

Introduction

This monograph documents the cultural experiences and important lessons learned by the Pacific Diabetes Today staff during the implementation of the project. It is our hope that our experiences, insights and “*lessons learned*” will be helpful to others working in Pacific Island communities with Pacific Island partners. This monograph is organized in four sections: (1) Cultural Awareness, (2) Working in Pacific Communities, (3) Training and Technical Assistance and (4) Building Capacity in the Pacific. Each section discusses lessons we have learned in this process.

We would like to acknowledge and thank all of the participants in each of the community groups who extended their warm hospitality, and shared their time and expertise to find creative and culturally appropriate ways to address diabetes in their respective communities. Their support, along with their enthusiasm was greatly appreciated throughout this journey.

For those unfamiliar with this project and this group, we have included an excerpt from the Pacific Diabetes Today curriculum to put this report in its proper context and better acquaint you with *Pacific Islanders, Who We Are*.



Pacific Diabetes Today Advisory Council, Palau 2000 Meeting

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