

## **FRIEND takes the pledge**

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### **THE Foundation for Rural Integrated Enterprises and Development has initiated a "take the pledge" campaign as it heightens efforts to tackle the onslaught of diabetes.**

The NGO says this is in light of current statistics that show one in three people in Fiji is diabetic, with an 11-year-old being the youngest Type 2 diabetic. Associate and Medical Director Dr Jone Hawea said this pledge, in communities they've taken the campaign to, was proving to be quite effective. "When people take the pledge publicly they feel they are accountable and even though some of the choices they wish for are difficult, they stay the course," Dr Hawea highlighted in a statement. "Statistics show a lower limb amputation rate in our hospitals of one every 12 hours." "This is an estimated 700 amputations a year and if unchecked, we could have almost 7000 people maimed due to diabetes in 10 years' time," Dr Hawea said. FRIEND undertook a retrospective study using a World Health Organization cardiovascular risk assessment tool on 1000 patients and plans to use the data analysis to develop intervention strategies for the communities assessed. Dr Hawea is scheduled to release his findings from this study in Vuda this Saturday, at FRIEND Fiji's GROW Star awards.

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