motalava in the TORBA Province. Awareness of the role of an advocacy group such as DPA was further strengthened through the large presence of members, all of whom had different types of disability. The impact of having the Head of State attend the meeting, and being accompanied by the Secretary General of the Province spoke volume of where the Head of State places people with disability and their organization.

2.3 Activities carried out the Coordinating Committee

The Coordinating Committee is elected by the Annual General Meeting every two years. Section 10(b) of DPA's constitution states that

The Coordinating Committee shall consists of seven members including the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, one parent/caregivers representative,

and two members at large. 51 percent of the Coordinating Committee members shall be persons with disability.

Section 10(c) of the constitution requires that the positions of Chair, Treasurer and Secretary be reserved for members who reside where the headquarters of DPA is located. The position of Vice-Chair is to be reserved for a member from a provinces other than where the DPA headquarters is located. As indicated in 2005, we are pleased to report that all these legal obligation have been fulfilled. The members of the Coordinating Committee from 2005-2006 are:

John Suran	Chair	SHEFA Province
Nelly Caleb	Vice-Chair	SANMA Province
Treasurer	Leitangi Solomon	SHEFA Province
Secretary	Roger Whitley	SHEFA Province
Members	John Votleng	TORBA Province
	Leisel Sope	SHEFA Province
	Dorian Naliupis	Parent/Caregiver, SANMA Province

A new Committee will be elected at the 2007 Annual General Meeting.

Between April 2005 and February 2007 three Coordinating Committee meetings were held. The decisions taken include the following:

i. Approval of 7 community based organizations to become affiliates

For the first time since 1999, the Annual General Meeting n 2006 endorsed seven community based organizations in four provinces as affiliates of DPA. These affiliates are:

1. Etveglala Dendeh Association (EDA), Motalava, established in 2002
2. Frangipani Association, Luganville, established in 2003
3. Niumti Nisivung Committee, Tomman Island, established in 2005
4. Vanmolmol Association, South Santo, established in 2005
5. Loh Disability Group, Torres, established in 2005
6. Kira Tetasien, Port Vila, established in 2005
7. Temtem Committee, Gaua, established in 2006

Four committees were formed on the island of Epi, SHEFA Province and have yet to be affiliated to DPA. The two provinces of PENAMA and TAFEA have yet to be organized for establishing self help organizations to advocate for rights of people with disabilities.

ii. Approval of 7 Policies

In view of the changes taking place within the organization, including the increase in the number of volunteers and Affiliates, the Secretariat prepared seven policies in

December 2005. These were presented at the 2006 Annual General Meeting and unanimously endorsed. Today DPA has the following policies in place:

1. Policy on Non-Discrimination
2. Policy on Equal Opportunity
3. Policy on Equity
4. Policy on Sexual Harassment
5. Policy on Volunteers
6. Policy on Loans
7. Policy on Consultancies

iii. Endorsement of the Fundamental Principles of DPA

Also at the 2006 Annual General Meeting, members endorsed the Fundamental Principles of DPA as guiding light for what we stand for and how to carry forward our vision to create a society that is just. These principles are provided on page iv of the report.

iv. Approval of establishing an Executive Committee

Due to the high cost of bringing committee members either to Port Vila or to another location such as Luganville or Motalava, the decision was taken that an Executive Committee comprising the Chair, Treasurer and Secretary who are all based in Port Vila be mandated to carry out the work of the Coordinating Committee in between Annual General Meetings.

v. Approval of programme for the 2007 Annual General Meeting

The major decision taken by the Executive was to approve the programme for the 2007 Annual General meeting which will be held on the island of Tomman in Malekula (see Map at the end of this report). Again, the main focus of the AGM will be to report on the activities of 2006 but in addition to that, a number of important milestones in the disability movement in both Vanuatu and internationally will be discussed:

- i. Establishment of the National Disability Committee
- ii. Adoption of the United Nations Disability Convention
- iii. Draft National Disability Policy & Plan of Action 2007-2015
- iv. Status of implementation of the BMF by Affiliates and DPA Secretariat
- v. Election of Coordinating Committee

The 2007 Annual General Meeting will be hosted by the Niumti Nisivung Committee.

