



## MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, HERITAGE & ARTS

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30 March, 2022

### **PRESS RELEASE**

### **EqualMed Hands Over the Hygienic Items for Primary & Secondary Schools to PS Education**

EqualMed, a registered charitable organization in United States, handed over essential PPE and other hygienic items to the Permanent Secretary for Education, Heritage & Arts, Dr. Anjeela Jokhan for distribution to primary and secondary schools around Fiji. The approximate value of the items donated is \$500,000.

Whilst receiving the items, Dr. Jokhan mentioned that all these items were important in ensuring that students, teachers, parents and others who entered the schools were well protected.

“Though the restrictions have been eased we still need to be cautious and keep our students and teachers safe,” she added.

“As we get ready to welcome all students back to school from 11 April for 2022 academic year, the Ministry with its partners such as EqualMed would like to ensure them that schools are supported to have the necessary resources to keep the environment safe for the students and teachers,” said the Permanent Secretary.

One of the objectives of EqualMed is to bring medical supplies to neglected nations in the South Pacific like Fiji, taking a one-step-at-a-time approach to provide Fijians to have access to medical care and supplies.

During the hand over, the CEO and the founder of EqualMed, Ms. Nivita Sharma also sent her recorded message where she stated that EqualMed has been assisting by donating medical supplies to hospitals and health clinics since 2013 and recently, they have identified this need in primary and secondary schools as well. This has resulted in them expanding their assistance to schools from 2017 and since then, they have been continuing to do this in various ways through EqualMed's education representative Ms. Ranjani Radhika Lata.

In her message, Ms. Sharma, also stated that as we still live in the era of the pandemic, our collective responsibility as a society is to ensure that the next generation of students continue to receive education.

The Ministry received KN95 masks, wipes, gloves, patient gowns, pillow cases, eye shields, girls' hygiene packs and many other essential items which will be deployed to schools to support them have a safe and hygienic environment for students and teachers.

Dr. Jokhan acknowledged that a significant decrease in COVID transmission in schools could be largely accredited to the efforts put in by the Ministry and its donors. "Our data showed that last week, there was zero case in our schools, meaning no student or teacher was found COVID positive. This was possible with kind generosity of our partners like EqualMed who have been donating the PPE and hygienic items," she said.

She also said that teachers and students deserve the credit for adhering to the COVID-Safety Protocol instituted in schools which have worked out very well.”

Finally, whilst Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April is the last day for 2021 academic year, PS Education appealed to students to spend their time with their families during the one week break and stay safe.



***PS Education, Dr. Jokhan with EqualMed Representative Ms. Ranjani Radhika Lata***



***CEO & Founder of EqualMed – Ms. Nivita Sharma***

