



# Palau Parents Empowered

Executive Director  
**Francesca Morei-Misech**  
President  
**Dwight Alexander**

## Main Activities

- Conducting Parents Training with partners in Health and Education
- Fundraising for those referred to medical treatment outside of Palau
- Working with Special Education to support parents
- Interventions for children and families in need
- Spreading awareness with partners throughout the Pacific

## Background of Establishment

Palau Parents Empowered was established in June 2010, officially starting a few months later after receiving a grant valid for 5 years from the Department of Education under the United States Federal Program, and becoming a Non-governmental Organization in 2011.

## Purpose

Support the parents and families of children and youth with disabilities; to be a bridge for families to services and resources they need and to advocate for systems improvement for people with disabilities in Palau.



## Member's Voice Ms. Francesca Morei-Misech



Before Palau Parents Empowered, parents of children receiving services from the Special Education Program would meet sometimes and share their stories. They shared their challenges and lack of knowledge about their own children's disabilities and other social and financial difficulties that came with having children with disabilities. Most parents didn't know where to go for support. With help from friends in Hawaii, my husband and I learned about the grant opportunity through the Department of Education under the United States Federal Program, and we all worked to apply for it. Since receiving the grant, we worked in capacity building for our office and staff, enrolled parents, and established partnerships with agencies in the national government.

Our short-term goal is to have our current office renovated and find funding for its daily operation. As a non-profit, we operate on collaboration because we serve a wide range of parents with different needs. That is what kept us going after our US grant ended in 2015. We hope to continue to support parents to be knowledgeable about their own children's disabilities, teach advocacy skills and awareness of their children's rights in education, and encourage parents to support each other. We want them to know they are not alone in their struggles and challenges and be able to bond with each other and celebrate their and their children's achievements.

My husband and I have a daughter, Telloi Angelique, who is 27, the second oldest of our four children. She has multiple disabilities; verbal, vision, and hearing impairments. However, she is very smart and bright and started going to Ngerbeched Head Start at the age of 3 and graduated from Palau High School at the age of 21 in 2017. She has a very persistent personality and never gives up on problems until they are resolved. For example, despite her disabilities, she is very familiar with her surroundings at home, freely walking and maneuvering around. She loves to find different types of locks around the house and mastering how to lock and unlock them. Whenever someone opens a door, she would come out of her room and go straight to that door. We sometimes wonder whether she really can't see and hear! She keeps us on our toes all day (smile). Through the support from Palau Parents Empowered, parents of children with disabilities have slowly grown more confident about advocating for their children.

## Contact Information

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