3 ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY THE SECRETARIAT, PORT VILA

3.1 Support for United Nation's Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disability

DPA can hold its head high knowing the part it played in the history of the Disability Convention! Congratulations to John Suran who was the Vanuatu Government's appointed representative to participate at the UN Ad Hoc Committee. DPA takes this opportunity to particularly thank Heidi Forest, President of PWD Australia, who initiated Suran to participate and make interventions during the Ad Hoc Committee and for DPA to follow the process for the past three years.

On the 13th of December 2006 at 10.30 am New York time, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Convention. On the 19th of December DPA celebrated this momentous occasion in Port Vila. Attending the celebrations were the Patron of DPA and the First Lady. DPA is very much indebted to John's commitment to this process and congratulates him on being one of the few Pacific Islanders whose Government has continuously supported him to represent the voice of people with disabilities in Vanuatu on the international scene.



John Suran in New York, August 2006



Photo from right to left:
Therese Sands, Deputy Director, PWD Australia
Faye Druett, Vice President, PWD Australia
DPA's National Coordinator

Moves by DPA to have Vanuatu sign the Convention began in September 2006. It is expected that Vanuatu will become a party to the Convention in 2007.

While moves have been made at the national level to have the Convention signed, there is still a lot of work that must be done internally to ensure that the Convention is implemented by Government and monitored by disability organizations including DPA. This is one major area of focus that DPA must address in the coming years. With its current status as a totally voluntary organization, this will prove a major challenge despite the hard work that has been undertaken over

the past couple of years. Again, core support to DPA to enable it to work effectively as an advocacy group is an urgent necessity.

3.2 Participation on the National Disability Committee

On 2 February 2006 the Council of Ministers approved the formalization of the National Disability Committee and its members. This is a direct result of the BMF awareness we held in November 2005 so DPA is pleased to report this historic event. The duties of the Committee are to develop policies following the national disability policy directives approved in April 2004. The membership of the Committee include: Department of Strategic Management (Chair of the Committee); Department of Education; Department of Health; Department of Economic & Sectoral Planning; National Statistics Office; Department of Public Utilities; Government Training Unit; DPA, Vanuatu Society for Disabled People and VANDISPORTS. Two members of DPA, John Suran and Leisel Sope, are represented on the National Disability Committee in addition to one representative from the Vanuatu Society for Disabled People and one representative from VANDISPORTS.

3.3 Continuing Support to VANDISPORTS



[Photo by Jennifer Tatangis,]

In 2006 DPA continued to support members of VANDISPORTS. The support has mainly been directed at the organizational level and the national as well as supporting inclusive designs and access to facilities as contained in the policies adopted by the Department of Sports in October 2006.

Seen from left to right is Mary Estelle Kapalu, Coach for VANDISPORTS, Jean Paul Russet who sponsored Tom Kalmet to get his artificial leg, HE John Pilbeam, Australian High Commissioner, Harriet Bailey, 2nd Secretary, Australian High Commission and National Coordinator

3.4 Drafting of the National Disability Policy & Action Plan 2007-2015

After 26 years since independence and seven years of advocacy, DPA was involved in the drafting of the National Disability Policy & Action Plan 2007-2015. National Coordinator Andy Lynch was tasked with drafting this policy. Wide consultations with disability organizations and affiliates including Frangipani Association (Santo); Flamingo Committee (Luganville); Kira Tetasiem (Port Vila), Loh Disability Group (Torres Islands); Niumti Nisivung (Tomman Island) and Temtem Association (Gaua Island) were held. The draft policy is now being circulated throughout government

departments and NGOs for comments. It is expected that the draft policy will be considered for approval in 2007.

The opportunity to draft the National Disability Policy and Plan of Action 2007-2015 provided Government with an opportunity to include provisions of the UN Disability Convention in its national policy. This is a major achievement taken by Government and one in which DPA is pleased to acknowledge and thank the Office of the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Justice & Social Welfare.

3.5. Completion of the BMF Bislama Translation Project



On the 23rd of June 2005 DPA launched the BMF Bislama Translation Project. On 13 July 2006 the BMF in Bislama was launched in Port Vila!

DPA takes this opportunity to thank and congratulate Dr Robert Early for successfully completing the translation. DPA also takes this opportunity to thank the Government of New Zealand for supporting such an important task.



HE Paul Willis, New Zealand High Commissioner (right) with John Suran, Robert Early and Andy Piau-Lynch at the launching.

