

SPECIAL OLYMPICS PNG BEST PRACTICES-SPECIAL OLYMPICS PNG

a) Background:

1-PNG has a growing population of persons with Intellectual/Down Syndrome and Psychosocial impairments with different levels of conditions.

2-Unfortunately before and post-independence in 1975 the Government is yet to have in place official statistics (baseline data) to appropriately support managing any non-clinical intervention programs.

3-The majority are living amongst our rural communities in 21 provinces and together with those in urban areas including the city of Port Moresby they've been stigmatised and vulnerable to all forms of neglect, abuse and often suffer in silence.

Special Olympics
PAPUA NEW GUINEA



4-Given the different factors causing intellectual and mental disability, the level of response, awareness on prevention and advocacy on their human rights has been relatively low, even accessing specific quality health services, education, social, livelihood and empowerment programs.



Special Olympics
PAPUA NEW GUINEA



5-Amongst others, one key reason identified is the lack of knowledge by communities to verify and understand the different elements of behavioural conditions of the intellectual, down syndrome from those with mental or psychosocial impairment to influence positive attitudes and interactions.



Special Olympics
PAPUA NEW GUINEA



b) Policies:

6-Mental Disability Act-The Government under the Health ministry has the Act on the management of persons with mental conditions only that is poorly funded and monitored while their clinical intervention activities is delivered from the only mental hospital in the country which continue to lead people to perceive them as a health issue.

7-Best practice:

- Some clients/patients have been accessing the only hospital in PNG located outside of Port Moresby



Special Olympics
PAPUA NEW GUINEA



8-Way forward:

Act is now subject to review with emphasis on non-clinical approaches for all conditions.

WHO has begun process to support Health department develop specific national rehabilitation policy focus on each class of impairment with emphasis on intellectual/down syndrome.

Special Olympics PNG plans to partner under new reviewed Act.

9-Inclusive Education policy-This policy was developed and launched in 1994 focused on: Rights of Children with Disabilities to education.

Training of special educators and establishment of special education centres

Special Olympics
PAPUA NEW GUINEA



✓ 10-Best practices:

Ongoing Special education teacher training is delivered by both Church and Government run teacher training institutions.

Minimal number of children with intellectual/down syndrome accessing education but to certain levels only.

Special Education Centres are point of entry and partners in the delivery of SO programs.



Special Olympics
PAPUA NEW GUINEA



11-Way forward:

12-Policy is currently under review with emphasis on:

Provisions of reasonable accommodation and adjustments for each class of impairment under the newly introduced Individual Education Plan (IEP) concept. Capacity of main stream schools is appropriately supported to deliver inclusive education.

Capacity of special education centres is also boosted with skilled human resource and assistive technology to support inclusive education in mainstream schools. Under advocacy SO PNG have registered call to Education department for children with intellectual/down syndrome to have specific education resource facilities.

Special Olympics
PAPUA NEW GUINEA



13-Inclusive Sports policy-Policy in place promoting the Sports for Development Initiative (SFDI) with focus on the Ability Sports program for pwds.

14-Best practice:

Pwds ongoing equal participation in many sports programs inclusive of Special Olympic athletes.

PNG Sports Foundation (PNGSF) strengthen partnership with Special Olympics PNG by providing office space and sports venues free of charge.

PNGSF approved engagement of two officers to support Unified Football competitions and management of all SO PNG programs.

Increased Special Olympics sports programs and participation of athletes in Ability sports programs in four provinces so far including NCD, Central, Bougainville and East New Britain.

Special Olympics
PAPUA NEW GUINEA





Special Olympics
PAPUA NEW GUINEA



Special Olympics PNG continues to advocate for the employment of SO athletes.

Significantly two pioneer female Special Olympic athlete leaders (Grace Dindilo and Barbra Mokela-DS) are now employed with a leading super market in Port Moresby commencing in August 2018.

Mr Raphael Otoase is also an athlete leader on the Special Olympics Asia Pacific Athlete Input Council , employed by a leading construction company in Port Moresby, sits on SO PNG Board and has represents SO PNG in SOI Summit in Chicago ,Singapore and the Dominican Republic. He is also a board member of SOPNG

On-going Media coverage all for SOPNG Program activities is making people with ID More visible, increased volunteers, partners and athletes

Special Olympics
PAPUA NEW GUINEA



15-Way forward:

Policy subject for review.

Special Olympics programs to be delivered to other provinces under Ability Sports programs

16-UNCRPD-GoPNG ratified the convention in September 2013 after continuous lobbying by pwds in PNG supported by DPOs from the Asia Pacific regions.

