

**From:** [Carli Shillito](#)  
**To:** [Craig Chittick](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Fiji travel advice - any update from Post? [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Monday, 23 December 2024 5:25:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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**OFFICIAL**

Hi Craig,

See latest on Fiji travel advice below. Hasn't gone live yet – Post will give us a heads up in advance.

Carli

Carli Shillito

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Assistant Secretary  
Fiji Vanuatu Branch | Pacific Melanesia Division  
Office of the Pacific  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
**s 22(1)(a)(ii)**

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**From:** **s 22(1)(a)(ii)** @dfat.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 22, 2024 2:13 PM  
**To:** Warren Macilwain <Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au>; Carli Shillito <Carli.Shillito@dfat.gov.au>; **s 22(1)(a)(ii)** @dfat.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Travel Advice <travel.advice@dfat.gov.au>; **s 22(1)(a)(ii)** @dfat.gov.au>; Madeleine Casey <Madeleine.Casey@dfat.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Fiji travel advice - any update from Post? [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Thanks Warren and Carli. I've spoken with HOM – he is comfortable with the plan for going with Option A, with the below amendments to the content (in red). As advised earlier, we're not ready for this update to go live as yet. I will come back with the green light from HOM once we receive confirmation of the blood test results from the Health Ministry. This may not happen until tomorrow.

Thanks for all your help on this today, particularly given Vanuatu.

Cheers

**s 22(1)(a)(ii)**

Option A

We could do this a technical update / date change (given there is no new information to this update) – this means it would just be an update to the website (no email to subscriber and no social media).

**Latest update**

We continue to advise exercise normal safety precautions.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

- **Know your alcohol limits.** Drink spiking can happen anywhere. See our advice on [Partying safely while overseas](#)

Full travel advice: [Safety](#)

**Full advice / Safety / Crime**

**Alcohol safety ~~drink spiking and methanol poisoning~~**

**Know your alcohol limits and be safe around water.** Drink spiking can happen anywhere. Be alert to the potential risks. ~~around drink spiking and~~ Get urgent medical attention if you think you or someone else has been drugged. ~~around drink spiking and methanol poisoning.~~ See our advice, including on spiking and methanol risks, on [Partying safely while overseas](#)

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- 
- 
- 

More information:

| • Partying safely while overseas  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**From:** Warren Macilwain <[Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 22, 2024 2:55 PM  
**To:** Carli Shillito <[Carli.Shillito@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Carli.Shillito@dfat.gov.au)>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Travel Advice <[travel.advice@dfat.gov.au](mailto:travel.advice@dfat.gov.au)>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; Madeleine Casey <[Madeleine.Casey@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Madeleine.Casey@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Re: Fiji travel advice - any update from Post? [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

I've done that

As per call with HOM the other day his view is "deletion not an option and carrying the text as general advice is good".

To keep it low key we would suggest option A below (my advice)

Cheers

---

**From:** "Carli Shillito" <[Carli.Shillito@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Carli.Shillito@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Date:** Sunday 22 December 2024 at 1:07:01 pm  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>, "Warren Macilwain" <[Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au)>, s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Cc:** "Travel Advice" <[travel.advice@dfat.gov.au](mailto:travel.advice@dfat.gov.au)>, s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>, "Madeleine Casey" <[Madeleine.Casey@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Madeleine.Casey@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Fiji travel advice - any update from Post? [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

I can follow up with Craig.

Carli Shillito

---

Assistant Secretary  
 Fiji Vanuatu Branch | Pacific Melanesia Division

Office of the Pacific  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

---

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[@dfat.gov.au](mailto:@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 22, 2024 1:02 PM  
**To:** Warren Macilwain <[Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au)>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[@dfat.gov.au](mailto:@dfat.gov.au)>;  
Carli Shillito <[Carli.Shillito@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Carli.Shillito@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Travel Advice <[travel.advice@dfat.gov.au](mailto:travel.advice@dfat.gov.au)>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[@dfat.gov.au](mailto:@dfat.gov.au)>;  
Madeleine Casey <[Madeleine.Casey@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Madeleine.Casey@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Fiji travel advice - any update from Post? [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

HOM's just asked if Craig is aware and shares the view to go with one of the options below?

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**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 22, 2024 1:48 PM  
**To:** Warren Macilwain <[Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au)>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[@dfat.gov.au](mailto:@dfat.gov.au)>;  
Carli Shillito <[Carli.Shillito@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Carli.Shillito@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Travel Advice <[travel.advice@dfat.gov.au](mailto:travel.advice@dfat.gov.au)>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[@dfat.gov.au](mailto:@dfat.gov.au)>;  
Madeleine Casey <[Madeleine.Casey@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Madeleine.Casey@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Re: Fiji travel advice - any update from Post? [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Thanks Warren, appreciate you coming back so quickly. I'll share with HOM and revert.

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**From:** "Warren Macilwain" <[Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Date:** Sunday 22 December 2024 at 13:29:14  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[@dfat.gov.au](mailto:@dfat.gov.au)>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[@dfat.gov.au](mailto:@dfat.gov.au)>; "Carli Shillito" <[Carli.Shillito@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Carli.Shillito@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** "Travel Advice" <[travel.advice@dfat.gov.au](mailto:travel.advice@dfat.gov.au)>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[@dfat.gov.au](mailto:@dfat.gov.au)>; "Madeleine Casey" <[Madeleine.Casey@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Madeleine.Casey@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Re: Fiji travel advice - any update from Post? [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

On the last point I mean for use in explaining to the Fijians why we've left it in there. Not linking to it in TA

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**From:** "Warren Macilwain" <[Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Date:** Sunday 22 December 2024 at 12:27:47 pm  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[@dfat.gov.au](mailto:@dfat.gov.au)>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[@dfat.gov.au](mailto:@dfat.gov.au)>; "Carli Shillito" <[Carli.Shillito@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Carli.Shillito@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** "Travel Advice" <[travel.advice@dfat.gov.au](mailto:travel.advice@dfat.gov.au)>; "s 22(1)(a)(ii)"



s 22(1)(a)(ii) [@dfat.gov.au](mailto:@dfat.gov.au), "Madeleine Casey" <[Madeleine.Casey@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Madeleine.Casey@dfat.gov.au)>