3.6 Grant from Government

On the 8th of March 2006, DPA received a total of 754,000 vatu from the Government. This money was used to stage the 2006 Annual General Meeting on Motalava and build the capacity of three affiliates. It is the first time that a disability-specific budget is available for self-help organizations and service providers, the result of years of advocacy by both DPA and the Vanuatu Society for Disabled People for Government to include an item in the national budget. This item was included within the budget of the Ministry of Justice & Social Welfare and was passed by Parliament in 2005.

3.7 Sign Language Project Produces First Graduands

In February 2004 DPA began fundraising for sign language project. In 2005, a volunteer from New Zealand, Chris Farralley met with members of DPA and proposed providing training in sign language. In January 2006 Chris arrived in Port Vila under the umbrella of DPA to teach sign language. Due to the fact that DPA does not work with regular hours (because all its supporters are volunteers), Chris decided move in with the Vanuatu Society for Disabled People.

One additional project that Chris is embarking on is the development of a Bislama Dictionary of Sign Language, another initiative of DPA that he has taken on. Thanks to Chris and congratulations to the first Graduands of the Sign Language Project.

FIRST GRADUANDS OF THE SIGN LANGUAGE PROJECT



Christine signing for Ian during the graduation ceremony at Mele



1st sign language Graduands (l-r) Jerry Poilapa, Ruby Amos, Ken, Christine & Ian

3.8 Submission to the National Language Council to Recognize Sign Language

In April 2006 DPA submitted the following to the National Language Council:

- i. DPA recognizes that while the Policy speaks to people who can talk, there is a need to also consider the needs of people who are not able to speak and/or hear.
- ii. DPA would like to submit that the National Language Council consider inserting a clause that will officially recognize Sign Language as a 'immigrant' language and to promote this mode of communication as another vehicle that people who are deaf can also be included in the development of the nation and have equal access to services such as education, health, tourism and others as included in the current draft policy.
- iii. DPA would also like to submit to the National Language Council to consider Braille as a tool that should be promoted for use in our education system.

As yet there is not indication as to how the Council has received these ideas. The idea to recognize sign language as a recognized language has been promoted by DPA in 2006 and it is hoped that sign language will one day be a national language.

3.9 Advocating for the Ratification of the Optional Protocol to CEDAW

Following the work carried out by DPA in 2005, we continued to lobby for the ratification of the Optional Protocol to CEDAW in 2006 since the UN Disability Convention has adopted this the Communication procedure from the OP-CEDAW. Parliament ratified the OP-CEDAW in December 2006.

3.10 Advocating for Employment Opportunities

On the 9th of May 2006 the National Coordinator held discussion with Air Vanuatu about offering discount airfares for DPA members attending the AGM in Motalava. Another positive outcome from this meeting with Mr Gilles Bourdet, Commercial Manager of Air Vanuatu was an arrangement between the national airline and the Vanuatu Society for Disabled People where 8 people were employed in the catering section by June 2006. Such initiatives by Air Vanuatu provides a real difference to the lives of individuals who otherwise would not be able to get a job. DPA is grateful to Air Vanuatu for taking this first step of partnership between the corporate sector, people with disabilities and disability organizations.

4 ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY THE WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES COMMITTEE, SANTO

4.1 Economic Empowerment of Women with Disabilities

The Women with Disabilities Committee was established in 2003 as one of the units in the DPA Secretariat. In 2006 the major theme for the year was 'Economic Empowerment and Independent Living of Women with Disabilities'. Advocacy and awareness raising was carried out mostly in the SANMA Province by Nelly Caleb, Chair for the Committee¹ by capitalizing opportunities such as International Women's Day (8 March), National Women's Day (15 May) and International Day of Persons with Disabilities (3 December). One of the outcome of this activity saw 16 women with disabilities out of 57 members in Luganville become members of the Savem Festaim scheme.

4.2 Tuanda Association established on 15 May 2006

Another outcome of the advocacy carried out on 15 May saw the establishment of the Tuanda Committee on the island of Tutuba. This association has approximately

¹ Nelly Caleb is the Officer in Charge of the Savem Festaim, a micro-credit scheme of the Department of Women's Affairs in Santo. While Nelly is not a paid staff of the Department, she has successfully operated this scheme since 2003.

