

Statement of Object of Serve Fiji Foundation Inc.



Supporting Educational, Medical & Relief Services of Ramakrishna Mission, Fiji

www.servefiji.org www.facebook.com/servefijifoundation info@servefiji.org

Serve Fiji Foundation Inc, PO Box 4403, North Rocks NSW 2151

Statement of Object of Serve Fiji Foundation Inc

1. Statement of Object

The objective of Serve Fiji Foundation Inc (SFF) is to support of the charitable services of the Ramakrishna Mission Fiji, a Registered Charitable Trust in Fiji in the fields of Education, Medical and Relief Services, with particular emphasis in the field of Medical Services.

SFF was founded in 2010 by a group of ex-Fiji residents who are now settled in Australia and who have empathy with the people of Fiji and who are keen to improve the welfare of the underprivileged and poor in Fiji. The membership of SFF has steadily increased as more people are attracted to its charter.

SFF raises funds in Australia from its Members and Donors, and by hosting events like fundraising dinner. All funds received are directed to the Ramakrishna Mission Fiji and earmarked for use mainly in its medical projects. SFF is staffed fully by volunteer members and office bearers who donate their time and effort at no charge. Thus there is no "overhead cost" and there are no paid office bearers in the association.

The reasons for choosing Ramakrishna Mission Fiji as the vehicle for delivering the medical services are threefold:

- (1) It is difficult for SFF members (who are all resident in Australia) to be on the ground in Fiji and oversee medical and other community support projects to ensure that fund is utilised effectively and efficiently to the needy and poor;
- (2) Ramakrishna Mission Fiji was identified as an organisation which has the skills and resources necessary to oversee medical and other community support projects and has a demonstrated track record of delivering service to the poor since the 1930's;
- (3) Ramakrishna Mission Fiji has an impeccable record for honesty and integrity, accountability and transparency, in delivering such services. The Mission has successfully implemented programs aided by donor overseas agencies like AusAid, EU Aid, and NZ Aid which have directed millions of dollars in support of various projects in the medical, education and relief services.

2. About the activities of the Ramakrishna Mission Fiji

The Ramakrishna Mission Fiji is a non-profit service organisation which has been serving people of all races, religions and beliefs since 1937. It is registered in Fiji as a Charitable Trust (Registration No 896).

The Mission provides educational, medical and relief services, and recently established the Sarada Medical Centre to meet the growing need for this type of service in Fiji.

The Mission is a very well respected organisation both within Fiji and overseas. This can be gauged by the support provided by overseas Aid Agencies (e.g. AusAid, European Union Aid, NZ Aid), which have supported the Mission in its activities in the areas of Education, Medical and Relief Services. The Government of Fiji has also donated 3.6 acres of land in Suva for use in supporting medical services.

The Government of India conferred the 2014 *Parvasi Bharatiya Samman Award* on Ramakrishna Mission Fiji for its services.

The charitable activities of the Ramakrishna Mission are possible through the support of the generous public and organisations such as Serve Fiji Foundation Inc.

3. Background to the need for Support of Medical Services

The statistics on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) – cardio-vascular, diabetes, hypertension and others, released by the Fiji Ministry of Health, are alarming:

- (1) 79% of deaths are due to NCDs;
- (2) Fiji is reputed to have the highest percentage cardio-vascular disease in the world and is the top cause of mortality due to NCD; and
- (3) Diabetes and its complications follow cardio-vascular as the second top cause of mortality with some 15% of diabetic patients requiring amputations.

The situation is getting worse; affecting the productivity of the nation and causing social challenges with more orphans and widows.

4. Sarada Medical Centres

The Ramakrishna Mission has been running the Sarada Medical Centre (SMC) in Nadi since mid-2012 and has seen about 25,000 patients to date. SMC is a day care out-patient service with two doctors and a nurse and provides charitable medical services to the poor and needy. Medical services to the poor are provided free while there is a nominal charge for those who can afford to pay.

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In mid-2015, a similar clinic was started in Suva close to the densely populated Jittu estate squatter settlement. With free health screening programs, the daily patient number gradually increased to around 20. In the mean time, during intensive consultations with the Ministry of Health officials, it was identified that the main gap in the health care system was in the primary public health sector where the NCDs start but are not properly identified and managed in the early stages and consequently they escalate to serious health complications.

With this in mind, Ramakrishna Mission has embarked on a proactive preventative approach of going out into the community and providing health screening, counselling, management services as well as awareness, education etc. Accordingly Ramakrishna Mission adapted its approach to pilot community based primary health care program in the Suva-Nausori corridor which is about 40% of the Fiji population.

5. Source of Funding

As the program is targeted to the youth and poor sections of the community, these services are currently being provided totally free. This has been possible due to the generous support of the sponsors to this noble cause and donors include Serve Fiji Foundation Inc, a Sydney based charity organisation that has helped to sponsor a doctor.