**Subject:** Re: Fiji travel advice - any update from Post? [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

s 33(a)(iii)

Cheers

---

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) [@dfat.gov.au](mailto:@dfat.gov.au)

**Date:** Sunday 22 December 2024 at 11:31:38 am

**To:** "Warren Macilwain" <[Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au)>, s 22(1)(a)(ii) [@dfat.gov.au](mailto:@dfat.gov.au), "Carli Shillito" <[Carli.Shillito@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Carli.Shillito@dfat.gov.au)>

**Cc:** "Travel Advice" <[travel.advice@dfat.gov.au](mailto:travel.advice@dfat.gov.au)>, s 22(1)(a)(ii) [@dfat.gov.au](mailto:@dfat.gov.au), "Madeleine Casey" <[Madeleine.Casey@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Madeleine.Casey@dfat.gov.au)>

**Subject:** RE: Fiji travel advice - any update from Post? [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

**OFFICIAL**

Hi all

Post has received a copy of the outstanding blood test results (appears to be for three of the four affected Australians) which we believe shows no methanol or illicit drugs. s 33(a)(iii)

In the meantime, HOM has asked for CCD's advice on updating the travel advice so we have a cleared version ready to go. He's keen to know if CCD recommends reverting to our previous travel advice (prior to this incident occurring) or moving to one of the options proposed by s 22(1)(a)(i) in the below email chain. I suppose the primary considerations for either reverting to the previous or changing the travel advice are: the test results are not showing methanol or illicit drugs as the cause; this is an isolated incident at one resort; and we still don't know the cause.

[@Warren.Macilwain](mailto:@Warren.Macilwain) s 22(1)(a)(ii) – grateful for your views/recommendations on how we proceed.

Thanks

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[@dfat.gov.au](mailto:@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 20, 2024 3:18 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[@dfat.gov.au](mailto:@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Travel Advice <[travel.advice@dfat.gov.au](mailto:travel.advice@dfat.gov.au)>; Warren Macilwain <[Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au)>; Carli Shillito <[Carli.Shillito@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Carli.Shillito@dfat.gov.au)>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[@dfat.gov.au](mailto:@dfat.gov.au)>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[@dfat.gov.au](mailto:@dfat.gov.au)>; Madeleine Casey <[Madeleine.Casey@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Madeleine.Casey@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Fiji travel advice - any update from Post? [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Perfect, thanks s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Merry Christmas to you and hope you manage to enjoy some time off as well.

Cheers

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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Director | Travel Advice Section (TIN)  
Communication & Policy Branch | Consular & Crisis Management Division

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[@dfat.gov.au](mailto:@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 20, 2024 2:09 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[@dfat.gov.au](mailto:@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Travel Advice <[travel.advice@dfat.gov.au](mailto:travel.advice@dfat.gov.au)>; Warren Macilwain <[Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au)>; Carli Shillito <[Carli.Shillito@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Carli.Shillito@dfat.gov.au)>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[@dfat.gov.au](mailto:@dfat.gov.au)>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[@dfat.gov.au](mailto:@dfat.gov.au)>; Madeleine Casey <[Madeleine.Casey@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Madeleine.Casey@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Fiji travel advice - any update from Post? [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

H <sup>s 22(1)(a)(ii)</sup>

Sorry for missing your call, there's still a flurry of activity over here as I'm sure there is in Canberra with Vanuatu and this case.

Currently, we have the same position as yesterday as we haven't received any new information but will provide immediate advice to Canberra should this change. <sup>s 33(a)(iii)</sup>

Thanks for the contacts for the weekend and next week. I hope you enjoy your break and wish you a very happy Christmas and New Year. Thanks for all your help!

Cheers

<sup>s 22(1)(a)(ii)</sup>

OFFICIAL

**From:** <sup>s 22(1)(a)(ii)</sup> [@dfat.gov.au](mailto:@dfat.gov.au)  
**Sent:** Friday, December 20, 2024 2:52 PM  
**To:** <sup>s 22(1)(a)(ii)</sup> [@dfat.gov.au](mailto:@dfat.gov.au)  
**Cc:** Travel Advice <[travel.advice@dfat.gov.au](mailto:travel.advice@dfat.gov.au)>; Warren Macilwain <[Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au)>; Carli Shillito <[Carli.Shillito@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Carli.Shillito@dfat.gov.au)>; <sup>s 22(1)(a)(ii)</sup> [@dfat.gov.au](mailto:@dfat.gov.au); <sup>s 22(1)(a)(ii)</sup> [@dfat.gov.au](mailto:@dfat.gov.au); Madeleine Casey <[Madeleine.Casey@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Madeleine.Casey@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Fiji travel advice - any update from Post? [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Hi <sup>s 22(1)(a)(ii)</sup>

I've left a voice message to follow up yesterday's flurry of activity to check if there was an update to the progress of the MoH / Fiji police investigations on possible causes of the drink spiking case?

We're standing by for any TA update that may be required – options and approach below. We're not rushing Post, we'll be guided by your advice and timing.

Given weekend is approaching, and a few people are heading off on planned leave (ie me!), can you make sure that Warren (AS CIB) and <sup>s 22(1)(a)(ii)</sup> (Smartraveller cadre) are contacted for anything on the travel advice.

Warren will also lead on FMO outreach relating to update/changes.

Many thanks.

Cheers

<sup>s 22(1)(a)(ii)</sup>

### Option A

We could do this a technical update / date change (given there is no new information to this update) – this means it would just be an update to the website (no email to subscriber and no social media).

