



Pacific Specialist Healthcare (PSH Hospitals). Photo: PSH

PSH Hospitals and Fiji Cancer Society in Talks to Enhance Cancer Care in Fiji

Pacific Specialist Healthcare (PSH Hospitals) and the Fiji Cancer Society (FCS) have initiated discussions on a strategic collaboration aimed at strengthening cancer treatment services in Fiji.

While still in the early stages, the talks focus on expanding access to advanced treatments, including the possibility of introducing radiation therapy locally.

One of the key areas of discussion is the establishment of a radiation therapy unit at PSH Hospitals. Currently, many Fijian cancer patients must travel overseas for radiotherapy, a process that is both costly and emotionally taxing.

A significant portion of overseas medical referrals from Pacific Island countries are for oncology treatments, highlighting the urgent need for local solutions.

“The introduction of radiation therapy in Fiji would be a game-changer,” said Ritesh Kumar, Operations Manager at PSH Hospitals.

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PSH Hospitals Operations Manager

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Having treatment available within the country would mean patients could start care sooner while remaining close to their sup-

port networks, which is critical for their well-being.

Another key issue discussed is the challenge of having highly trained specialists who lack access to the necessary facilities.

“We have a dedicated team of specialists, but our current infrastructure is not equipped to deliver the advanced treatments that our patients need,” said Belinda Chan, chief executive officer (CEO) of FCS.

She emphasised that strengthening cancer care in Fiji requires both enhanced training programs and the development of modern treatment facilities to ensure patients receive the best possible care.

Potential development

PSH Hospitals and FCS have also explored the potential development of a centralised cancer database, which would enable healthcare providers across Fiji to share patient records and treatment plans more efficiently.

“A centralised database would allow for better coordination between medical professionals, ensuring that every patient receives consistent and well-monitored care,” noted Kumar.

Improved data sharing could lead to more streamlined treatment plans, minimise redundant testing, and enhance the overall quality of care.

The discussions between PSH Hospitals and the Fiji Cancer Society mark a step forward in the effort to strengthen cancer care in Fiji.

The shared vision remains focused on introducing local radiation therapy to reduce the need for overseas referrals, enhancing medical infrastructure and training to support healthcare professionals, and developing a centralised cancer database for better treatment coordination.

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Pacific Specialist Healthcare operations manager Ritesh Kumar and Fiji Cancer Society (FCS) CEO Belinda Chan go through a discussion in Nadi. Photo: PSH