



Pacific Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Association (PRATA)

Strategic Plan 2024 - 2029

The Pacific Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Association (PRATA) exists as a regional network of individuals from across the Pacific with an active interest in working to strengthen the provision of rehabilitation and assistive technology services.

Our Vision:

A strong and unified voice for the rehabilitation and assistive technology sectors in the Blue Pacific

Our Mission:

PRATA will connect, collaborate and advocate to strengthen the voice of the rehabilitation and assistive technology sectors in the Blue Pacific.

In all that we do, we are steadfast in our values:

Empowerment

We believe to improve the quality of people's lives, we must work to empower individuals and their networks.

Respect

We are, and work with, people from diverse cultures, contexts and lived experiences. We are inclusive of all people and work in a respectful and genuine manner.

Equity

We believe all people should be treated equitably and fairly.

Collaboration

We believe that strong, respectful and mutual relationships are the foundation of success. We pride ourselves on working together, sharing resources and collaborating.

2024 – 2029 Strategic Priorities Include

Priority Area 1: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

PRATA will strengthen the rehabilitation and assistive technology workforces throughout the Pacific by delivering continuous professional development, peer-based networking, and other workforce strengthening initiatives during this period.

Priority Area 2: ADVOCACY

PRATA will advocate to Pacific Island Governments, regional leaders and donor partners for greater investment in, and recognition of, rehabilitation and assistive technology provision across the region.

Priority Area 3: RESOURCES & STANDARDS

PRATA, as the technical specialists in the areas of rehabilitation and assistive technology will collaborate to develop relevant resources and clinical standards to ensure adequate service provision amongst member countries.

To strengthen the association, our strategic priorities are supported by enabling actions, including:

Effective
governance

Diverse
membership

Positive
partnerships

Financial
sustainability

Research &
Data



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Terms of Reference

Background

The Pacific Rehabilitation and Mobility Conference in April 2019, saw 89 delegates from 12¹ countries participating in the event. This was a timely and important opportunity to critically analyse what is working well, where there are gaps and what can be done better. An overarching goal of the conference was to look at opportunities to strengthen regional collaboration and sharing, while recognising and respecting the diverse and unique country context present in the region as a whole.

Following the conference, it was agreed that a Pacific Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Association (PRATA) should be developed to build on the successes of the conference, and to ensure professionals engaged in the provision of rehabilitation and assistive technology services had an opportunity to come together as a regional body to strengthen their sector.

Despite the challenges of COVID-19, a dedicated steering committee led the organisation to the inaugural meeting of PRATA in Nadi in May 2024. These Terms of Reference for the proposed association were considered and were developed ahead of the formal registration of PRATA as an entity.

1. Purpose of PRATA

The Pacific Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Association (PRATA) exists as a regional network of individuals from across the Pacific with an active interest in working to strengthen the provision of rehabilitation and assistive technology services

Primarily, PRATA will:

- Comprise individuals from Pacific Island Countries with an interest in rehabilitation and assistive technology
- Be a regionally-based representative body with expertise in rehabilitation and assistive technology provision and service
- Advocate for, and support the development of rehabilitation and assistive technology services throughout member countries, and across the region
- Offer opportunities for peer-based learning, mentoring and ongoing professional development of professionals engaged in rehabilitation and assistive technology fields
- Upon request, act as an advisory body to Pacific governments, donor and technical partners requiring high-level expertise to strengthen the provision of assistive technology and rehabilitation service provision

¹ Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshal Islands, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, United States of America, Vanuatu

- Above all else, PRATA aims to strengthen the rehabilitation and assistive technology workforce within member countries to ensure individuals accessing services receive appropriate, timely and rights-based service provision.

2. Membership

At the time of formation, PRATA membership is open to:

- Individuals from Pacific Island Countries working in the fields of rehabilitation, assistive technology and other associated fields (as defined from time-to-time by the PRATA executive committee)
- Students from Pacific Island Countries currently enrolled in a recognised undergraduate or postgraduate program, relevant to the areas of rehabilitation or assistive technology
- Australian and New Zealand practitioners as temporary members of PRATA where they are assigned to roles within Pacific Island Countries.

Membership of PRATA is voluntary and considered on an individual basis, with final membership criteria to be considered by the Executive Committee.

Associate Membership

Full membership at this time is restricted to individuals, not associations or organisations.

However, organisations who share a common vision for stronger rehabilitation and assistive technology services and who are actively involved in the sector, may be admitted as associate members – thereby strengthening PRATA but not holding voting rights within the association. Additional interested parties may align with PRATA as partners through the development of a memorandum of understanding. Partners shall have no voting rights.

Executive Committee

Recognising the importance of strong leadership within the formative stages of PRATA, amongst the membership, an Executive Committee of 10 members will be elected for a period of two years. The executive committee will be responsible for ensuring that action is taken in a timely manner towards plans through their attendance to meetings and support provided to other members of the association.