<sup>s 22(1)(a)(ii)</sup>

- Drink spiking can happen anywhere. See our advice on [Partying safely while overseas](#)

Full travel advice: [Safety](#)

## Full advice / Safety / Crime

### Drink spiking and methanol poisoning

Drink spiking can happen anywhere. Be alert to the potential risks around drink spiking and get urgent medical attention if you think you or someone else has been drugged. around drink spiking and methanol poisoning. See our advice, including on spiking and methanol risks, on [Partying safely while overseas](#)

Methanol can be used in unregulated alcohol production to lower costs. Methanol is highly toxic. As little as one shot can be fatal. Act quickly if you suspect you, or someone you're travelling with, has been poisoned. Urgent medical attention could save your life or save you from permanent disability. Report suspected cases of methanol poisoning to the police.

- be careful drinking cocktails and drinks made with spirits
- drink only at reputable licensed premises
- avoid home-made alcoholic drinks
- labels on bottles aren't always accurate.

More information:

- ~~Partying safely while overseas~~ [Partying safely while overseas](#)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

### Option B

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

- Be alert to the potential risks around drink spiking and methanol poisoning through consuming alcoholic drinks. Don't leave food or drinks unattended, and pay attention when your drinks are being mixed. Get urgent medical help if you

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Full advice / Safety

**Drink spiking and methanol poisoning**

Drink spiking can happen anywhere. Be alert to the potential risks around drink spiking and get urgent medical attention if you think you or someone else has been drugged. ~~around drink spiking and methanol poisoning.~~ See our advice, including on spiking and methanol risks, on [Partying safely while overseas](#)

~~Methanol can be used in unregulated alcohol production to lower costs. Methanol is highly toxic. As little as one shot can be fatal. Act quickly if you suspect you, or someone you're travelling with, has been poisoned. Urgent medical attention could save your life or save you from permanent disability. Report suspected cases of methanol poisoning to the police.~~

- ~~• be careful drinking cocktails and drinks made with spirits~~
- ~~• drink only at reputable licensed premises~~
- ~~• avoid home-made alcoholic drinks~~
- ~~• labels on bottles aren't always accurate.~~

More information:

- ~~• [Partying safely while overseas](#)~~ [Partying safely while overseas](#)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Director | Travel Advice Section (TIN)  
Communication & Policy Branch | Consular & Crisis Management Division

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Sent:** Thursday, December 19, 2024 3:21 PM

**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[@dfat.gov.au](mailto:@dfat.gov.au)>

**Cc:** Travel Advice <[travel.advice@dfat.gov.au](mailto:travel.advice@dfat.gov.au)>; Ewen McDonald <[Ewen.McDonald@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Ewen.McDonald@dfat.gov.au)>; Craig Maclachlan <[Craig.Maclachlan@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Craig.Maclachlan@dfat.gov.au)>; Warren Macilwain <[Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au)>; Carli Shillito <[Carli.Shillito@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Carli.Shillito@dfat.gov.au)>

**Subject:** RE: revised media response [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks <sup>s 22(1)(a)(ii)</sup>, understood. Craig just called me to give me a heads up as well.

We'll finalise the media response as per below and we'll keep in touch on progress of review outcomes and future TA updates. Thanks again.

Cheers

s  
22(  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Director | Travel Advice Section (TIN)  
Communication & Policy Branch | Consular & Crisis Management Division

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[@dfat.gov.au](mailto:@dfat.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Thursday, December 19, 2024 3:18 PM

**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[@dfat.gov.au](mailto:@dfat.gov.au)>

**Cc:** Travel Advice <[travel.advice@dfat.gov.au](mailto:travel.advice@dfat.gov.au)>; Ewen McDonald <[Ewen.McDonald@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Ewen.McDonald@dfat.gov.au)>; Craig Maclachlan <[Craig.Maclachlan@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Craig.Maclachlan@dfat.gov.au)>; Warren Macilwain <[Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au)>; Carli Shillito <[Carli.Shillito@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Carli.Shillito@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: revised media response [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Hi <sup>s 22(1)(a)(</sup>

Thanks for sharing. As discussed, given the information we are still gathering, we are unable to update the TA at this time.

Please see the update below and HOM has just told me he has spoken with Dep Sec Maclachlan.

**On background (for use in reporting, not for attribution)**

DFAT keeps all Smartraveller travel advisories under close review, including regularly and carefully assessing the risks to Australians overseas to ensure that we provide accurate and up-to-date information. Smartraveller also publishes a range of information on overseas travel safety including about [Partying safely while overseas | Smartraveller](#).

<sup>s 47E(d)</sup>

<sup>s 33(a)(iii)</sup>

<sup>s 22(1)(a)(ii)</sup>

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Counsellor (Management) and Consul-General  
Australian High Commission Suva

<sup>s 22(1)(a)(ii)</sup>

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**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) [@dfat.gov.au](mailto:@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 19, 2024 3:45 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) [@dfat.gov.au](mailto:@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Travel Advice <[travel.advice@dfat.gov.au](mailto:travel.advice@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** revised media response [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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**On background (for use in reporting, not for attribution)**

DFAT keeps all Smartraveller travel advisories under close review, including regularly and carefully assessing the risks to Australians overseas to ensure that we provide accurate and up-to-date information. Smartraveller also publishes a range of information on overseas travel safety including about [Partying safely while overseas | Smartraveller](#).

s 47E(d)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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Communication & Policy Branch | Consular & Crisis Management Division

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**From:** Global Watch Office  
**Sent:** Sunday, 15 December 2024 11:39 AM  
**To:** Travel Advice  
**Cc:** Global Watch Office  
**Subject:** FW: FIJI: cluster of suspected alcohol poisoning [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**Categories:** s 47E(d)

**OFFICIAL**

Forward to TIN for awareness (omitted in original email, for which apologies).

GWO

**From:** Global Watch Office  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 15, 2024 11:32 AM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Media <media@dfat.gov.au>; Consular Operations & Emergency Centre <Centre.Conops@dfat.gov.au>; s @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; Craig Maclachlan 22(1)(a) <Craig.Maclachlan@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; Carli Shillito <Carli.Shillito@dfat.gov.au>; Justin Lee <Justin.Lee@dfat.gov.au>; Elizabeth Peak <Elizabeth.Peak@dfat.gov.au>; Ewen McDonald <Ewen.McDonald@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; Warren Macilwain <Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FIJI: cluster of suspected alcohol poisoning [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Dear all,

SAO Suva s 22(1)(a)(ii) ) has just reached out to GWO to advise that post is currently managing a cluster of cases of suspected alcohol poisoning, involving four Australians (and two US citizens). All cases were staying at the Warwick Resort in Viti Levu. Post is urgently seeking additional details about the cases and will report via CIS. CEC is working with post and the consular duty officer.