17-Best practices:

National Policy on Disability (NPD 2015-2025) in place as GoPNG's obligated intervention in implementing CRPD articles.

The policy has been legislated to have in place a "Disability authority" with the draft bill currently examined against relevant existing laws and subject to NEC endorsement.

Special Olympics
PAPUA NEW GUINEA



The implementing structure of the policy has 3 coordinating pillars: 1-Advocacy-role of PNG Assembly of Disable Persons (PNGADP), 2-Rehabilitation programs for inclusive service outcomes-role of PNG Disability Sector Coalition (PNGDSC) and 3-finance and institutions-role of the Dept for Community Development, Youth and Religion as focal GoPNG dept.

Special Olympics
PAPUA NEW GUINEA



Programs:

My own experience in sports identifies it as a major component of rehab for and with each class of impairment that is key to acceptance thus making inclusion real.

My current leadership role with PNGDSC and SO PNG sits me on the National Advisory Committee on Disability (GoPNG peak body for disability), determining advocacy for PWDs including SO athlete's equal participation in sports.

The policy has adopted the five WHO CBR components, its matrix and guideline inclusive of Health, Education, Social, Livelihood and Empowerment as such sports for pwds under the SFDI initiative takes prominence under PNGDSC.

Until the introduction of the Special Olympics concept in 2012, it's the only sports activity targeting registered ID/DS athletes and partners in 4 provinces where SO PNG has been conducting programs under PNG Sports Foundation's Ability Sports programs.

Special Olympics
PAPUA NEW GUINEA



Recognizance of the high need for intellectual/down syndrome persons needing appropriate and special quality medical services was prompted and determined by the SO Healthy community concept.

Special Olympics athletes are currently accessing quality and specialist medical services from Port Moresby General Hospital enabled by SO trained medical specialists determining their participation in SO programs. So far over 1500 people with disabilities have been checked supported by HCP Team over 400 plus have been referred for further specialist treatment and follow care.

Special Olympics
PAPUA NEW GUINEA



Found two people with fragile X for the first time were able to visit the hospital and receive specialist care.

Healthy Community Program is identifying many classes of Intellectual Disability and many are having free access to medical services free of charge.

Special Olympics PNG is now registered with PNGDSC.
PNGDSC currently has a draft MoA with the Health department in process for endorsement that will have 3 major component: 1-an enabling 2 years funding facility, 2-rehabilitation programs and 3-intellectual/down syndrome and psychosocial rehabilitation (non-clinical approach).

PNGDSC currently sits on the Executive of the National Law and Justice Community of Practice (CoP Committee advocating for equal access to justice for pwds with plans to develop child protection policy with and for SO PNG

Special Olympics
PAPUA NEW GUINEA



Currently So PNG has over 3,011 registered athletes and over 500 partners in the four provinces including Port Moresby.

The Unified Football Competition is its 4th year running we have 30 teams competing in men's and women's division with 340 athletes, 189 are athletes with disabilities, 151 are unified partners, 84 are female with disabilities and 105 and male with disabilities



Special Olympics
PAPUA NEW GUINEA



18-Special Olympics PNG has been conducting Unified Sports, Family Support, Athlete Leadership , Youth Activation, Young athletes & Healthy Community Project. These programs are conducted in Port Moresby, East New Britain, Bougainville and Central province in partnership with:

Special education teachers from Inclusive Education Resource Centres.

Volunteers and parents.

Specialist doctors from the Port Moresby General hospital under SO Healthy Community program.

PNGSF provides funding from time to time while Corporate companies provide 12 months sponsorship packages for both local and international activities.

Special Olympics PNG does annual fund-raising activities.

Special Olympics
PAPUA NEW GUINEA



Way forward:

A recent best practice by GoPNG is the inclusion of the Washington 6 questions into next year's national census template to determine base line data on pwds including ID/DS.

Each of the SO programs including Parents network, Healthy Community etc are strategically vital for the rehabilitation of persons with ID and DS. SO PNG will gradually deliver to other provinces ensuring programs are delivered and sustained by local volunteers and Provincial Governments.

Special Olympics
PAPUA NEW GUINEA



The partnership between SO PNG and PNGDSC complimented by PNGSF and the Disability Authority when in place, will boost resource support, reaching the unreached in rural communities and expanding networks and collaborations. Specific education institution/rehabilitation centre for ID and DS to be in place. Ongoing Advocacy for the development of policy on anti-discrimination and provisions of reasonable accommodation.

Special Olympics
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

