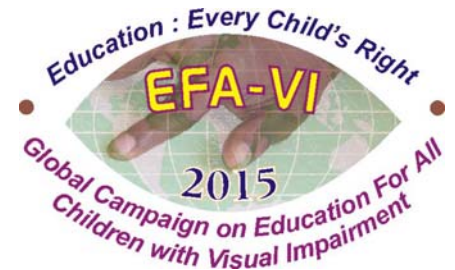




**International Council for Education of  
People with Visual Impairment**



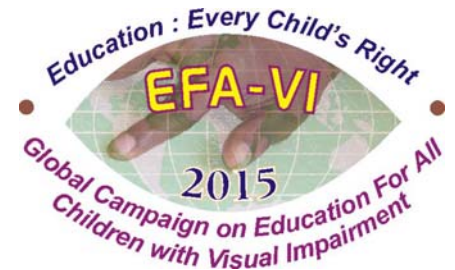
## 2007 Activities of the ICEVI Pacific Committee

### Regional workshops, seminars and meetings

- ICEVI EFA-VI Pacific Forum, Perth, 5-6 January 2007. Approximately 40 leaders in the fields of vision impairment and education from Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Region were in attendance. Funding for several of the Pacific island delegates was provided by AusAid to attend the ICEVI Forum and also the SPEVI Biennial Conference in Fremantle, WA, 7-12 Jan 2007.
- Presentation on ICEVI and EFA-VI campaign at the WBU Asia Pacific Regional Assembly, Shen Zhen, China, March 07. Mr James Aiwa of the University of Goroka, PNG, represented the ICEVI Pacific Committee at this Assembly. See the report at [http://www.icevipacific.org.au/documents/event\\_shenzhen.pdf](http://www.icevipacific.org.au/documents/event_shenzhen.pdf)
- Presentation on ICEVI and EFA-VI campaign at the Pacific Disability Forum (PDF) Annual General Meeting, Fiji, 26-27 March 07. The CEO of the PDF, Mr Setareki Macanawai, is a member of the ICEVI Pacific Committee. The PDF AGM was attended by representatives of organisations serving people with disabilities from across the Pacific. ICEVI has become member of PDF.
- Presentation on ICEVI and EFA-VI campaign at the ESCAP Pacific Expert Group Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework, Fiji, 28-30 March 07. The Expert Group meeting culminated in the development of a paper from the Pacific Region, that was tabled at the UNESCO Bangkok High-level intergovernmental meeting in September 2007. See the report at [http://www.icevipacific.org.au/documents/event\\_biwako.pdf](http://www.icevipacific.org.au/documents/event_biwako.pdf)
- Presentation on the EFA-VI Pacific campaign at the World Blind Union Asia-Pacific Board Meeting, Melbourne, 27 July 07. Discussion included the establishment of close ICEVI-WBU partnerships in the Pacific region, and the establishment of WBU EFA-VI subcommittees globally, with ICEVI representation on these committees.
- Presentation on ICEVI and the EFA-VI campaign at the "Advancing inclusive education in the Pacific" workshop in Nadi, Fiji, 1-5 October 2007. The Inclusive Education workshop was supported by the Fiji Government, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), Pacific Disability Forum (PDF), PREL (Pacific Resources for Education and Learning), the University of the South Pacific (USP) and the PRIDE Project, UNICEF, UNESCO and SPBEA. See the report at [http://www.icevipacific.org.au/documents/event\\_inclusiveeducation.pdf](http://www.icevipacific.org.au/documents/event_inclusiveeducation.pdf)
- Workshop for parents of children with vision impairments, hosted by the Fiji Society for the Blind, Suva, Fiji, 1-5 October 07. The workshop was coordinated by Ms Vilisi



**International Council for Education of  
People with Visual Impairment**



Salabavisi of the Fiji Society for the Blind. Planning, supported by Frances Gentle (ICEVI Pacific), Paul Manning (Parents of Vision Impaired NZ - PVI) and Gayle Skinner (Australian Association of Parents of Vision Impaired – AAPVI). The purpose of the workshop was to establish an organisation of parents in Fiji. AusAid and ICEVI sponsored the involvement of Gayle, Paul and Frances in this important project. See the report at [http://www.icevipacific.org.au/documents/event\\_parentworkshop.pdf](http://www.icevipacific.org.au/documents/event_parentworkshop.pdf)

- Visit by Larry Campbell (ICEVI President) and Dr Mani (ICEVI Secretary General) to RIDBC Sydney, 18-21 September 07, to attend meetings of the Host Committee of the 13<sup>th</sup> World Conference in 2010. Planning is currently underway to establish a venue and date for the 2010 conference.

### **Tertiary level courses in vision impairment**

Frances Gentle has developed the following two bachelor-level courses in vision impairment for universities in the Pacific region.

- The University of the South Pacific (USP) (2007). ED209 Educating individual with vision impairment (two volumes). This course is a core component of the USP Fiji Bachelor of Special Education degree program and is delivered by distance education.
- Divine Word University & Callan Studies Institute PNG (2007). ED425 Educating children with visual impairments. This course is a core Unit in the Divine Word University & Callan Studies Institute Papua New Guinea Bachelor of Special Education degree program. It is delivered as a distance education package plus a one-week residential program at the Callan Services/St Benedict's College Campus, Wewak, December 2007.

