

## Sailor helped to get home to sick wife

A sailor contacted us to ask our assistance in being repatriated to attend to his sick wife.

*"My wife has made a request from the office in Fiji for the approval of my sign off due to the fact that she is sick and was suppose to attend her doctor's appointments... There will be no-one to say with my children at home and the school term begins on the 27th. My wife did not attend her doctors appointment as she felt that she will be admitted and no one will care for our children since i am not home yet. ... Two days before we arrived in Brisbane, i was informed that crew change has been cancelled until Auckland.*

*I am under a lot of stress and feeling depressed with this situation and I feel that the company is playing games with tactics not to sign me off though i have an emergency at home. I don't think i will be able to perform my duties and responsibilities onboard if i continue .... I can not endure anymore of this if i am not signed off the vessel."*

Thanks to the local Port State Controller we were able to obtain confirmation that the crew change would take place and the seafarer is now home looking after his wife and children!

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## Mass onboard Port Vila Chief

The captain of PVC was pleased to learn that we can arrange for a Mass to be conducted onboard. Father Glen Lowe was accompanied by National Welfare Manager Aaron Ironside. A small group of the crew were encouraged to share in the Sacrament of Holy Communion..

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## Market Development Facility (MDF) Meeting

Lusiana Kuinikoro is the a Business Development Advisor with the Market Development Facility (MDF) programme, Pacific Regional Team in Suva, Fiji. Market Development Facility( MDF) is an Australian Government funded multi-country initiative which promotes sustainable economic development, through higher incomes for women and men, in Pacific partner countries.

Their Pacific Regional team is scoping the marine skills sector, reaching out to key market players in the maritime industry within the region to help us understand the industry better. Lusi met with National Welfare Manager Aaron Ironside at the Centre to better understand the needs of Pacific seafarers

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## Bluff Seafarers Centre launches new welfare services

In December, Larry Robbins and Aaron Ironside visited the Bluff Seafarers Centre at Southport. The local contacts at Southport were pleased to learn of plans to further develop the range of welfare services offered to seafarers through the Bluff Seafarers Centre.

A team of six volunteers met this month to make plans to refurbish the current Centre, develop systems for providing FOREX and SIM card services and ultimately visit the ships in person. The local team are completing online training and Aaron Ironside will visit to provide some in person training.