



CARITAS AUSTRALIA
PROJECT
COMPASSION

Unite Against Poverty this Lent

**MANAINI'S
STORY
FIJI**

**PRIMARY (F TO 2)
PHOTO STORYBOOK**

Photos: Caritas Australia



Fiji is a beautiful island country in the Pacific Ocean made up of over 300 islands.



Many people in Fiji don't have what they need for a happy healthy life, including fresh food and a steady job.



Manaini lives in Fiji with her family. She found buying food from the store expensive, so she grew some of her own.



She earnt money from selling her left-over vegetables and weaving mats, but it was still hard to provide for her family.



Manaini explained that her life improved after joining a special program run by Caritas Australia's partner, FRIEND.



The program helps the community to use what they have, to bring about change.

'We learnt how to make use of the food that was available. For example, drying all types of root crops such as breadfruit, cassava, taro, and yams to make varieties of flour.'

- Manaini





They learnt how to dry some foods to sell, or grind into flour to make baked goods like cakes.



Manaini and her neighbours were also given seeds to grow in their gardens and taught how to care for them.



Manaini and her family now grow a variety of fruit and vegetables. Their meals are healthier.



Now Manaini can grow extra food. She earns money by selling chillies and other vegetables at a street stall.



Having a small amount of extra money has helped Manaini send her children to school.



The program has helped in other ways too!
Manaini's village didn't have streetlights, and some families
didn't have lights in their homes.



The program helped the community get solar powered streetlights. The community can now safely gather after dark with friends and family.

'The project as a whole has a lot of value in my life as it totally changed the life of my family and even the community.'

- Manaini





You are helping families like Manaini's live a healthier life when you share her story and donate to Project Compassion.

QUESTIONS

1. How did Manaini earn money for her family before joining the FRIEND program?
2. How did Caritas Australia and FRIEND help?
3. What did Manaini learn?
4. Why is it important to learn new skills?
5. What has earning more money meant for Manaini and her family?
6. How will you share Manaini's story with others?

Along with your generous support, this program is also supported by the Australian Government, through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

