





May 2022



From left: Head of Policy Programs, New Zealand and Pacific Islands at Meta, Ms Cheryl Seeto, FEO Manager Public Relations Ms Neelam Prasad, the Supervisor of Elections Mr Mohammed Saneem, Head of Public Policy, New Zealand & Pacific Islands at Meta Mr Nick McDonnell and the Coordinator for the Centre for Credible Election Information Mr Ziyad Parvez in Sydney on 24 May 2022.

# FEO Holds Meeting with Facebook

As a first, the Fijian Elections Office ['FEO'] held a meeting with Meta, the owners of Facebook in its office in Sydney on 24 May 2022.

At the meeting, the Supervisor of Elections, Manager Public Relations and the Coordinator for the Centre for Credible Election Information ['CCEI'] held discussions on numerous topics and presented FEO's various initiatives during the meeting.

"We welcome the opportunity to meet with the executives of Facebook in Australia, the regional headquarters so that we could thrash out various initiatives, opportunities as well issues arising out of the Facebook platform which is one of the most widely used social media platforms in Fiji," explained Mr. Saneem.

"We took this opportunity to also discuss with

Facebook the training and security measures for the 2022 General Election and it was a very useful first meeting and we look forward to more meetings in the future," Mr Saneem said.

The FEO also led discussions with regards to misinformation on Facebook and how it could impact the election environment.

"As an example, we have raised growing concerns with Facebook in Fiji with relation to persons' using fake identities to harass individuals, fake pages to harass every sector of the society, hiding behind anonymity" Mr. Saneem remarked.

Facebook and FEO will soon collaborate to organize training for all political parties on using the platform and its features more effectively in the 2022 General Election.



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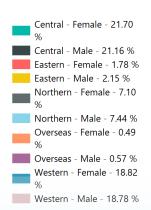
# **Voter Statistics**

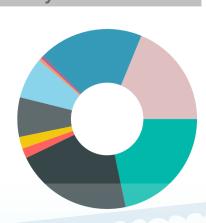
AS AT: 14 April, 2022

# **Age Cohorts**

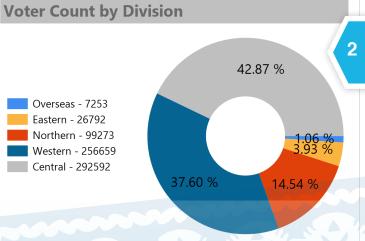
		Age Col	hort Distibu	ution by Di	vision and	Gender			
Division	Gender	18-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61-70	71-80	81+
Central	Male	6855	36168	34775	25904	20397	13180	5570	1597
Central	Female	7597	36376	33777	25526	20999	14697	6781	2393
Eastern	Male	523	2832	3351	2623	2457	1723	846	290
Eastern	Female	400	2188	2830	2155	2020	1410	786	358
Northern	Male	2192	10897	11277	9701	8584	5361	2076	727
Northern	Female	2436	10348	9902	8445	7932	5432	2951	1012
Western	Male	5291	26889	30602	24801	20361	13269	5441	1545
Western	Female	5744	27483	28742	22911	19939	14276	6994	2371
Overseas	Male	0	297	731	1039	908	611	241	52
Overseas	Female	0	257	647	857	796	574	211	32
Total		31038	153735	156634	123962	104393	70533	31897	10377

# **Voter Count by Gender By Division**









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Tatal	692560
Female	340585
Male	341984

Central	Male	144446	
Central	Female	148146	
Eastern	Male	14645	
Eastern	Female	12147	
Northern	Male	50815	
Northern	Female	48458	
Overseas	Male	3879	
Overseas	Female	3374	
Western	Male	128199	
Western	Female	128460	

682569

**Gender Distribution By Division** 

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# **Overseas Voter Registration**





FEO staff serving voters during New Zealand Voter Registration Drive.

# **Overseas Voter** Registration in Australia & New Zealand

The FEO recorded a total of 1,389 engagements during its overseas voter registration drive in Australia and New Zealand which concluded on 25 May 2022.

As part of the exercise, the teams visited various locations Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide, Darwin, Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch to provide voter services to the Fijians living there.

300 new eligible voters were registered to vote while 1,089 voters upgraded to the latest blue VoterCard.

The FEO will be announcing the dates for its voter registration drive in the United States of America in due course.







Community Elections Advocates during their training session.

# 156 Community Election Advocates Trained

156 community representatives from around the country now have the knowledge and material to conduct election awareness within their localities following training and certification by the FEO.

Supervisor of Elections, Mr Mohammed Saneem said the aim of the FEO's Community Engagement Project was to conduct election awareness at the grassroots level and the certification of the 156 individuals brought to fruition the FEO's deep commitment to building voter knowledge and confidence in Fiji.

"We are directly training community representatives who will then sit in groups with their peers, friends and neighbours and talk about elections.

This is exactly what we had wanted to achieve with such a project," Mr Saneem said.

The FEO has partnered with the United Nations Development Programme to deliver this project in grass-root level communities with the aim of certifying 240 Community Elections Advocates and reaching over 7,000 Fijians through them.