47 members and is a committee of and for persons with disabilities. It has yet to be affiliated to DPA.

4.3 Advocacy to Mainstream Women with Disability

For the first time since independence, the DPA was able to participate in the first National Women's Forum in Port Vila organized by the Department of Women's Affairs to review the Beijing Platform for Action for Vanuatu. For the first also, women and girls with disabilities plus caregivers were given prominence in the proceedings as well as the outcome of such a meeting. Some 450 recommendations were adopted at the meeting of which almost all critical areas of the Beijing Platform for Action included concerns about women and girls with disabilities and caregivers.

That such a national forum provided space for DPA to raise the voice of women and girls with disabilities and their caregivers speaks to the background work done by the Secretariat and the Women with Disability Unit of DPA in getting this critical area on the agenda. For the purpose of sharing information to members, the following recommendations were made at the Women's Forum to be actioned by the Department.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S FORUM, AUGUST-SEPT 2006

Recommendations	Activities	Implementing Body
Enforce existing laws to protect women with disability. While there are no laws specifically addressing women with disability, protection under the law is provided in the Constitution as well as other legislation. General Recommendation No. 18 of CEDAW speaks directly to women with disability which should be utilized. The new UN Disability Convention should be ratified by Vanuatu.	To ensure that women/girls with disability have the same rights as able bodied women, legislation needs to be developed to address this.	SLO DWA Public Prosecutor Public Solicitor Ombudsman National Disability Committee Disability organizations
Ensure universal access for all and to facilitate for women and girls with disability and other women who are deaf and/or blind to participate in society	Amend the Building Code to ensure access to public facilities and enforce the amendments	SLO Min Infrastructure & Public Utilities DWA
Conduct national research on disability	Assess the prevalence and nature of disabilities, and the needs of people with disability and position of women with disability	DWA Disability organizations

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S FORUM, AUGUST-SEPT 2006 (CONT.)

Recommendations	Activities	Implementing Body
Implement the National Disability Policy and action regional and international commitments.	Develop policy in line with non-discriminatory provisions of the law, CEDAW, Disability Policy Directives of 2004 and the 2007 Policy on Women with Disability.	Min J&SW SLO Disability organizations
Promote mainstream organizations to include women with disability and caregivers on their Boards, programmes, training and awareness activities.	Lobby mainstream organizations to action this recommendation.	DWA VNCW National women's organizations
Recognize that women with disabilities are doubly discriminated against and ensure that issues affecting them are incorporated into national programmes and policies.	Conduct research into the needs of women with disability in 2007/08 and report back by December 2008.	DWA Disability organizations
Increase the budget of DWA to ensure that Priority 3 of the National Policy Directive can be implemented.	Provide adequate budget and resources to action policies.	Min of Justice & Social Welfare
Support VNCW to develop a policy on Women with Disability with an appropriate budget to support its policy	Follow-up with VNCW to action this recommendation as approved at the National Women's Forum.	Min J&SW DWA VNCW
Recognize Caregivers by developing a strategy with appropriate funding to support them such as a Parents & Caregivers Association	Include programmes in communities, churches, NGOs and Govt	DWA NGOs Disability organizations Caregivers
Ratify the ILO Convention 159 – giving people with disability right to decent work	Follow the practice for ratification of international Conventions.	Foreign Affairs Min of Labour
Increase the VT 2 million budget for disability to VT 6 million	Include this in the Ministry budget to Govt in 2007 for 2008.	Min J&SW
Ratify the UN Disability Convention	Sign on with the United Nations on 5 December 2006 and ratify.	Min J&SW Foreign Affairs SLO

4.4 Membership on the National CEDAW Committee

One major outcome of DPA's advocacy over the years has been to mainstream voices of women with disability in mainstream women's agenda. One positive outcome was the invitation to Vice Chair Nelly Caleb by the Hon Isabelle Donald in March 2006 to sit on the National CEDAW Committee.

5 ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY AFFILIATES

In the 2005 Annual Report, it was reported that

"... much of the work [that] is now [being] carried out in three provinces in Vanuatu by people with disability themselves and their caregivers shows very strongly our belief that people with disability can, and should be the main advocates for their rights and deliver the message that people with disabilities have rights just as any other citizen in the country. The commitment of all members and the recognition of the different stakeholders about DPA as a serious organization has seen much achieved through the partnership with many diverse groups both within and outside of Vanuatu..."

