

## TVET eyes effective approach for disabled people

By Anita Roberts

**THE SANMA TVET (TECHNICAL Vocational Education Training) Centre** says it recognizes the needs and rights of the people with disabilities living in Sanma Province.

As part of the development of the national disability inclusion strategy for the TVET Sector that is under development, supported by the Australian Government through TVET Program, the Sanma TVET Centre is expecting to increase its effort to reach out to the most disadvantaged in communities and to change lives through access to skills training and business development support services.

Awareness and engagement with communities, as well as disabled people's organisations is essential to making this a reality.

An awareness-raising program organised by the TVET Centre held at the Luganville Chiefs Nakamal has identified the needs and challenges faced by people with disabilities, as well as the resources available for support.

The meeting gathered representatives of people with disabilities from each area councils and heard from the Sanma Frangipani Association (SFA) and Disability Promotion and Advocacy

(DPA), the specific services and trainings that are available for people with disability, especially through partnership with the TVET Centre.

These two associations advocate for the recognition of disabled people. DPA has the mission to create a society that is inclusive and barrier free. On the other hand, SFA offers training, provides home visitation and consultation to empower children and citizens living with a disability.

Head of DPA, Nelly Celeb, in her speech pointed out certain barriers that prevents disadvantaged people from being able to themselves live productively their community or society just as anyone else.

These examples she mentioned occur at workplaces and in schools, and she also said that the public negative mentality and even at homes where a parent is ashamed of his children's disability does not help.

While there are more to be done, Head of SFA, Doriane Naliupis, clearly outlined lack of finance is disturbing the operation of SFA but acknowledged the fact that through TVET Centre, more trainings for people with disabilities were now available.

The TVET Center in Malampa has also conducting a similar awareness program.