The Executive Committee will comprise:

- Two Co-Chairs (one male, one female)
 - Facilitate meetings, coordinate and lead the executive committee
- Secretary
 - Develop agenda and minutes for meetings, support administrative tasks
- Treasurer
 - Monitor and manage finance processes and financial reporting
- Membership Coordinator
 - Review membership criteria, applications and status of current membership
- Professional Development Coordinator
 - Support and monitor professional development programs and activities
- Programs Coordinator
 - Support and monitor advocacy, resources and standards programs and activities

- One general member from each of Polynesia, Melanesia, and Micronesia
 - A representative from each region

No more than two executive positions may be held from individuals from the same Pacific Island Country.

3. Terms of Appointment:

The term of appointment for Executive Committee membership shall be for a period of two years. Members are eligible for reappointment for a further two years at the end of their term at the discretion of the membership.

Committee members will cease to be a member if they:

- a. Resign from the Committee; or
- b. Fail to attend 3 consecutive meetings; or
- c. Breach confidentiality.

4. Meetings

The Executive Committee will meet at least four times per annum, with additional meetings scheduled as determined by the Committee. When planning meetings, the recognition of the significant time commitments amongst members, should be considered.

Meetings may be held in-person or via video conferencing facilities or any combination of these.

5. Agenda and Minutes

The agenda and minutes of the Executive Committee will be drafted by the Committee secretary, in consultation with the Co-chairs

Agendas and relevant papers will be circulated to committee members at least five business days prior to the scheduled meeting. Draft meeting minutes will be circulated within five business days after the conclusion of the meeting.

6. Quorum

A quorum shall be no less than six members of the Executive Committee.

7. Meetings of the Association

The Executive Committee shall call an Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the entire membership at least once per annum to provide an update on the activities of PRATA, together with the presentation of annual financial accounts, annual report and proposed annual workplan. This can be done in person, online or a combination of both.

Where required, this meeting will also see the election of Executive Committee members.

8. Working Groups and Sub-committees

The Executive Committee may create sub-committees or member-based working groups to inform and action the interests and activities of PRATA. These forums will be established with a terms of reference and their members comprised of individuals from amongst the full PRATA membership, utilising external

technical support (non-voting) as required. Each working group will be chaired by an elected member of the executive committee.

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Action Plan 2024 - 2029



Background

This plan outlines the activities for the Pacific Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Association (PRATA). PRATA will be launching its first three years of activities to work towards the outlined four goals:

1. Formal establishment & registration of PRATA
2. Supporting professional development, networking and collaboration opportunities across the Pacific region
3. Driving advocacy for the rehabilitation & assistive technology service providers and users
4. Development and sharing of resources and guidelines for use across the region

Consultation: This action plan is based on individual and group consultations held as part of the regional Physiotherapy, Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology meeting held in Nadi, 2024.

Key Activities

Goal 1: Formal establishment & registration of PRATA		Year				
Activities – Establishment		1	2	3	4	5
1.1	Finalise the Strategic Plan, Workplan and required TORs					
1.2	Present PRATA for endorsement at the Directors of Clinical Services regional meeting					
1.3	Register PRATA as a formal entity in one of the member countries					
Activity – Monitoring and Evaluation		1	2	3	4	5
1.4	Develop Indicators for each goal to monitor implementation					
1.5	Annual Reporting - Financial					
1.6	Annual Reporting – Activities					
1.7	Mid term review					
Goal 2: Supporting professional development, networking and collaboration opportunities across the Pacific region		Year				
Activities		1	2	3	4	5
2.1	Mapping of current training and professional development opportunities across the Pacific region related to rehabilitation and assistive technology					
2.2	Mapping of current CPD requirements at a country-level for rehab and AT professionals (where they exist, and noting where they don't) as baseline for broader regional CPD activities					
2.3	Engaging with Fiji National University and other regional training providers to investigate building "rehab and AT training days" into current undergrad and postgrad curriculum (nursing, medicine etc)					
2.4	Initial planning for a regular online education program (quarterly webinar series) for membership					
2.5	Initial planning for supporting of regional "professional exchanges" within the Pacific (including looking at funding options and trialing/piloting activities)					
2.6	Annual face to face meeting					
2.7	Initial formal engagement with country-based professional associations and universities					
Goal 3: Driving advocacy for the rehabilitation & assistive technology service providers and users		Year				
Sub-activity – Launching the association		1	2	3	4	5
2.1	Individual countries to present on its participation to key stakeholders (Ministry and Non-ministry of health)					

3.2	Individual countries to hold country level meetings for PRATA members					
3.3	Engage in communication with potential financial partners of Donors to support specific activities					
3.4	Engage with WHO Western Pacific Region					
Sub-activity – Publishing Information		1	2	3	4	5
3.5	Update current website information & establish social media presence					
3.6	Upload endorsed governance documents					
3.7	Upload content from the other areas (Such as CPD)					
Goal 4: Development and sharing of resources and guidelines for use across the region		Year				
Activities		1	2	3	4	5
4.1	Establishment of technical working groups for clinical specialties currently with a reasonable cohort of clinicians across the Pacific (e.g P&O, physio)					
4.2	Mapping of existing technical and clinical guidelines used across PICs related to rehab and AT					
4.3	Establish a working group to review these and use as a basis for a suite of “templates” which can be used across any country					
4.4	Development of PRATA CPD guidelines for use by countries who don't yet have their own CPD guidelines at country-level for rehab and AT clinicians					