2006 was no different; if anything, the affiliates began to take more initiative and advocate in their own way. Very little support was given to the affiliates in terms of finance; yet the work that they have carried out is being recognized nationally. Below are examples of what the various affiliates have done during the year.

5.1 Etveglala Dendeh Association (EDA), Motalava



[left] John Ninian, Chair of EDA accompanies Head of State (with suit), John Suran, Chair of DPA. Gentleman with hailer is Harry, Secretary of the Area TAG who provided lots of assistance to DPA during the AGM.

EDA is the earliest community-based organization in the TORBA province to embrace DPA's vision and concept of working at the grassroots level to advocate for rights of persons with disability. Started in 2002 by Edgar Howard, EDA has grown in terms of understanding what an advocacy organization is and what self advocates are. Following the 2006 Annual General Meeting, it has now experienced what it is like to be part of a national organization.

5.2 LOH DISABILITY GROUP, TORRES ISLANDS, TORBA PROVINCE

The Loh Disability Group is one of the latest community-based organization to be affiliated with DPA in 2006. Again Edgar Howard played a major role in organizing and advocating in the Torres group of islands. Activities during 2006 consisted of collecting data on the people with disabilities as well as forming a centre for carvers and handicrafts makers.



Edgar Howard delivering wheelchair to member

In collaboration with the Women with Disabilities Committee in Santo, Edgar is hoping for the possibility of starting a regular business enterprise where people with disabilities can sell their goods in Santo.

5.3 FRANGIPANI ASSOCIATION, SANMA PROVINCE

Frangipani continues to play a pivotal role in promoting rights of children, provision of support to parents and caregivers, advocating for universal access to public transport in the SANMA Province. Seizing opportunities such as 3 December and days when the tourist boat come into town, they have had much success in raising the awareness of people in both the urban centre of Luganville as well as in the remote villages on the island of Santo. 2006 saw the 'Frangipani Kids', a popular theatre, perform throughout the province.



Frangipani Kids in 2005



Frangipani Kids on their way to celebrate 3 December 2006 at Rowhani School

Members of the Frangipani Association have come a long way since 2003! Well Done!



Frangipani Kids in 2006

DPA acknowledges the tremendous effort put in by all the Committee members of the Association who have tirelessly advocated for rights of children in schools, churches, community groups from the capital Luganville to the rural communities such as Hog Harbour. Congratulations to Dorian Naliupis, Coordinator for her services which has increased the registration from 5 in 2005 to 85 by 2006. These children and youths are members of the 'Frangipani Kids'.



Community members in Hog Harbour wait to present salusalu to guests on 3 December



Simon communicates by writing on the slate. He is supported by his mother Janet, Secretary of Frangipani Association

For the first time since they were formed, the Frangipani Association was able to prepare their 2006 Annual Report. Well done, Frangipani!

5.4 Niumti Nisivung Committee, Tomman Island, Malekula

Niumti Nisivung was formed in 2005. In 2006 the Coordinator of the Association, Wensor Tom, was able to visit some islands in MALAMPA Province and identified 84 persons with disabilities. Following his visits, six additional committees were established.

Niumti Nisivung will be hosting the 2007 Annual General Meeting. Preparations for the meeting commenced in June 2006. By December 2006, buildings for delegates, accessible toilets and showers were built. An office for the Niumti Nisivung was built which will be opened during the Annual General Meeting.

In July 2005 the Mackenzie-Reur family who have been Friends of DPA since 1999 donated a water tank, a gift which the Secretariat in turn donated to EDA of Motalava. Due to EDA's slowness to pick up the water tank, Niumti Nisivung was able to take it to Tomman Island as part of the preparation for the 2007 AGM.



DPA members & Friends with
Geordie & Votausi Mackenzie-Reur



[l – r] Adamo Missieve, John Suran & Wensor
Tom, Coordinator of Niumti Nisivung

5.5 Kira Tetasien, Port Vila, Shefa Province & TEM TEM, GAUA Island

Kira Tetasien was formed in April 2005 and have elected their committee members. They were not able to carry out any work in 2006.