There is currently no media or social media reporting of the incident. GWO will continue to monitor.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Australian Government Global Watch Office  
 Crisis Preparedness and Management Branch | Consular and Crisis Management Division  
 Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
 s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Sent:** Sunday, 15 December 2024 5:33 PM  
**To:** Global Watch Office  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) Travel Advice; s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; Paula Ganly; Warren Macilwain;  
 s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Subject:** Re: For clearance: Travel advice update for Fiji [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive, ACCESS=Personal-Privacy]

**OFFICIAL: Sensitive**  
**Personal privacy**

Apologies - looking through earlier emails I can see that Post was comfortable with including 'methanol poisoning' in this update.

Cleared for publication.

Thanks

s 22(1)  
 / - \ : : \

CCD SES Duty Officer

**From:** "s 22(1)(a)(ii)" <[@dfat.gov.au](mailto:@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Date:** Sunday 15 December 2024 at 5:31:03 pm  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[@dfat.gov.au](mailto:@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** "s 22(1)(a)(ii)" <[@dfat.gov.au](mailto:@dfat.gov.au)>, "Travel Advice" <[travel.advice@dfat.gov.au](mailto:travel.advice@dfat.gov.au)>, "s 22(1)(a)(ii)" <[@dfat.gov.au](mailto:@dfat.gov.au)>, "Paula Ganly" <[Paula.Ganly@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Paula.Ganly@dfat.gov.au)>, "Warren Macilwain" <[Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au)>, "s 22(1)(a)(ii)" <[@dfat.gov.au](mailto:@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Re: For clearance: Travel advice update for Fiji [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive, ACCESS=Personal-Privacy]

**OFFICIAL: Sensitive**  
**Personal privacy**

Thanks GWO - earlier we were waiting for Post to confirm the recent cases involved methanol.

Did we get this confirmation?

Regards

s 22(1)  
 / - \ : : \

**From:** "Global Watch Office" <[GlobalWatchOffice@dfat.gov.au](mailto:GlobalWatchOffice@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Date:** Sunday 15 December 2024 at 5:19:43 pm  
**To:** "s 22(1)(a)(ii)" <[@dfat.gov.au](mailto:@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** "Global Watch Office" <[GlobalWatchOffice@dfat.gov.au](mailto:GlobalWatchOffice@dfat.gov.au)>, "s 22(1)(a)(ii)" <[@dfat.gov.au](mailto:@dfat.gov.au)>, "Travel Advice" <[travel.advice@dfat.gov.au](mailto:travel.advice@dfat.gov.au)>, "s 22(1)(a)(ii)" <[@dfat.gov.au](mailto:@dfat.gov.au)>

s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>, "Paula Ganly" <Paula.Ganly@dfat.gov.au>, "Travel Advice" <travel.advice@dfat.gov.au>, "Warren Macilwain" <Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au>, "s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>

**Subject:** For clearance: Travel advice update for Fiji [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive, ACCESS=Personal-Privacy]

**OFFICIAL: Sensitive  
Personal privacy**

Hi s 22(1)  
( ) (ii)

Suva Post has recommended changes to the Fiji travel advice to reflect the risks of Drink Spiking. s 22(1)(a)(ii) in FMO has reviewed and cleared this update.

Grateful your review/approval for an ad-hoc update to the travel advice and social media posts for Fiji.

EDRMS file: 23/32095#2

**Latest update**

**Latest update**

~~We've reviewed our advice for Fiji and~~ We continue to advise exercise normal safety precautions. Be alert to the potential risks around drink spiking and methanol poisoning through consuming alcoholic drinks. Get urgent medical help if you suspect drink spiking. See Safety.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Full advice/Safety/Drink spiking and methanol poisoning**

## **Drink spiking and methanol poisoning**

Be alert to the potential risks around drink spiking and methanol poisoning through consuming alcoholic drinks. See our advice on [partying safely while overseas](#).

Get urgent medical attention if you think you or someone else has been drugged.

Methanol can be used in unregulated alcohol production to lower costs. Methanol is highly toxic. As little as one shot can be fatal. Act quickly if you suspect you, or someone you're travelling with, has been poisoned. [Urgent medical attention](#) could save your life or save you from permanent disability. Report suspected cases of methanol poisoning to the police.

- be careful drinking cocktails and drinks made with spirits
- drink only at reputable licensed premises
- avoid home-made alcoholic drinks
- labels on bottles aren't always accurate.

### **More information:**

- [Partying safely](#) [Partying safely while overseas](#)

### **Proposed social media announcements:**

**Facebook:** Be alert to the potential risks around drink spiking and methanol poisoning through consuming alcoholic drinks in #Fiji. Get urgent medical help if you suspect drink spiking. Read more: [Smartraveller.gov.au/Fiji](#) and [Smartraveller.gov.au/before-you-go/safety/partying](#)

**Twitter:** Be alert to the potential risks around drink spiking and methanol poisoning through consuming alcoholic drinks in #Fiji. Get urgent medical help if you suspect drink spiking. Read more: [Smartraveller.gov.au/Fiji](#) and [Smartraveller.gov.au/before-you-go/safety/partying](#)

Kind regards,

GWO

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

---

Australian Government Global Watch Office

Crisis Preparedness and Management Branch | Consular and Crisis Management Division

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Sent:** Sunday, 15 December 2024 5:14 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Cc:** Paula Ganly; Warren Macilwain; Global Watch Office; s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; Travel Advice  
**Subject:** Re: Draft Travel advice update for Post review [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive, ACCESS=Personal-Privacy]

