



PRESS EVENT

9th July 2014

Experiences on the ground becoming user manual for the future

More than 20 of Save the Children Fiji's teachers from across the Western Division will be working with Ministry of Education this week to help create a user manual for early childhood teachers working in informal communities across the country.

The 'Safe & Healthy Start. Grow Smart' manual will help communities wanting to start locally based education centres dedicated to preparing young children for formal schooling.

SCF's education manager, Ruth Kuilamu, says "it will build upon the existing national Early Childhood Education (ECE) curriculum and will have accessible and informative tools for communities in Fiji to learn from."

New areas to be built into the manual will include child protection, health of young children and positive ways to discipline students without the use of corporal punishment.

The experiences of our teachers who are already implementing this work in Save the Children centres across the country will also be included to help other communities learn and build upon this success.

Mr Albert Wise from the Ministry of Education will open the three-day conference on at 8.45am at the Waterfront Hotel in Lautoka.

Interviews can be arranged upon request.

Contact

Lisa Kingsberry – SCF communications

p. +679 9252849 / e. media@savethechildren.org.fj

Background information:

- SCF works in 52 informal communities across Fiji. We work in 11 communities in the Western Division.
- These Early Childhood Centres are part of the Vuli Taumada Shishak Programme run by SCF. Funded by Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) – New Zealand Government.
- Currently more than 1000 children are enrolled in our ECE program across Fiji (Western, Northern and Central divisions).

Centres in Western Division:

1. Saravi
2. Taiperia – Nadi
3. Navilawa
4. Korobebe
5. Taiperia – Lautoka
6. Vunato
7. Vanuakula
8. Matawalu
9. Natawarau
10. Lovu Hart
11. Nakavika