



GOVERNMENT OF NIUE

MEDIA RELEASE

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NIUE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ADVANCES WORKFORCE REQUIREMENTS AT NIUE FOOU HOSPITAL

Alofi, Niue – 04 April 2024 - The Department of Health under the Ministry of Social Services is committed to ensuring the continued provision of high-quality healthcare services to the community of Niue. “We understand the importance of a robust healthcare workforce to meet the needs of our people, and we want to assure the public that measures are being taken to address any staffing shortages. We are also pleased to welcome the new Director of Health, Ms Minerva Ikimau and the new Chief Medical Officer, Dr Salesi Akau’ola” says Minister of Social Services, Hon. Sonya Talagi.

Currently, eleven Registered Nurses are operating at the Niue Ffoo Hospital, but more are needed to effectively work rostered shifts 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Recognizing the need for additional support, the Department of Health is pleased to announce that 2 contract nurses from Tonga and Fiji are expected to arrive within the next month. Furthermore, negotiations are underway with the Government of Samoa to administer the memorandum of understanding as we anticipate the arrival of another three nurses from Samoa in the coming months.

In addition to these efforts, the Department of Health currently has 4 nursing students pursuing tertiary studies in New Zealand and Fiji, with another student expected to return following the completion of their qualifications at the end of this semester. This training will not only strengthen our healthcare workforce but also contribute to the long-term sustainability of healthcare services in Niue.

Moreover, the Labour Mobility project is set to commence within the next few months to further alleviate staffing shortages and enhance economic development for Niue. The pilot program, scheduled to launch in May 2024, will bring in up to 5 aged care nurses to temporarily work in the Niue health sector for 6 months. The Government of Niue is actively collaborating with the Pacer Plus Implementation Unit (PPIU) to develop an Inter-Agency Understanding to administer the pilot program effectively.

The Niue Department of Health remains dedicated to ensuring the well-being of our community and will continue to take proactive steps to address staffing challenges. We appreciate the patience and understanding of the public as we work towards enhancing healthcare services in Niue.

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For further information, please contact:

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