**OFFICIAL: Sensitive  
Personal privacy**

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii) thanks for your call - confirming we would prefer the advisory to proceed asap. Can you call me back once it goes out? Appreciate it, s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**From:** "s 22(1)(a)(ii)" <s 22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au>  
**Date:** Sunday 15 December 2024 at 16:17:59  
**To:** "s 22(1)(a)(ii)" <s 22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au>, "s 22(1)(a)(ii)" <s 22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au>, "s 22(1)(a)(ii)" <s 22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au>  
**Cc:** "Paula Ganly" <Paula.Ganly@dfat.gov.au>, "Warren Macilwain" <Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au>, "Global Watch Office" <GlobalWatchOffice@dfat.gov.au>, "s 22(1)(a)(ii)" <s 22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au>, "Travel Advice" <travel.advice@dfat.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FW: Draft Travel advice update for Post review [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive, ACCESS=Personal-Privacy]

OFFICIAL

**OFFICIAL: Sensitive  
Personal privacy**

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
 Apologies – adding you to this email chain – for FMO views on the travel advice update for Fiji. HOM has approved.

Any issues from FMO for this update? This is similar language that we have added to SE Asia TAs in recent weeks.

This would go out as an ad hoc update, (email to subscribers) along with social media on Facebook and twitter.

Cheers

s  
22(

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Director | Travel Advice Section (TIN)  
 Communication & Policy Branch | Consular & Crisis Management Division

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
 s 22(1)(a)(ii)

[smartraveller.gov.au](https://smartraveller.gov.au) | [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/dfat) | [Twitter](https://twitter.com/dfat) | [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/dfat)

OFFICIAL

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 15, 2024 3:59 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Paula Ganly <Paula.Ganly@dfat.gov.au>; Warren Macilwain <Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au>; Travel Advice <travel.advice@dfat.gov.au>; Global Watch Office <GlobalWatchOffice@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FW: Draft Travel advice update for Post review [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive, ACCESS=Personal-Privacy]

**OFFICIAL: Sensitive  
Personal privacy**

Hi FMO team

Have called to discuss update to Fiji travel advice as per draft below. This has been approved by HOM. (See Post update below on the situation in Fiji)

Any issues from FMO for this update? This is similar language that we have added to SE Asia TAs in recent weeks.

This would go out as an ad hoc update, (email to subscribers) along with social media on Facebook and twitter.

**Latest update:**

We ~~ve reviewed our advice for Fiji and~~ continue to advise exercise normal safety precautions in Fiji. Be alert to the potential risks around drink spiking and methanol poisoning through consuming alcoholic drinks. Get urgent medical help if you suspect drink spiking. See Safety.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Full advice / Safety

**Drink spiking and methanol poisoning**

Be alert to the potential risks around drink spiking and methanol poisoning through consuming alcoholic drinks. See our advice on [partying safely while overseas](#).

Get urgent medical attention if you think you or someone else has been drugged. Methanol can be used in unregulated alcohol production to lower costs. Methanol is highly toxic. As little as one shot can be fatal. Act quickly if you suspect you, or someone you're travelling with, has been poisoned. [Urgent medical attention](#) could save your life or save you from permanent disability. Report suspected cases of methanol poisoning to the police.

- be careful drinking cocktails and drinks made with spirits
- drink only at reputable licensed premises
- avoid home-made alcoholic drinks
- labels on bottles aren't always accurate.

#### More information:

- [Partying safely while overseas](#)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Director | Travel Advice Section (TIN)  
Communication & Policy Branch | Consular & Crisis Management Division

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

ps 22(1)(a)(ii)

[smartraveller.gov.au](https://smartraveller.gov.au) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) [@dfat.gov.au](#)  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 15, 2024 2:54 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) [@dfat.gov.au](#); Ewen McDonald <[Ewen.McDonald@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Ewen.McDonald@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Media <[media@dfat.gov.au](mailto:media@dfat.gov.au)>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) [@dfat.gov.au](#); Craig MacLachlan <[Craig.MacLachlan@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Craig.MacLachlan@dfat.gov.au)>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) [@dfat.gov.au](#); s 22(1)(a)(ii) [@dfat.gov.au](#); Carli Shillito <[Carli.Shillito@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Carli.Shillito@dfat.gov.au)>; Justin Lee <[Justin.Lee@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Justin.Lee@dfat.gov.au)>; Elizabeth Peak <[Elizabeth.Peak@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Elizabeth.Peak@dfat.gov.au)>; Ewen McDonald <[Ewen.McDonald@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Ewen.McDonald@dfat.gov.au)>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) [@dfat.gov.au](#); s 22(1)(a)(ii) [@dfat.gov.au](#); s 22(1)(a)(ii) [@dfat.gov.au](#); Warren Macilwain <[Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au)>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) [@dfat.gov.au](#); Paula Ganly <[Paula.Ganly@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Paula.Ganly@dfat.gov.au)>; Global Watch Office <[GlobalWatchOffice@dfat.gov.au](mailto:GlobalWatchOffice@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Draft Travel advice update for Post review [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive, ACCESS=Personal-Privacy]

OFFICIAL

**OFFICIAL: Sensitive  
Personal privacy**

Hi all

HOM has cleared the update to Fiji travel advice as per <sup>s 22(1)(a)(ii)</sup> email below, subject to FMO views (thanks <sup>s 22(1)(a)(ii)</sup> This is on the basis that I have just spoken to Lautoka Hospital who has confirmed they are treating this incident as suspected methanol poisoning. A summary of my conversation is below.



Lautoka Hospital s 22(1)(a)(ii)

advised:

- There appears to be six to seven patients across Lautoka Hospital and Sigatoka Hospital (awaiting confirmation of patient numbers at Sigatoka Hospital)
  - two incubated patients in ICU at Lautoka Hospital – both are critically ill and on life support s 22(1)(a)(ii)
  - four or five patients at Sigatoka Hospital (three Australians – s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; one US citizen; potentially one local expat whose nationality is unknown)
- Lautoka Hospital suspects methanol poisoning for all patients, however toxicology results will be an extended process as reports will be passed onto the Fiji Police Force as part of the investigation. They are unable to provide a timeframe on when results/reports will be released.
- Lautoka Hospital is arranging for all patients at Sigatoka Hospital to be transferred to Lautoka Hospital as soon as possible, aiming for today or tomorrow at the latest.
- Updates will be provided to post as the situation develops further.

