



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

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Press Release

Opportunities for children with disability in Gaua Island

The Disability Promotion & Advocacy Association (DPA) welcomes the establishment of the inclusive school in Gaua, Torba province.

DPA congratulates Matafanga Primary and Special need school, for ensuring that all children including children with disabilities in Gaua access their services, and realise their rights to education.

The school have enrolled three students with hearing impairment, one with visual impairment and one student with intellectual disability, hence, DPA encourages parents and other students with disabilities in the area to come out and use this services.

The school also teach Australia and New Zealand sign language which would make communication easy for children with hearing impairments; hence ensuring that all children with hearing impairments at the school communicate freely with other students.

Matafanga Primary and Special need school have set a standard for other schools in Vanuatu to follow, and DPA encourages schools in Vanuatu to make their schools accessible and be inclusive of children with disabilities.

DPA appreciate Doctor Mark Turnbull and his wife initiatives on such development and, we believe that such development is fundamental as education plays an essential role in the life of all individuals including persons with disabilities.

Over the years, DPA has been advocating for the implementation and monitoring of an education system that is inclusive of all people including persons with disabilities.

Meanwhile, the government of Vanuatu had ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) in 2008 which clearly defines the right to education for persons with disabilities.

Hence, there is a need for government to ensure that articles in the conventions are implemented throughout the country, through national inclusive education policies, legislations and systems.

DPA urges the government to have a national sign language policy in Vanuatu and also ensure that other communication needs for persons with disabilities are realised, to ensure that they live a decent life and enjoy it like anybody else.

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