

10.03.11 | SPBD Microfinance Ltd. (Fiji) initiates excellent programs in partnership with WestPac Bank in Fiji

WestPac Fiji and SPBD Fiji partner to initiate new programs in financial literacy training, a quick-pay facility, and potential sponsorship

Fiji, 03 October 2011 – [SPBD Fiji](#) and [WestPac Fiji](#) initiate excellent programs

SPBD Fiji and WestPac Fiji have partnered in the following:

1. Financial Literacy Training -- Sessions with SPBD clients started last week. While clients wait for their disbursements, the Financial Literacy training is done by WestPac. For the first week, 62 clients were in attendance and Westpac provided Certificates of Participation. Next week the training will commence in the villages (Nausori areas). Westpac will have the additional session right after the SPBD center meeting. This program is being piloted in two villages.

2. Microfinance Market Expo – SPBD is now a participant of the monthly Microfinance Market Expo that Westpac is organizing. The first was last Saturday. WestPac provided SPBD with ample space to set-up a tent where selected village centers will display and sell their products. This will be done at the Garden City in Suva. Another one is being organized at the Nausori Market next month.

3. Quick-Pay Facility - Westpac will be piloting this loan disbursement facility with SPBD. Ladies who have successfully been interviewed by SPBD can get their net loan disbursements in a Westpac bank account, which will be opened for each client free of charge. A Westpac software will be installed at SPBD so that the fund transfers can easily be done from the SPBD Account to the client account -- with all the appropriate controls and audits in place. If this goes well this will cut a lot of SPBD costs in terms of man-hours doing the banking and counting the money at the office and even the waiting time for the clients. The software fee of \$75 is waived and WestPac will only charge ten cents (\$0.10) per transaction.

SPBD is very excited about this collaboration and the potential it brings to greatly benefit the women and their families in Fiji.

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About SPBD:

[South Pacific Business Development \(SPBD\)](#) improves the quality of life of families living in poverty by providing unsecured credit, training, and ongoing motivation and guidance to help them start, grow and maintain micro-businesses, build assets, as well as, finance home improvements and childhood education. Our vision is to create a network of micro-enterprise development organizations in the South-Pacific and neighboring regions to empower women through financial access and economic development to help lift themselves and their families permanently out of poverty and improve self-esteem.