Kind regards

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au&gt;

Sent: Sunday, December 15, 2024 12:15 PM

To: Ewen McDonald &lt;Ewen.McDonald@dfat.gov.au&gt;; s 22(1)(a)(ii)

@dfat.gov.au&gt;

Cc: Media &lt;media@dfat.gov.au&gt;; s 22(1)(a)(ii)

@dfat.gov.au&gt;; Craig MacLachlan

&lt;Craig.MacLachlan@dfat.gov.au&gt;; s 22(1)(a)(ii)

@dfat.gov.au&gt;; s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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&lt;Carli.Shillito@dfat.gov.au&gt;; Justin Lee &lt;Justin.Lee@dfat.gov.au&gt;; Elizabeth Peak &lt;Elizabeth.Peak@dfat.gov.au&gt;;

Ewen McDonald &lt;Ewen.McDonald@dfat.gov.au&gt;; s 22(1)(a)(ii)

@dfat.gov.au&gt;; s 22(1)(a)(ii)

@dfat.gov.au&gt;; s 22(1)(a)(ii)

@dfat.gov.au&gt;; s 22(1)(a)(ii)

dfat.gov.au&gt;; Warren Macilwain &lt;Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au&gt;; s 22(1)(a)(ii)

@dfat.gov.au&gt;; s 22(1)(a)(ii)

@dfat.gov.au&gt;; Paula Ganly

&lt;Paula.Ganly@dfat.gov.au&gt;; Global Watch Office &lt;GlobalWatchOffice@dfat.gov.au&gt;

Subject: Draft Travel advice update for Post review [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Grateful for Post views on an update to Fiji travel advice as per below. This is the standard language we have been adding to many SE Asia destinations following the Laos drink spiking incident.

Cheers

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

## Latest update:

We've reviewed our advice for Fiji and continue to advise exercise normal safety precautions. Be alert to the potential risks around drink spiking and methanol poisoning through consuming alcoholic drinks. Get urgent medical help if you suspect drink spiking. See Safety.

**Safety**

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

- Be alert to the potential risks around drink spiking and methanol poisoning through consuming alcoholic drinks. Don't leave food or drinks unattended, and pay attention when your drinks are being mixed. Get urgent medical help if you suspect drink spiking. See our advice on [Partying safely while overseas](#).

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Full advice / Safety

**Drink spiking and methanol poisoning**

Be alert to the potential risks around drink spiking and methanol poisoning through consuming alcoholic drinks. See our advice on [partying safely while overseas](#).

Get urgent medical attention if you think you or someone else has been drugged.

Methanol can be used in unregulated alcohol production to lower costs. Methanol is highly toxic. As little as one shot can be fatal. Act quickly if you suspect you, or someone you're travelling with, has been poisoned. [Urgent medical attention](#) could save your life or save you from permanent disability. Report suspected cases of methanol poisoning to the police.

- be careful drinking cocktails and drinks made with spirits
- drink only at reputable licensed premises
- avoid home-made alcoholic drinks
- labels on bottles aren't always accurate.

**More information:**

- [Partying safely while overseas](#)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Director | Travel Advice Section (TIN)

Communication &amp; Policy Branch | Consular &amp; Crisis Management Division

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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OFFICIAL

From: Paula Ganly <[Paula.Ganly@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Paula.Ganly@dfat.gov.au)>

Sent: Sunday, December 15, 2024 11:59 AM

To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[@dfat.gov.au](mailto:@dfat.gov.au)>; Global Watch Office <[GlobalWatchOffice@dfat.gov.au](mailto:GlobalWatchOffice@dfat.gov.au)>;

s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Media <media@dfat.gov.au>; Consular Operations & Emergency Centre <Centre.Conops@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; Craig Maclachlan <Craig.Maclachlan@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; Carli Shillito <Carli.Shillito@dfat.gov.au>; Justin Lee <Justin.Lee@dfat.gov.au>; Elizabeth Peak <Elizabeth.Peak@dfat.gov.au>; Ewen McDonald <Ewen.McDonald@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; Warren Macilwain <Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Re: FIJI: cluster of suspected alcohol poisoning [SEC=OFFICIAL]

## OFFICIAL

Thanks s 22(1)(a)(ii) .  
s 22(1)(a)(ii) is pulling together some wording to add in too.  
P

**From:** "s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Date:** Sunday 15 December 2024 at 11:56:38 am  
**To:** "Paula Ganly" <Paula.Ganly@dfat.gov.au>, "Global Watch Office" <GlobalWatchOffice@dfat.gov.au>, s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Cc:** "Media" <media@dfat.gov.au>, "Consular Operations & Emergency Centre" <Centre.Conops@dfat.gov.au>, "s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>, "s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>, "Craig Maclachlan" <Craig.Maclachlan@dfat.gov.au>, s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>, "s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>, "s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>, "Carli Shillito" <Carli.Shillito@dfat.gov.au>, "Justin Lee" <Justin.Lee@dfat.gov.au>, "Elizabeth Peak" <Elizabeth.Peak@dfat.gov.au>, "Ewen McDonald" <Ewen.McDonald@dfat.gov.au>, "s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>, "s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>, "s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>, "Warren Macilwain" <Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: FIJI: cluster of suspected alcohol poisoning [SEC=OFFICIAL]

## OFFICIAL

Hi Paula

I am just drafting some TP's now.