# **Knowing your Electoral System**

FEO's Manger Legal Ms Ana Mataiciwa spoke to youths on Fiji's Electoral System emphasizing the importance of voting and how it translated into representation during a dialogue session organized by the Fiji Young Women's Forum earlier this month.

Speaking on the topic of 'Knowing your Electoral System' Ms Mataiciwa explained the various processes that are synonymous to Fiji's electoral system while highlighting the importance of voting.

"We have the right to vote, but it is also our responsibility," Ms Mataiciwa said.

"So, if you know you are eligible you will first need to register yourself and then commit to exercising your right to vote come Election Day," she explained.

Ms Maticiwa also highlighted that youths between the ages of 18 to 30



The FEO staff with the participants at the 'Knowing your Electoral System' dialogue session.

years had the lowest turnout in the 2018 General Election and encouraged participants to take on their civic responsibility of voting with pride.

"If you haven't registered or you know someone at home who is eligible but is yet to register, visit the nearest Voter Services Centre and get registered. Registration will close on the day the Writ for the 2022 General Election is issued," she emphasized.

Ms Mataiciwa was joined by the Supervisor of Elections, Mr Mohammed Saneem who also took questions from the participants with regards to elections and voting.



FEO staff during the 2022 General Election simulation

# **FEO concludes 2022 General Election Simulations**

As part of its preparations, the FEO conducted simulations of various election activities that will need to be executed once the Writ for the 2022 General Election is issued.

Supervisor of Elections, Mr Mohammed Saneem said the simulation exercise allowed the various FEO department managers and project owners to test their processes and procedures in relation to the conduct of various election activities.

"It was a good time to do a rehearsal as the FEO aimed to be election ready by the end of the month," Mr. Saneem said.

"The simulation exercise will come in very handy for the teams going forward into the election as it was an opportunity for them to self-asses and identify the areas where improvements were needed.

"We also reviewed the outcomes of the rehearsal and from the review we will now be making necessary adjustments to the processes where required," Mr Saneem added.

The simulation exercise was carried out in two (2) weeks and included the rehearsal of all major activities and events falling in the 50-day Writ period.



Staff of Mindpearl Fiji during the Postal Voting Awareness session.

# FEO conducts Postal Voting Awareness

The FEO conducted awareness sessions for 40 organizations around the country in its efforts to prepare Fijians who would be voting by Postal Ballot in the 2022 General Election.

As part of the exercise, the FEO teams also visited aged care facilities to provide them with all the necessary information with regards to Postal Voting.

In Fiji, Postal Voting Applications open on the day the Election Date is announced.

# The following are eligible to apply:

- (i) A registered voter who is living outside of Fiji or will be outside of Fiji on Polling Day.
- (ii) A registered voter who is unable to travel to a Polling Station due to serious illness, religious beliefs or work

commitments.

(iii) A registered voter who is under pre-trial detention or sentence of imprisonment.

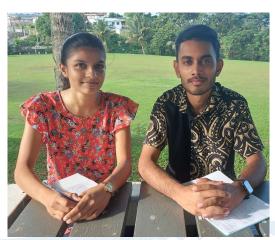
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# @ A GLANCE



# Over 900 teams for KYE Quiz 3





Team Medicine duo Nirtika Nath and Prasit Narayan.

A total of 920 teams registered for the 'Know Your Election' ["KYE"] Quiz, the third one for the year as FEO ramps up voter education and awareness for the 2022 General Election.

Nirtika Nath and Prasit Narayan who had also won the KYE Quiz 1 earlier this year, walked away with \$500 cash after scoring 83% in the Quiz with the runner up team scoring 80%.

The KYE Quizzes are designed to engage voters and the general public through a marathon competition empowering teams to research about elections and as a by-product, participants build up on their knowledge of the electoral process in Fiji.

The list of winners for the competition are:
1st Prize: Medicine\$500
2nd Prize: QuizpicableMe\$300
3rd Prize: QuizMe\$200
4th Prize: Team Ali\$100
Calo Deiro, Moo

# Over 4,000 Engagements for School Registration



The FEO concluded its School Registration Drive with 4,038 engagements which included 1,920 new registrations. The School Registration Drive was conducted between 10 April to 29 April 2022.

The Supervisor of Elections, Mr Mohammed Saneem speaking during FEO's School Registration Drive at Nadi Muslim College.

# 3,458 Presiding Officers **Trained**

The FEO has so far trained 3,458 Presiding Officers ["PO"] who will be managing the Polling Stations on Election Day as well as during Pre-polling for the 2022 General Election.

The FEO is expecting to train more POs in the next few weeks.



Presiding Officers undergoing their training for the 2022 General Election

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# The FEO Voter Registration team during the 143rd Girmit Day & Rotuman Community's Annual Farmer's Show in May.







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# Centre for Credible Election CHECK FIRST TO 11 CH

When it comes to election information, ditch the coconut wireless



Since we are based at the Fijian Elections Office, we have the right information, from the direct source.

