



# FIJI COLLEGE OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS

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## Report to WONCA Asia Pacific Council meeting – May 2012

### Particulars

Name of organization:	FIJI COLLEGE OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS
Year of establishment:	1994
Total membership of College:	168
Population of country:	900,000
Total number of doctors private and state:	884
No Primary care physicians:	approximately 596

### Activities and achievements

In December 2010 the Fiji government introduced the new Medical and Dental Practitioners decree.

Under this decree the FIJI COLLEGE OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS was established as a statutory body.

The decree also established a secretariat of the Fiji Medical Council and it became compulsory for doctors to apply for a yearly practising licence. The requirements for the licence included compulsory indemnity insurance, continuing professional education and new regulations for doctors wishing to enter solo general practice.

The year has been very challenging with the need to develop the College from an organization of voluntary membership with a focus on continuing education to a statutory body with aims and objectives set out under the decree.

The main activity this year has been the setting up of a College secretariat with one full time employee responsible for the day to day running of College affairs and the responsibility of developing the College activities.

We have worked with the Fiji Medical Council to ensure that all our members are registered, hold indemnity cover and have received their practice licence.

We have started the process of working with stakeholders to develop Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programs, mentorship programs and professional qualifications for new GP's and most recently have reached an agreement with the Fiji School of Medicine (FSM) for a full time curriculum development officer who will be responsible for developing the programs in conjunction with the Fiji National University (FNU).

We have created a new website for the College which we hope will be well utilized with current news, online learning and other College activities.

### Constraints for family medicine development

Currently, family medicine in Fiji is perceived to only include general practitioners in private practice with the career pathway of public sector primary care physicians being aligned with public health.



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The FCGP wishes to encourage the inclusion of the public sector primary physicians in its activities and professional development programs.

## **Development of Primary Care Research**

Current focus is on research related to what constitutes family medicine in Fiji and from this research we will be able to develop our programs.

## **How can WONCA APR help?**

The College has close relationships with Australia and New Zealand but is also interested in developing contacts with other small nation organizations with similar medical environments to Fiji.

We would be looking at tapping into WONCA's vast network of organizations and individuals who may be able and willing to assist us in developing our CPD programs and establishing structures to support them.

Dr Rosemary Mitchell  
President  
Fiji College of General Practitioners