

Digital Stories of Stigma – Vanuatu - Marie Bule

Series title slide text: Stories of Impact and Resilience from People with Disability

Explanatory slide 1 text: Sharing lived experiences gives planners and policy makers valuable insights into the needs of those impacted by their decisions.

Explanatory slide 2 text: We asked people with disability to tell a story about a time they experienced stigma and how they coped.

Video title text: Experiences of Stigma. Marie's story – Vanuatu

Start: We see a photograph of a middle aged Vanuatuan woman, she is sitting inside a structure with canvas walls, she wears a pale t-shirt and gold earrings and necklace.

She says: My name is Marie Bule. I come from the northern part of Vanuatu. I can see with one eye, and I am 53 years old. I am married. I have three boys and three girls.

We see a photo of a mop in a red bucket, then a pink duster cleaning a window, and an older school building beside a new building under construction.

Marie says: In 2021, when I was doing work cleaning the office at a local school, a senior teacher came over and told me to leave. When he sent me out of the school, he swore at me.

We see a photo of the sun through clouds.

Marie continues: He called me 'stupid woman' and told me to take my bag and go home. The senior teacher did this to me for no good reason. He saw my disability, that's why he treated me that way.

We see video of two peoples' hands, the hand on top is gently stroking the hand below. This is followed by a photo of a palm tree at sunset, the tree is dark and the sky is striped yellow and purple with clouds.

Marie says: After that happened, I went to rub his hands and tell him sorry. I went to the academic head and we both went to see the deputy principal. We told him what happened but there was no response from the school.

We see video of a palm tree in wind and rain, the video pans to grass and we hear a rooster and other birds in the background.

Marie says: After that, I took the issue to court. But that didn't change anything either. The court found the senior teacher guilty and gave him seven days to give me my job back. But instead, after the seven days, he replaced me with another woman without disability.

We see a closer version of the initial photo of Marie Bule.

Marie says: I felt bad, and I cried because I thought that I should have been allowed to go back to my job. It would be good if all teachers working in schools understood the rights of people with disability.

Disclaimer slide text: This publication has been funded by the Australian Government through the department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The views expressed in this publication are the author's alone and are not necessarily the views of the Australian Government

Use of video text: Please respect the integrity of this content and refrain from editing or altering it in any way.

End slide text and logos:

Text: Find more stories of impact and resilience, beside this is a QR code that links to <https://mbspgh.unimelb.edu.au/centres-institutes/nossal-institute-for-global-health/research/research-groups/stories-of-impact-and-resilience>

Also in text: This video has been funded by the Australian Government through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). Produced by VDPA and the Nossal Institute, University of Melbourne, through the CBM-Nossal Partnership.

Logos:

Australian Aid – navy blue writing and a red kangaroo,

VDPA, Red writing in a yellow circle with green leaves on the outside

CBM, global disability inclusion red writing, and inclusion advisory group black writing with a yellow circle, red and yellow dots in a cross shape

The University of Melbourne, blue square with white writing and figure of Nike the goddess of victory with the latin words postera crescam laude