Thanks

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Consular Officer | CSZ  
Consular Operations Branch | Consular and Crisis Management Division  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
T 1300 555 135 s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
24-hour Consular Emergency Centre +61 2 6261 3305  
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We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all First Nations peoples, their cultures and to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

---

**From:** Paula Ganly <[Paula.Ganly@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Paula.Ganly@dfat.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Sunday, December 15, 2024 11:51 AM

**To:** Global Watch Office <[GlobalWatchOffice@dfat.gov.au](mailto:GlobalWatchOffice@dfat.gov.au)>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>

**Cc:** Media <[media@dfat.gov.au](mailto:media@dfat.gov.au)>; Consular Operations & Emergency Centre <[Centre.Conops@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Centre.Conops@dfat.gov.au)>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)

@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; Craig Maclachlan

<[Craig.Maclachlan@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Craig.Maclachlan@dfat.gov.au)>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)

@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)

@dfat.gov.au>; Carli Shillito <[Carli.Shillito@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Carli.Shillito@dfat.gov.au)>; Justin Lee <[Justin.Lee@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Justin.Lee@dfat.gov.au)>;

Elizabeth Peak <[Elizabeth.Peak@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Elizabeth.Peak@dfat.gov.au)>; Ewen McDonald <[Ewen.McDonald@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Ewen.McDonald@dfat.gov.au)>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)

@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)

@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)

@dfat.gov.au>; Warren Macilwain <[Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au)>

**Subject:** Re: FIJI: cluster of suspected alcohol poisoning [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Thanks Team

Urgent advice on status of cases would be appreciated.

P

---

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - duplicate

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

---

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Sent:** Sunday, 15 December 2024 5:50 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; Ewen McDonald  
**Cc:** Media; s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; Craig Maclachlan; s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
Carli Shillito; Justin Lee; Elizabeth Peak; Ewen McDonald; s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
; Warren Macilwain; s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Subject:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; Paula Ganly; Global Watch Office  
RE: Draft Travel advice update for Post review [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive,  
ACCESS=Personal-Privacy]

OFFICIAL

**OFFICIAL: Sensitive  
Personal privacy**

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Confirming travel advice update for Fiji is now live on Smartraveller, and socials have been posted on [Facebook](#) and [X](#)

Cheers

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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Director | Travel Advice Section (TIN)  
Communication & Policy Branch | Consular & Crisis Management Division

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 15, 2024 4:49 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; Ewen McDonald <Ewen.McDonald@dfat.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Media <media@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; Craig Maclachlan  
<Craig.Maclachlan@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
@dfat.gov.au>; Carli Shillito  
<Carli.Shillito@dfat.gov.au>; Justin Lee <Justin.Lee@dfat.gov.au>; Elizabeth Peak  
<Elizabeth.Peak@dfat.gov.au>; Ewen McDonald <Ewen.McDonald@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
@dfat.gov.au>; Warren  
Macilwain <Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

@dfat.gov.au>; Paula Ganly <Paula.Ganly@dfat.gov.au>; Global Watch Office  
<GlobalWatchOffice@dfat.gov.au>

**Subject:** RE: Draft Travel advice update for Post review [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive, ACCESS=Personal-Privacy]

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**OFFICIAL: Sensitive  
Personal privacy**

Thanks <sup>s 22(1)(a)(ii)</sup> much appreciated.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>

**Sent:** Sunday, December 15, 2024 4:33 PM

**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; Ewen McDonald <Ewen.McDonald@dfat.gov.au>

**Cc:** Media <media@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; Craig Maclachlan

<Craig.Maclachlan@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)

@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; Carli Shillito

<Carli.Shillito@dfat.gov.au>; Justin Lee <Justin.Lee@dfat.gov.au>; Elizabeth Peak <Elizabeth.Peak@dfat.gov.au>;

Ewen McDonald <Ewen.McDonald@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)

@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)

@dfat.gov.au>; Warren Macilwain <Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)

@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; Paula Ganly

<Paula.Ganly@dfat.gov.au>; Global Watch Office <GlobalWatchOffice@dfat.gov.au>

**Subject:** RE: Draft Travel advice update for Post review [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive, ACCESS=Personal-Privacy]

OFFICIAL

**OFFICIAL: Sensitive  
Personal privacy**

Thanks <sup>s 22(1)(a)(ii)</sup>, I've spoken to <sup>s 22(1)(a)(ii)</sup> in FMO. She will revert once she's read though email. We're working to publish update on Smartraveller at 6pm if all ok from FMO.

Cheers

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Director | Travel Advice Section (TIN)

Communication & Policy Branch | Consular & Crisis Management Division

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

---

**From:** Global Watch Office  
**Sent:** Sunday, 15 December 2024 5:33 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; Travel Advice; s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; Paula Ganly; Warren Macilwain;  
s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; Global Watch Office  
**Subject:** RE: For clearance: Travel advice update for Fiji [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive, ACCESS=Personal-Privacy]  
**Attachments:** RE: Draft Travel advice update for Post review [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive, ACCESS=Personal-Privacy]

**OFFICIAL: Sensitive  
Personal privacy**

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Please see attached the most recent advice from Suva Post on the status of the cases.

Kind regards,

GWO  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

---

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Sunday, 15 December 2024 5:31 PM  
**To:** Global Watch Office <GlobalWatchOffice@dfat.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; Travel Advice <travel.advice@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; Paula Ganly <Paula.Ganly@dfat.gov.au>; Warren Macilwain <Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Re: For clearance: Travel advice update for Fiji [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive, ACCESS=Personal-Privacy]

**OFFICIAL: Sensitive  
Personal privacy**

Thanks GWO - earlier we were waiting for Post to confirm the recent cases involved methanol.

Did we get this confirmation?

Regards

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

---

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - duplicate



## Fiji

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### Latest update

**Still current at:** 15 December 2024

**Updated:** 15 December 2024

**Latest update:** We continue to advise exercise normal safety precautions. Be alert to the potential risks around drink spiking and methanol poisoning through consuming alcoholic drinks. Get urgent medical help if you suspect drink spiking. See Safety.



**We advise:**

**Exercise normal safety precautions in Fiji.**





Exercise normal safety precautions in Fiji.

[Exercise normal safety precautions](#) in Fiji.

## Overview

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### Safety

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

- Be alert to the potential risks around drink spiking and methanol poisoning through consuming alcoholic drinks. Don't leave food or drinks unattended, and pay attention when your drinks are being mixed. Get urgent medical help if you suspect drink spiking. See our advice on [Partying safely while overseas](#).

