

## Development of SCI services in Samoa: an evolving journey

### 1. Learning Objectives:

- Demographics of spinal cord impairment (SCI) in Samoa.
- A developing model of community based care for individuals who have sustained SCI in Samoa.
- Collaboration between Samoan and New Zealand health providers and volunteers to develop knowledge and skills in the management of SCI.

### 2. Outline:

- Overview of Samoa with demographics of the known population with SCI (spinal cord injury/impairment).
- An evolving community based SCI service that is largely volunteer driven with limited available resources will be discussed.
- Perspectives on the collaborative input from Samoan and New Zealand healthcare providers and volunteers with providing treatment, therapy and developing local knowledge and skills in the management of SCI.
- Various models of service provision have been trialled and there is a gradual move towards linking this service with the National Health Service in Samoa.
- New initiatives include a building programme with collaborative input from Samoan and New Zealand volunteers to provide ramps and accessible bathrooms for individuals with SCI.