



**Advocating for Rights &
Promoting Abilities of People
with Disabilities since 1999**

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MEDIA RELEASE

Children with disability missing vital communication aids in Vanuatu

The Disability Promotion & Advocacy Association (DPA) says that children with hearing and vision impairments must have extra communication aids and trained teachers to be part of an inclusive education in Vanuatu.

DPA coordinator Ms Nelly Caleb says most children with disability are missing out on an education and vital social skills because schools are not equipped with aids and teachers are not trained in sign language or Braille.

“The Conventional Rights of People with Disability (CRPD) was ratified in Vanuatu in 2008 but has made little difference to lives and education for children because they can't access schools or there are no programs available for them,” she said.

“Children with disability should have all means of communication to allow the full development of a person's potential.

“Their rights are clearly set out in article 24 of the CRPD but our Vanuatu Government continues to ignore the right of children with disability.

“The education system should provide different means of communication to children with disability according to their impairment that will help them understand fully and learn more.

“Schools should provide the right support for children with disability in schools so they feel comfortable with the learning environment.

“Children should have access to extra support from teachers, parents and carers to help them in their studies.

“DPA is advocating for extra learning and communication assistance for children with disability to attend school as the other children do.

“Children with disability should have the right to attend university education in all levels without discrimination.

“These communication systems or devices should be made accessible in every school for all children to access them.”

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