5.6 Temtem Committee, Gaua Island, TORBA

Temtem Committee of the island were able to carry out some advocacy work but have to strengthen their committee. However, they were able to participate in the consultation on the drafting of the National Disability Policy and Plan of Action.

5.7 Epi Committees, Shefa Province

While not yet affiliated to DPA, four committees have been formed on the island of Epi in the SHEFA Province. This is largely due to the support and active role played by the Hon Isabelle Donald, Member of Parliament for Epi and the Minister for Justice & Social Welfare. She is supported by Api Mowa. It is expected that the 2007 Annual General Meeting will approve their request to become affiliates of DPA.

Other Provinces have yet to organize themselves to become affiliated to DPA.

6 TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

As part of DPA's capacity building programme, members are sent each year for training both within in Vanuatu and overseas. These training come in the form of attendance at meetings as well actual training in specific areas. Not all meetings and trainings in 2006 were reported by affiliates the following training courses and meetings were arranged through the Secretariat.

Date	Name	Meeting / Conference / Training Programme	Organized by	Location
March 2005	Nelly Caleb	Volunteerism	UNITEC / PIANGO	Port Vila, Vanuatu
12-14 June	Nelly Caleb	Pacific Sub-Regional Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) for Persons with Disabilities Training Workshop	Women with Disabilities Network	Nadi, FIJI
17-22 July 2006	John Suran	The Pacific Region & Equality for All: Pacific Youth Festival	Union Polynésienne pour la Jeunesse/SPC	Tahiti
26-30 July 2006	Andonia Piau-Lynch	Support to CBR/DEPASI for the launching of Solomon Islands National Disability Policy & Disability Act	CBR Programme, Department of Health	Honiara, Solomon Islands
September 2006	Willie Sablon & Jerry Poilapa	1 st Pacific Consultation on Disability and the Church	Ecumenical Disability Advocacy Network (EDAN) Pacific Region	Suva, Fiji
August 2006	Andonia Piau-Lynch	UN ESCAP South to South Meeting	Asia Pacific Development Centre on Disability	Bangkok, Thailand

