



An overview of primary health care needs and opportunities in the Pacific

Lachlan McIver

James Cook University

Primary health care has long been recognised as the backbone of any health system.

The imperative for effective primary health care and the identification of obstacles to its delivery are of paramount importance in developing countries, including the small island developing states of the Pacific region.

Health policies in the Pacific are guided by the principle of 'Healthy Islands', which provides a framework for health systems development linking health and wellbeing with island environments and society.

This opening session briefly summarises some of the key challenges and opportunities related to primary health care in context of over twenty countries and territories covering tens of thousands of islands across the 'Blue Continent'.