

## NEWS / LOCAL NEWS

# Equal Med equips Fiji hospitals

LUKE RAWALAI | 1 July, 2019, 3:30 pm



Diabetes Fiji trustee, Professor Eddie McCaig, left, chairman of EqualMed Professor Divesh Sharma, CWM Hospital physiotherapist Ashneel Chand and deputy director nursing East wing Raymond St John during the handover of equipment at the CWM Hospital auditorium in Suva on Monday, July 01, 2019. Picture: JONACANI LALAKOBAU

MEDICAL supplies donated by American Non-Governmental Organisation, Equal Med has reached many diabetics and clinics in the country.

The medical supplies and equipment have personally been handed over to the NGO's chief executive officer, Nivita Sharma with the help of the Fiji Pharmaceuticals and Biomedical Services (FPBS) and the Ministry of Health.

During this year's medical mission, Ms Sharma traveled to Wainibokasi and Nausori hospitals, Koronivia diabetes community peer group, Valelevu Health facility, and CWM hospital, and Cuvu Health clinic in Sigatoka.

"In the past, FPBS together with Diabetes Fiji distributed larger medical supplies and equipment to health facilities around the country," a statement from Ms Sharma said.

"Some of these include remote areas such as Rotuma, Koro, Moala, Kadavu, Savusavu, Labasa, Levuka, Lomaiviti, Taveuni, Macuata, Bua, and Ono-i-lau.

"Other medical facilities receiving the supplies and equipment are Lautoka, Ra, Rewa, Tailevu, Naitasiri, and Nadi and in 2017, EqualMed equipped Rakiraki hospital and Ra area clinics, and Lautoka and Sigatoka hospitals following cyclone Winston."

Today, doctors and staff at Colonial War Memorial Hospital met with Professor Divesh Sharma (Chairman of EqualMed) who stood in for Nivita as she flew back to New York to conduct research at the Weill Cornell Medical College.

College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Science at Fiji National University, Professor of Surgery, and Professor Eddie McCaig expressed his heartfelt appreciation as many of the items donated like moon-boots, post-surgical shoes, and breathing apparatus are

not available and non-existent in Fiji.

Prof McCaig said “these items will be utilized swiftly as many patients were desperately waiting for proper medical equipment.”

CWM Physiotherapist Ashinil Chand said that these medical equipment were not available in Fiji and said they were most pivotal as the staff have been compromising patient care by using make-shift shoes.

Meanwhile, Head Nurse Raymond St. John echoed these positive sentiments and said that the hundreds of speculums donated have already been put to use in the CWM emergency department and ICU as they had run out of these for