



**PUBLIC HEALTH POLICING
IN PACIFIC ISLAND NATIONS**

PUBLIC HEALTH POLICING IN FIJI 2026 PROGRAM BRIEF

Public Health Policing in Fiji 2026 program is supported by the Australian Government and implemented by the Global Law Enforcement and Public Health Association (GLEPHA).



1. Program Overview

Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) is supporting Fiji's national response to the emerging HIV epidemic. Through this partnership, the Kirby Institute has contracted the Global Law Enforcement and Public Health Association (GLEPHA) to deliver a 12-month program in 2026 focused on strengthening public health-aligned policing and justice practices.

The program supports police, prosecutors, legal officials, health partners, and community leaders to respond confidently and effectively to Fiji's evolving HIV environment.

2. Who We Are – GLEPHA

GLEPHA is an international association connecting senior police leaders, legal practitioners, public health experts, researchers, and policymakers and affected communities across over 70 countries.



Our approach is:

- Evidence-informed
- Operationally grounded
- Rights-based and relational

GLEPHA works at the intersection of policing, justice, and public health, including HIV, drug use, gender-based violence, and mental health.

3. Why Has This Program Been Established

In 2025, the Fiji Police Force and legal sector leaders made a request via the Ministry of Health and Medical Services for support in regard to their roles in the rapidly shifting HIV situation driven by injecting and sexual transmission.



Responses by the justice system directly influence:

- the speed and scale of HIV transmission
- officer safety and wellbeing
- whether people seek help
- whether harm reduction approaches succeed
- community trust in police

Legal and policy reforms are underway, but daily policing and law enforcement decisions already shape outcomes. This program engages police and justice actors now, while long-term reforms continue.

4. Program Timeline & Approach

Phase 1 – Understanding Context & Co-Design

FEB

- Meetings with police, prosecutors, legal officials, government agencies, health authorities, community leaders
- Field visits to Suva, Lautoka, Labasa, and other key locations

MAR
2026

- Talanoa and listening sessions
- Co-designing a program grounded in Fiji's operational and cultural realities

Phase 2 – Delivery & Technical Support

APR

- Training and engagement with police, prosecutors, government agencies, health authorities, community leaders
- Study tour to Australia to meet with police and others, and explore its harm reduction programs
- Legal, policy, and police operational guidance

DEC
2026

- Communications and media support
- Monitoring, evaluation, and learning

5. Phase 1 Objective

To undertake consultations to understand the specific needs of the law enforcement and legal sectors to co-design a program to build awareness and understanding of their role in HIV prevention.



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