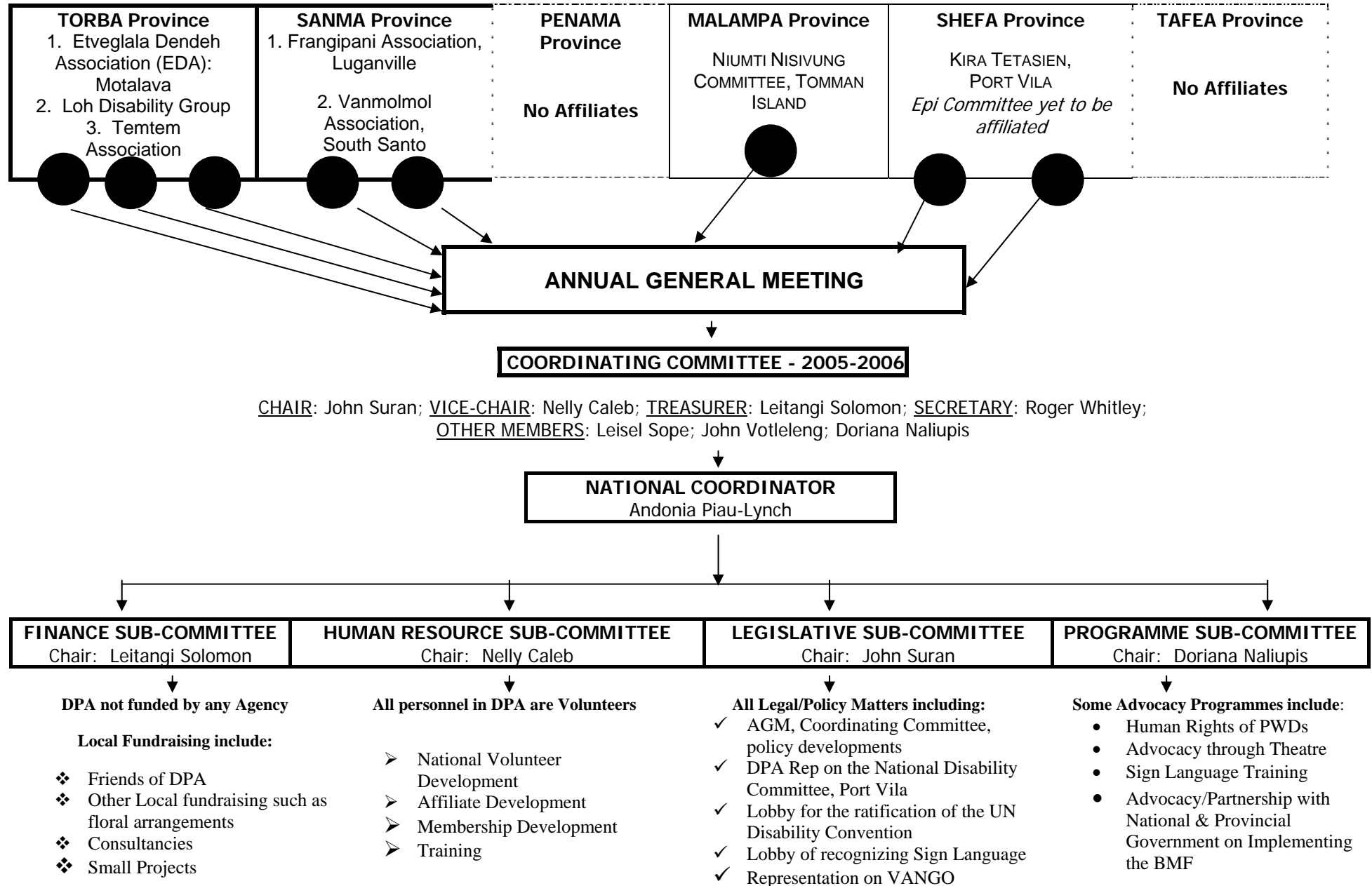


DELEGATES AT THE UN ESCAP / APCD SOUTH TO SOUTH MEETING, BANGKOK

Statement for thought from 1st Pacific Consultation on Disability and the Church:

“Do disabled people make you feel uncomfortable? If so, their greatest handicap could be you and your attitude”

Fig. 1 Organizational Structure of DPA as at 31st December 2006



7. REVIEW OF 2006 PLANS & PLANS FOR 2007

In 2006 a number of activities were planned. A brief review of these activities is provided below.

<i>Identified Needs</i>	<i>What is Required to Meet the Identified Needs</i>	<i>Who can support this requirement</i>	<i>Expected Duration for Achievement of Goal</i>
Strengthening the Organizational Capacity of the Secretariat	1. Core financial support 2. Permanent Office 3. Additional Staff 4. Improve monitoring of work	- Government; Donors; - Provinces - DPA Secretariat & Affiliates	Not achieved.
Strengthening Partnership with Government	Continued development of partnership; Participation in the National Disability Committee	DPA; Government	Ongoing. One outcome was the drafting of the National Disability Policy.
Building partnership with Provincial Governments and Local communities	Establish partnership with various bodies	Secretariat/Affiliates/ National & Provincial Governments	Ongoing. One outcome is the relationship with the SANMA Provincial Government and lease on office space for 2007.
Strengthen Linkages with Existing Partners	Continue dialogue, share information	Secretariat/Affiliates/ Members/ National & Provincial Governments/ NGOs, Donors	Ongoing
Advocacy, Awareness & Training on the 7 Priority Areas of the BMF	Training workshop for affiliates and community at large	Secretariat/Affiliates/ Donors	Ongoing
Prepare reports for the Mid-Term Review of the BMF, CEDAW	1. Identify appropriate personnel and tools for the job 2. Financial Support for participants to review	Secretariat/Affiliates/ Donors	Completed. BMF review in March 2007.
Review the Implementation of "Our Vision 2005-2007"	Financial support for participants to review	Secretariat/Affiliates/ Donors	March 2007. This will be done during the 2007 AGM
Production of appropriate IEC materials	Printing of Bislama translation and posters on the 7 Priority Areas of the BMF	Donors DPA	Bislama translation completed and launched (see report above). IEC materials not developed

7.2 PLANS FOR 2007

In 2007 the major aim of DPA will be to continue to focus on strengthening of the organization including the Santo Branch. Development of advocates and affiliates will be another part of this focus.

