

VILLAGE HEALTH FAIR LAUNCHED IN SAMOA

Government Officials, Donor Partners and the Health Sector were gathered at Saleaamua, Aleipata on the 13th September, 2010 for the official launching of the *“Whole of Country, One Health (WOCOH) Integrated Program”*. The establishment of the WOCOH is through the Village Health Fair (VHF) initiative with the overall goal ‘to establish a Multi Sectoral Approach to revitalize Health Promotion and Primary Health Care in the Community’. The WOCOH concept aims to mobilize service providers and communities throughout the country to improve the Health of the people of Samoa through exercising, eating healthy and having regular health checks.



Minister of Health, Hon. Gatoloaifaana Amataqa A. Gidlow

NCD Screening is funded by the Samoa-Australia Partnership Program through financial support of SAT \$2 million for the first year of the Partnership. This National Health Program is facilitated by key Ministries namely the Ministry of Health (MOH), Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development (MWCSD), Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture (MESC), Department of the Legislative Assembly (LA), National Kidney Foundation (NKF) and the National Health Services (NHS); and the Private Sector.



Australian High Commissioner, His Excellency Matt Anderson during his speech.

The Official Launching was attended by representatives from WHO, AusAid, NZAid, JICA, Chief Executive Officers of key Ministries involved in the village health fair program, Health Sector Partners & Providers and the villagers of Saleaamua. Also present were the Manu Samoa Sevens Management and Team not only to witness the special occasion, but as role models of good health and physical wellbeing.

The welcoming address was extended by the Master of Ceremony, Leao Dr. Talalelei Tuitama, who is also the Associate Minister of Health. Reverend Pati Vili of the Congregational Christian Church of Saleaamua offered spiritual thoughts and prayers of thanksgiving. The keynote address was given by the Minister of Health, Honorable Gatoloaifa’ana Amataqa Alesana Gidlow. His Excellency, Matt Anderson spoke on behalf of the people of Australia in response to the expression of appreciation by the Minister of Health regarding their generous support through ongoing financial assistance for Samoa. The day ended with the usual Samoan traditional tribute by the village of Saleaamua denoting the beginning of a long awaited milestone by the village communities.



Group Photo taken after official ceremony at Tafua's Residence, Saleaamua, Aleipata.