

## Fijian

# vaka-Viti

**Spoken in:** Fiji

**Region:** Spoken as first language on Vanua Levu, the eastern half of Viti Levu, and on the lesser islands of Kadavu, Nayau, Lakeba, Oneata, Moce, Komo, Namuka, Kabara, Vulaga, Ogea and Vatoa. In the rest of Fiji, spoken as a second language.

**Total speakers:** 350,000 native speakers, 200,000 second-language users

**Genetic Classification:** Austronesian Malayo-Polynesian Central-Eastern Eastern Malayo-Polynesian Oceanic Central-Eastern Oceanic Remote Oceanic Central Pacific East Fijian-Polynesian East Fijian.

**Official language of:** one of the official languages in Fiji

Fijian is an Austronesian language of the Malayo-Polynesian family spoken in Fiji. It has 350,000 first-language speakers, which is less than half the population of Fiji.

The 1997 Constitution established Fijian as an official language of Fiji, along with English and Hindustani, and there is discussion about establishing it as the "national language," though English and Hindustani would remain official.

Currently SSWAHS Health Care Interpreter Service employs 1 Fijian sessional interpreter.

### Fijian alphabet

A a B b C c D d E e (F f) G g I i (J j) K k L l M m  
[a] [mb] [ð] [nd] [e] [f] [ŋ] [i] [x] [k] [l] [m]  
N n O o (P p) Q q R r S s T t U u V v W w Y y  
[n] [o] [p] [ŋg] [r] [s] [t] [u] [v] [w] [j]

F, J and P are only used in foreign loan words.