



Evaluating the impact, investment case and scale-up of 'Health Promoting Schools' in Fiji – July 2024



The George Institute
for Global Health

Facts:

- Around 80% of deaths in Fiji are caused by a noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) and those numbers are growing.
- Two-thirds of premature deaths in adults are associated with behaviours developed in childhood and adolescents years (insufficient physical activity, unhealthy diet, smoking and drinking).
- A life-course approach using population-based strategies in school settings integrated within existing systems can prevent NCDs, reduce global health inequalities and strengthen health systems.

Project Cycle:
2023–2028

Partners:
The Ministry of Education, Fiji
Ministry for Health and Medical Services, Fiji
Fiji National University

Supporters:
National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)
Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases (GACD)

Principal Investigator:
Dr Bindu Patel

Contact:
To find out more about this project and its principal investigators or The George Institute please contact Tina Wall +61 410 411 983 or twall@georgeinstitute.org.au

Background:

- In 2016, Health Promoting Schools (HPS) was launched as a joint program under the Fiji School Health Policy by the Fiji Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health and Medical Services.
- HPS has three key areas of focus: 1) diet and physical activity; 2) water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH); and 3) mental health and wellbeing.

Aims:

- To evaluate implementation processes, health outcomes, cost-effectiveness, and sustainability of the HPS program in Fiji.

Methods:

This is a multi-method evaluation involving the following:

- Mixed methods process evaluation.
- Integration of community engagement for continuous learning and adaptation of the program, utilising findings from process evaluations to make necessary adjustments and improvements.
- Effectiveness evaluation assessing health outcomes in new HPS schools. Outcomes assessed will include diet and exercise, hygiene and sanitation (behaviour and environment), and mental health. Additionally, economic evaluations and sustainability analyses will be conducted to assess structural, environmental factors, and school policies.

Impact:

- This study will evaluate HPS across multiple dimensions including implementation process, health impact, cost-effectiveness, budget impact and sustainability.
- Using this tailored adaptive approach to evaluation ensures that HPS evolves into a program that has the best chance of realising its underlying potential for health, educational and social outcomes.

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