Discussions are currently underway between ICEVI Pacific member, Dr Kevin Murfitt and Br Graeme Leach of Callan Studies Institute PNG regarding the development of a vision impairment course for the Divine Word University/Callan Studies Institute Disabilities Studies program. Kevin is also the Chair of WBU Asia-Pacific and Chair of Vision Australia.

### **Publications**

#### **1. Articles and reports by ICEVI Pacific members**

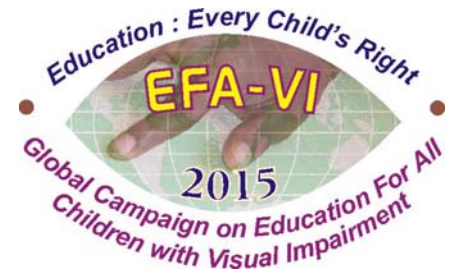
Aiwa, J. (2007) *Shenzhen Report : World Blind Union Asia Pacific Region Mid-term Assembly*. University of Goroka, Papua New Guinea. See the report at [http://www.icevipacific.org.au/documents/event\\_shenzhen.pdf](http://www.icevipacific.org.au/documents/event_shenzhen.pdf)

Gentle, F. (May 2007). Campaign for education of visually impaired children launched in the Pacific. *Education for All: Asia and the Pacific* E-newsletter, Issue 23, <http://www.unescobkk.org/index.php?id=6139>.

Gentle, F. (2007). Report on ICEVI Pacific Regional Forum University of Western Australia, 5-6 January 2007. *SPEVI News*, 3(8), 4-7 <http://www.e-bility.com/spevi/>



**International Council for Education of  
People with Visual Impairment**



Manning, P. & Skinner, G. (2007). *Report on parent workshop, Suva Fiji October 2007*. Australian Association of Parents of Vision Impaired (AAPVI), and Parents of Vision Impaired NZ (PVI-NZ). See the report at [http://www.icevipacific.org.au/documents/event\\_inclusiveeducation.pdf](http://www.icevipacific.org.au/documents/event_inclusiveeducation.pdf)

Murfitt, K. (Nov 2007). Pacific-Oceania World Blind Union (Asia-Pacific) Update <http://www.worldblindunion.org/>

## **2. Book Chapter**

Gentle, F. (in press). Including children with vision impairments in education in Pacific Island Countries. In F. Pene (Ed.), *Inclusive Education in the Pacific* (working title), The PRIDE Project, University of South Pacific, Fiji.

## **Presentations at conferences and forums**

Aiwa, J. (2007). Presentation on ICEVI and EFA-VI campaign at the World Blind Union Asia Pacific Region Mid-term Assembly, Shenzhen China, 21 – 23 March 2007.

Gentle, F. (2007). ICEVI Report to SPEVI Annual General Meeting. SPEVI Biennial Conference, Perth, January 2007 <http://www.e-bility.com/spevi/>

Gentle, F. (2007). ICEVI EFA-VI campaign. Pacific Disability Forum Annual General Meeting, Nadi, Fiji, March 2007

Gentle, F. (2007). Professional training day for vision support teachers, hosted by South Pacific Educators in Vision Impairment (SPEVI) Queensland, in partnership with Disability Support Services Qld., Hamilton, Brisbane, July 2007.

Keeffe, J. (2007). Opening address at the SPEVI Biennial Conference, Perth, January 2007 on the ICEVI EFA-VI global campaign (on behalf of Larry Campbell, ICEVI President).

## **ICEVI Entity Structure**

ICEVI Pacific has become an incorporated body. Mr David Rice, the ICEVI Pacific Public Officer undertook the process of incorporation on behalf of the ICEVI Pacific Committee during late 2007. The NSW Office of Fair Trading granted incorporation on 4th January 2008, and ICEVI Pacific's official name is "ICEVI Pacific Incorporated" (Registration number INC 9888652).

## **Regional assistance with provision of resources**



**International Council for Education of  
People with Visual Impairment**



The ICEVI Pacific Committee has received numerous requests for support during the year. The Committee has been fortunate to receive support from a number of organisations in meeting these these requests. As a result, the following resource assistance has been provided within the Pacific Region:

- (a) Provision of laptop and voice output software to the University of Goroka PNG for use by blind students - donation sponsored by the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children (RIDBC) NSW
- (b) Provision of second-hand laptops to Fiji Society for the Blind for use by staff and students with low vision - donations by Royal Society for the Blind South Australia (RSB SA) and Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children (RIDBC)
- (c) Donations of second-hand Perkins brailers and slates and styles to Callan special education resource centres in Papua New Guinea – donations by RSB SA
- (d) Donations of second-hand long canes to Fiji Society for the Blind and Callan special education resource centres PNG – donations by Guide Dogs NSW/ACT and Guide Dogs Victoria