

NGO studies diabetics - Fiji Times Online

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THE Foundation for Rural Integrated Enterprises and Development (FRIEND) will launch a study targeting about 500 diabetics in the Western Division to determine the risk of lower limb amputations.

According to FRIEND medical director Dr Jone Hawea, the study would provide Fijian health care professionals with a range of intervention options in managing the diabetic patients' lower limb.

"It should also provide a baseline data that will encourage more preventative diabetic foot care work or research," he said.

The Ministry of Health says one lower limb amputation was carried out every 12.5 hours.

"This is an intervention based study because of the 'need to treat' each individual and that the management options will be tailored to suit each patient," Dr Hawea said.

"This study will therefore provide the means of categorising diabetics into interventional options of treatment or management that will prevent the need to amputate.

"These options will range from primary prevention like foot care health education and nutritional and exercises programs to tertiary prevention like surgical vascular procedures."

The study will be launched by Minister for Health and Medical Services Jone Usamate today.