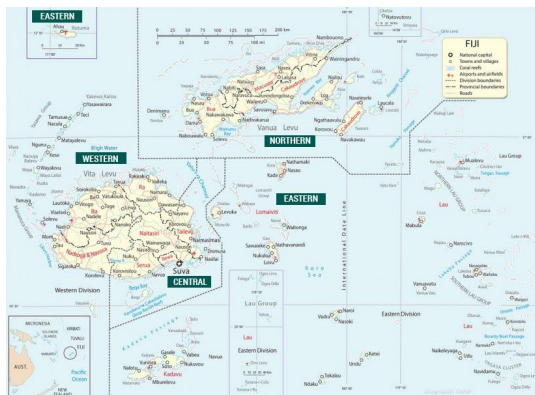


# Government Health Structures in Fiji - Ministry of Health & Medical Services

The Fiji Islands are a republic comprised of over 330 islands, covering more than 18,000 square kilometres. The nature of this geography poses significant challenges for the delivery of health services to a population that is dispersed over such a large maritime region.

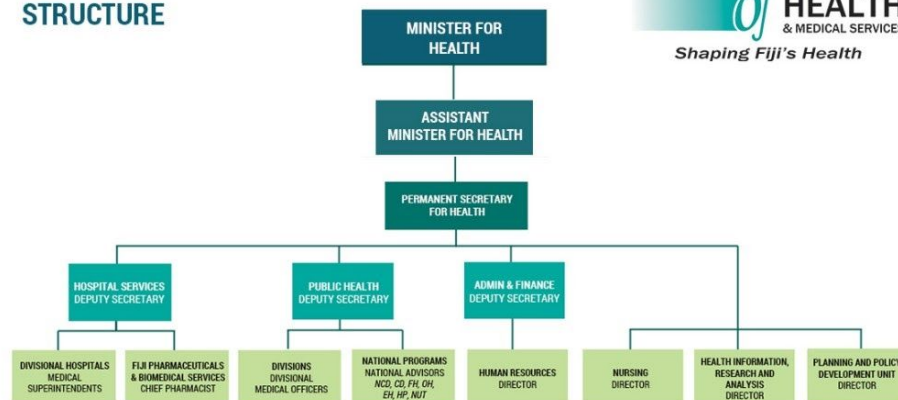
The Ministry of Health services all of Fiji under the 4 main Divisions and 21 sub-divisions including Rotuma. The Ministry of Health operates with divisional and sub-divisional departments of the Ministry of Health.



The 2007 census place Fiji's population at 837,271 (for ease of government planning, this population is divided into four Divisions; Central – with a population of 342,477, Eastern – with a population of 39,313, Northern – with a population of 135,961 and Western – with a population of 319,611). The total rural population was 412,425 (49.3%) and the total urban population was 424,846 (50.7%) of the national population. The trend reveals a growing urban drift in Fiji's population.

The Ministry of Health delivers its services to this population, with 3 main Divisional Hospitals, 18 Sub-divisional Hospitals, over 80 Health Centre's and 99 Nursing Stations in 2014.

## ORGANISATION STRUCTURE



The major health issues facing Fiji include the burden of non-communicable diseases on the population, an increase in maternal mortality rates, slow progress in achieving international targets for Under 5 mortality rate, immunisation rate hovering around 95% and a lack of multi-sectoral approach in addressing social determinants of health.

## Wellness Approach

The Wellness policy is a key initiative of the Ministry that will ensure primary health care initiatives in all levels of care, are integrated to improving and achieving the ultimate health outcome of Health and Wellness of the population of Fiji.

The Wellness Unit was created by merging the National Centre for Health Promotion with the Non-Communicable Disease Unit in February 2012. The wellness approach, often referred to as the 'rainbow approach' was adopted after the 2012 symposium. The approach refocuses service delivery, specially targeting the (7) age cohorts: baby, infant, toddler, child, teenager, adult, senior citizen. Wellness action is focused on the seven (7) gifts of life: breathing, eating, drinking, moving, thinking, resting and reproducing.



Whilst the MOH is seen as the leading agency in wellness service delivery, community collaboration, partnership and social responsibility hold the key to harvesting Wellness in Fiji.

The key units under the Ministry include:

- **Wellness Centre** - The Wellness Unit was established in February 2012 by the merging of Non Communicable Diseases (NCD) control unit and the National Centre for Health Promotion (NCHP)
- **Family Health** - The family health programs key aims are to manage, implement, monitor and evaluate programs pertaining to Child Health, Maternal Health, HIV/STI's, Reproductive Health and Gender.
- **Communicable Diseases** - The core functions of the Communicable Disease programme include to promote and protect the health of the people of Fiji in regards to defined communicable diseases.
- **Environmental Health** - The Environmental department is responsible for the promotion and protection of public health from environmental health risk factors such as pollution, unsanitary conditions, poor water supply qualities, illegal developments, improper waste management practises, breeding of disease vectors, poor food quality and so on.
- **Dietetics & Nutrition** - Dieticians are positioned to serve in the sub-divisional and Divisional hospitals around the country in the three broad areas of Clinical Dietetics, Public Health Dietetics and Food Service.
- **Oral Health** - The Oral Health Department is responsible for the delivery of sustainable oral health programs for all citizens of Fiji. Through comprehensive legislative, promotional, preventative and curative activities that encourage the retention of natural teeth, resulting in better quality of life.
- **National Health Disaster & Emergency Management Unit** - The Unit is responsible to ensure that there is excellence for health emergency and disaster preparedness and crisis management

that Health facilities are resilient to disasters and the staff capable to respond effectively in times of emergencies and disasters.

- **Human Resources Unit** - The Human Resources Unit is responsible for Ministry of Health staff recruitments, appointments, terminations, industrial relations and Occupational Health and Safety, training, workforce and policy developments, asset management and accounting.
- **Asset Management Unit** - The Asset Management Unit looks after the management of non-technical physical assets for the Ministry of Health from Procurement right through to the writing-off and disposal of assets.
- **Health Information, Research & Analysis Unit** - The Health Information, Research and Analysis Unit is responsible for the overall development and management of health information and promoting appropriate research for the National Health Service; monitoring and evaluation of the Ministry's Corporate & Strategic Plans including Key Performance Indicators for SFCCO and management of ICT services for the Ministry.
- **Planning & Policy Development Division** - The PPDD is responsible for an inclusive planning process of national plans and strategies and ensure coherent implementation of the national strategy and a proactive approach towards the coordination of all health partners and external donors of the health sector in Fiji, according to the principles of the Paris Declaration.
- **Nursing Division** - The Division of Nursing is responsible for the planning, development, coordination, monitoring and evaluation of nursing standards, policies, and guidelines and protocols.
- **Fiji Pharmaceutical & Biomedical Services Centre** - FPBS provides Pharmaceutical services and leadership for the Ministry and the Government. This service has aligned itself to the strategic direction of the government to achieve the ultimatum goals, which is to improve the health outcomes in Fiji.
- **Specialised Clinical Services** - A core element of a functional health system is the ability to provide curative health services.

**More Information** - <http://www.health.gov.fj/>