



Fiji

Inclusive Electoral Processes for Persons with Disabilities

What was happening



At election time it was hard for persons with disabilities to vote.

Sometimes, it was difficult to get into polling stations.

They were not allowed to bring a support person with them to help them.

Who made this happen?



The **Fiji Disabled Peoples Federation** led a group of organizations of persons with disabilities. It included the **National Council of Persons with Disabilities**.



They asked the **Fijian Elections Office** to make elections more inclusive for persons with disabilities.



Pacific
Disability
Forum

They were supported by
The **Pacific Disability Forum**.

What was done 2018 to 2022



In 2018, **FDPF** asked their voters to tell them about things that got in the way of them going to vote.



The **FDPF** shared these stories with the **Fijian Elections Office**.

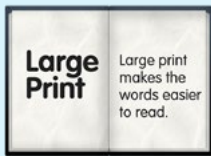
They formed a Working Group in 2019.



In 2021 the **Fijian Government** said they would do things that would make the elections more inclusive. In the 2022 General Election there were more inclusive practices.



There were ramps at polling stations.



There were booklets in large fonts to explain what people needed to do to vote.



There was information in Braille about candidates.



There were specially trained election officers to help persons with disabilities.

Why is this important



Now more people in **Fiji** are making sure that taking part in elections is easier for persons with disabilities.

Organizations of persons with disabilities can say what works best to make sure persons with disabilities can vote.

How did DRF and DRAF help?



They gave money to set up the Working Group, so in the 2022 National Election, people with disabilities who could not go to a polling station to vote were able to post their vote.