



**PRESIDENT**

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This is in response to the FBC news yesterday (26<sup>th</sup> April) which said that private practitioners were turning patients away from screening zones.

My rebuttal and comments unfortunately were not reported by FBC. When asked to comment, I rightfully denied any knowledge about patients being turned away.

I have not received any reports whatsoever from any member of the public that that they were denied care by any private or general practitioner.

FCGP members have been constantly in touch with MOHMS exchanging information, appraising and updating ourselves well before the first Covid 19 case was identified in Fiji.

We have had a number of clinical sessions, workshops and seminars since the outbreak and more recently in February and March this year in Central and Western Divisions looking at the Covid 19 Vaccine roll out etc etc.

I also mentioned in the interview that our members were well equipped with personal protection and will refer suspected cases of Covid 19 to respective fever clinics for further management.

We'll never shy away from carrying out our professional duties and obligations no matter what the crisis maybe. We have done this before in many other situations and our members have always stood out in conducting outreach voluntary clinics in many a times. Most recently several teams reached out to victims of Cyclone Yasa in Vanua Levu early this year.

One of the special attributes of a General or Private Practitioner is to uphold and maintain highest standards of medical care. It's not only treating an illness but we consider the whole person or Holistic care – body, mind, spirit and emotions.

We form an important arm of the Primary Health Care team, complimenting the work of MOHMS. We provide continuous, comprehensive and community based care to individuals and families irrespective of age, sex and illness.

We don't have to be reminded to be humane. That is our special domain to be as compassionate and humane as ever.

And we also play a very important role as GATEKEEPERS.

We never turn away any patients that we cannot treat but rather as gatekeepers we refer patients to specialists and other colleagues in a timely and appropriate manner.

Finally, we would like to assure members of the public that they can all seek medical attention from any of the GP's in Fiji for the best possible care and management at all times.

We have an office and a full time secretary. We also have a useful website. Just google fcgp.



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