

# Supporting people with learning disabilities develop skills

By Anita Roberts

**PROVIDING TRAINING TO IMPROVE** skills and support disabled people into employment was a prime objective of a workshop held at Lakatoro on Malekula.

The workshop was facilitated by the Australian Government funded Malampa TVET Centre and the Department of Fisheries.

Three of the 12 participants were females living with disabilities.

Lilly Banga has hearing impairment, Christine Terong

with physical impairment and Gisele Ureles suffers both vision and physical impairments, and were part of the inclusive design and crafting workshops.

Increasing income levels of people with disabilities through enhancing skills is the main focus of the Australian government TVET Sector Strengthening Program in Vanuatu.

Many of the people with disabilities are cared at home by families.

The TVET Program believes

that providing training will help them to feel confident about their disability and to boost their participation in economic development.

The workshop on Malekula begun with design and drawing. Through this workshop, participants have enhanced basic drawing and designing skills.

Through the sea shell crafting workshop, participants have learned about the different types of tools for engraving, safety and preparation of sea shells for

drawing, value adding and polishing of finished products.

According to the Malampa TVET Centre Manager, Ellis Silas, over 100 handicraft products were produced after the workshop.

“Products ranging from

necklaces, bracelets, ear rings, key rings, all with different designs-and all at standard for sale,” he said.

At the end of the workshop, a mini exhibition was held to show case the products.

These products are on sale

at the Malampa Handicraft Centre.

The participation of people with disability in the TVET Centre’s skills development program has doubled recently.

Many of the participants have increased their incomes.



One of the female disability participants, Ureles, grinding her shell. Supporting people with disability into employment was the prime objective of a workshop facilitated by the Malampa TVET Centre at Lakatoro

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