House Sarah

…..transforming the lives of those who come seeking help…

Of



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**Suva/Fiji**

***Australian Government’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) supports churches’ frontline work to End Violence Against Women and Children in Fiji***

House of Sarah of the Anglican Diocese of Polynesia is grateful to DFAT’s *Pacific Women* program for their recent core and programme grant of FJ$135,000 aimed at supporting the church’s work to end violence against women and children in Fiji.

Speaking about the DFAT funding, House of Sarah Reverend Sereima Lomaloma, Trustee and Chairperson of the House of Sarah Management Committee said. “DFAT’s grant is timely in light of House of Sarah’s growing outreach work in the Anglican community and collaborative efforts with other ecumenical partners. The efforts have reached a stage where more institutional strengthening of House Sarah is necessary. The funding support will further ensure House of Sarah’s programmes to be informed by the international discourse on human rights and gender equality principles. There will also be more training on gender and ending violence against women issues for women, young people, men, clergy and lay leaders. The funding will also be used for the production of church resources for one day workshops in the three main languages, prayers and *Break the Silence* programmes planned by House of Sarah and ecumenical partners to be used in church services preceding November 25, the UN International Day to Eliminate Violence Against Women and throughout the 2015 16 Days of Activism ending on December 10, the UN Human Rights Day.”

The Most Reverend Dr. Winston Halapua, Head of the Anglican Diocese of Polynesia said, “The churches’ network and outreach is extensive and far-reaching on the lives, experiences, values, practices, language including behaviour of children, young people, women and men. Churches in Pacific island countries also have a pervasive impact on people’s lives, an extensive knowledge of communities and are at the frontline. Actions taken by churches such as those through the House of Sarah aimed at ending domestic violence, sexual offences, bullying, harassment, and any kind of violence and abuse faced by women and children in the country have been boosted through this generous grant from the Australian Government. These forms of violence are criminal acts against humanity and a violation of the human rights of women and children.”

”The Australian Government is pleased to provide this grant to House of Sarah through our *Pacific Women* program. The House of Sarah is a great example of the church showing leadership in addressing the issue of violence against women and girls in Fiji. We hope that this grant will help to further enhance the already good work they are doing,” said James O’Brien, acting Counsellor Fiji and Tuvalu, DFAT.

The House of Sarah was established in 2009 in response to calls from the Association of Anglican Women in 2007 for a service to address gender inequality, discrimination and the elimination of violence against women and children. Since then the work has grown to the provision of counselling support and referral by Sarah Carers in the parishes, and awareness raising among women, men, and clergy on gender based violence and human rights.

More information on Anglican Diocese of Polynesia’s House of Sarah’s work, click here: <http://www.houseofsarah.org>

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***Management Committee***

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