For the past seven years DPA has concentrated heavily on getting policies developed at the Government level. In 2007 the emphasis will now change to helping the development of community based self-help organizations. In addition, the Secretariat will address the monitoring and implementation of policies and actions on the national level including the UN Disability Convention and the National Disability Policy and Action Plan 2007-2015; the BMF, the women with disabilities programme of the Department of Women's Affairs and its own internal policies and programmes. In this regard, "Our Vision 2005-2007" will be reviewed in 2007.

In order for DPA to become self sustaining, a number of initiatives are being considered. One of this will be to establish links with National and provincial governments, the business sectors and civil society organizations.

8 FINANCIAL STATUS

Funding in 2006 relied very heavily on Government grants and very little fundraising was undertaken. While this is the first time that such funding from Government is available, it is a concern that reliance from this sort of source will weaken the organization's status of being a self-help organization. Thus the Affiliates as well as the Secretariat must embark on finding ways to be self reliant.

Details of the 2006 Statement of Income and Expenditure is provided below.

In-kind Contributions

Calculations for the in-kind contributions were not made for 2006. However, DPA acknowledges the support provided by Air Vanuatu through the discount airfares plus all the work undertaken by the members of all the affiliates, volunteers at the Secretariat and individual members of the Coordinating Committee who used their own funds to assist DPA.

2006 STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE

INCOME

	Vatu	
<i>Balance brought forward</i>	335,356	<u>Note 1</u>
Membership fees	3,000	
Friends of DPA	20,000	
Local fundraising	53,550	
Department of Women's Affairs	225	
Refund from Government for advance to John Suran to New York	100,000	
<i>Designated Funds</i>		
Grant for Government for AGM & Capacity Building of Affiliates	754,000	
Government fund for consultation on the Draft Disability Policy	319,560	
<i>Sub-Total income in 2006</i>		
<u>GRAND TOTAL</u>	<u>1,585,691</u>	

EXPENDITURE

<i>Administration</i>		
Rent of office - VSDP	38,000	
Postal Box	3,375	
TVL	20,912	
Stationary	28,785	
Annual General Meeting	496,195	
<i>Affiliation Fee</i>		
DPI Asia Pacific	5,778	
VANGO	2,000	
<i>UN Disability Convention</i>		
Advance to Suran to attend UN Ad Hoc Meeting, New York	100,000	
Celebrations of the Adoption of the Disability Convention	57,961	
<i>Training - PIANGO/UNITEC</i>	14,000	
<i>Capacity Building of Affiliates (Frangipani, Niumti Nisivung & Loh)</i>	150,000	
<i>NZAID Bislama Translation Project</i>	280,000	
Launching of Bislama Translation of the BMF	54,280	
<i>Consultation on Draft Disability Policy & Plan of Action 2007-2015</i>	50,000	
<i>Partnership Building</i>	14,100	
<i>Bank charges</i>	6,000	
<u>GRAND TOTAL</u>	<u>1,321,386</u>	

Closing Balance as at 31 December 2006 **365,990**

Comprising of:

i] Remaining balance from Disability Policy consultation	269,560	<u>Note 2</u>
ii] Cash in bank	96,430	

Outstanding Loan **280,000** Note 3

Note 1 Includes un-used NZAID grant for the BMF Translation Project

Note 2 Consultation to be completed in 2007

Note 3 Loan to stage 2005 Annual General Meeting

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

DPA takes this opportunity to thank all of you

- Office of the Prime Minister
- Ministry of Justice & Social Welfare
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ministry of Correctional Services
- Department of Strategic Management
- Department of Women's Affairs
- SANMA & SHEFA Provincial Governments
- New Zealand High Commission
- UN ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre, Fiji
- Air Vanuatu
- Asia Pacific Development Centre on Disability (APCD)
- Pacific Disability Forum
- CUSO
- South Pacific Commission, Nouméa
- Pacific Wave Forum Secretariat
- University of the South Pacific, Emalus Campus

HE Head of State

Fist Lady

Hon Isabelle Donald



for your
continuing
support!

PLUS

all the
members of
the
Coordinating
Committee,
Volunteers
&
Advocates
from
TORBA to
TAFEA,
FRIENDS OF DPA,
girls and
boys,
families,
friends and
good
wishers!

Map of Vanuatu 2000, 2001, 2002 AGM, Port Vila

2005 AGM, Santo

2006 AGM, Motalava

2007 AGM, Tomman Island

