

# Extending the Reach of Family Welfare Services

Cook Islands Regional Enhancing Agency

November 22, 2016

Project name: Partnerships For Health and Rights: Working for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for all in the Pacific

Outcome area: Enhancing agency

Project partner: International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)

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Funding timeframe: 2015–2018

Walking uphill to the hospital in the tropical heat whilst heavily pregnant to access the ultrasound at the main hospital was not something that Cook Islander women looked forward to. However, IPPF has supported the CIFWA to provide women with better access to reproductive health services, including ultrasound, close to their communities.



DFAT's Ms Emma Goodwin with Ms Naomi Manavaikai, Youth Officer with the Cook Islands Family Welfare Association, during a country consultation with partners and stakeholders in 2016. Photo: Sarah Boxall/Pacific Women Support Unit.

'Before, women had to walk or take a motorbike to get up to the hospital on the outskirts of town for ultrasounds. But motorbikes are dangerous for pregnant women on the winding roads. CIFWA's clinic is in the middle of town, right on the bus route and is much easier and safer for women to access,' said Ms Taraivosa Nakolinivalu, IPPF Quality Improvement and Country Desk Officer for the Cook Islands.

'I feel comfortable coming to CIFWA clinic. It is welcoming and easy to access. I don't have to wait for long. They provide good service and it is confidential,' said a CIFWA client.

The range of services offered by the CIFWA also includes obstetrics, family planning, sexually transmitted infection and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) prevention as well as sexually transmitted infection treatment including voluntary confidentiality counselling. In 2015, CIFWA increased its number of service delivery points, including in hard to reach areas of the country such as Aitutaki.

CIFWA's services remain relevant given the high rates of STIs in the Cook Islands, particularly among young people aged between 15 and 29 years old. In 2015, CIFWA delivered 7,840 sexual reproductive health services to 6,220 clients. Of these, 2,739 (44 percent) were young people. In addition, CIFWA improved its service delivery to people with disabilities in partnership with the Institution for People with Disability and Mental Illness. CIFWA renovated one of its service delivery points, named Te Kainga, and now provides targeted sexual reproductive health and non-communicable disease services to people living with physical and mental disabilities.

*This Story of Change was originally published in the [Pacific Women Annual Progress Report 2015-2016](#). All values are consisted with that reporting period. For the most up-to-date value of activities, visit our [interactive map](#).*

\*This activity is part of a larger program.