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Full travel advice Safety

---





s 22(1)(a)(ii)

where possible, use a fire extinguisher if a security guard is present.

## Drink spiking and methanol poisoning

Be alert to the potential risks around drink spiking and methanol poisoning through consuming alcoholic drinks. See our advice on [partying safely while overseas](#).

Get urgent medical attention if you think you or someone else has been drugged.

Methanol can be used in unregulated alcohol production to lower costs. Methanol is highly toxic. As little as one shot can be fatal. Act quickly if you suspect you, or someone you're travelling with, has been poisoned. [Urgent medical attention](#) could save your life or save you from permanent disability. Report suspected cases of methanol poisoning to the police.

- be careful drinking cocktails and drinks made with spirits
- drink only at reputable licensed premises
- avoid home-made alcoholic drinks
- labels on bottles aren't always accurate.



s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**From:** Travel Advice  
**Sent:** Thursday, 19 December 2024 10:28 AM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Subject:** For AS approval - Fiji ad-hoc (amended drink spiking language) - 19 December 2024 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Dear s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Grateful for your review of the ad-hoc update for Fiji. As discussed, proposed update refers to the amended language around drink spiking.

[https://www.smarttraveller.gov.au/node/531/revisions/view/63018/63113/visual\\_inline](https://www.smarttraveller.gov.au/node/531/revisions/view/63018/63113/visual_inline)

**Latest update**

We continue to advise exercise normal safety precautions in Fiji. ~~Be alert to the potential risks around drink spiking and methanol poisoning through consuming alcoholic drinks. Get urgent medical help if you suspect drink spiking. See Safety.~~

**Overview/Safety**

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

- ~~Be alert to the potential risks around drink spiking and methanol poisoning through consuming alcoholic drinks. Don't leave food or drinks unattended, and pay attention when your drinks are being mixed. Get urgent medical help if you suspect drink spiking. See our advice on Partying safely while overseas.~~

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Full travel advice: [Safety](#)

**Full Advice/Safety/Crime**

Drink spiking ~~and methanol poisoning~~

Be alert to the potential risks around drink spiking ~~and methanol poisoning through consuming alcoholic drinks. See our advice on partying safely while overseas.~~

Get urgent medical attention if you think you or someone else has been drugged.

~~Methanol can be used in unregulated alcohol production to lower costs. Methanol is highly toxic. As little as one shot can be fatal. Act quickly if you suspect you, or someone you're travelling with, has been poisoned. [More](#)~~

**Information:** Urgent medical attention could save your life or save you from permanent disability. Report suspected cases of methanol poisoning to the police.

- be careful drinking cocktails and drinks made with spirits
- drink only at reputable licensed premises
- avoid home-made alcoholic drinks
- labels on bottles aren't always accurate.

**More information:**

- Partying safely while overseas

Many thanks in advance.

Cheers,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) y

Travel Advice Section (TIN)

Consular Communications and Policy Branch (CIB) | Consular and Crisis Management Division (CCD)

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

s 22(1)(a)(ii) | E [travel.advice@dfat.gov.au](mailto:travel.advice@dfat.gov.au)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 19 December 2024 12:34 PM  
**To:** Warren Macilwain  
**Cc:** Travel Advice  
**Subject:** Fiji travel advice [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Warren

Suggested text for Fiji, for views

#### Latest update

We continue to advise exercise normal safety precautions. ~~Be alert to the potential risks around drink spiking and methanol poisoning through consuming alcoholic drinks. Get urgent medical help if you suspect drink spiking. See Safety.~~

Overview / Safety

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

- ~~Be alert to the potential risks around drink spiking and methanol poisoning through consuming alcoholic drinks. Don't leave food or drinks unattended, and pay attention when your drinks are being mixed. Get urgent medical help if you suspect drink spiking. See our advice on [Partying safely while overseas.](#)~~

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Drink spiking and methanol poisoning

While drink spiking and methanol poisoning is not a common occurrence in Fiji, be alert to the potential risks ~~around drink spiking and methanol poisoning~~ through consuming alcoholic drinks. See our advice on [Partying safely while overseas](#)

Get urgent medical attention if you think you or someone else has been drugged.

~~Methanol can be used in unregulated alcohol production to lower costs. Methanol is highly toxic. As little as one shot can be fatal. Act quickly if you suspect you, or someone you're travelling with, has been poisoned. Urgent medical attention could save your life or save you from permanent disability. Report suspected cases of methanol poisoning to the police.~~

- ~~be careful drinking cocktails and drinks made with spirits~~
- ~~drink only at reputable licensed premises~~
- ~~avoid home-made alcoholic drinks~~
- ~~labels on bottles aren't always accurate.~~

More information:

- ~~[Partying safely while overseas](#)~~[Partying safely while overseas](#)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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OFFICIAL

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 19 December 2024 1:27 PM  
**To:** Ewen McDonald; s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; Carli Shillito; Warren Macilwain; Travel Advice  
**Subject:** Fiji travel advice [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Hi Ewen and s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Suggested text for a TA update below. Proposing two options. I understand that Craig has been in touch with you Ewen and indicated that our standard language on drink spiking/methanol should be retained.

Option A

We could do this a technical update / date change (given there is no new information to this update) – this means it would just be an update to the website (no email to subscriber and no social media).

Latest update

We continue to advise exercise normal safety precautions. ~~Be alert to the potential risks around drink spiking and methanol poisoning through consuming alcoholic drinks. Get urgent medical help if you suspect drink spiking. See Safety.~~

Overview / Safety

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

- ~~Be alert to the potential risks around drink spiking and methanol poisoning through consuming alcoholic drinks. Don't leave food or drinks unattended, and pay attention when your drinks are being mixed. Get urgent medical help if you suspect drink spiking. See our advice on Partying safely while overseas.~~

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

- s 22(1)(a)(ii)

- Drink spiking can happen anywhere. See our advice on [Partying safely while overseas](#)

Full travel advice: [Safety](#)

## Full advice / Safety / Crime

### Drink spiking and methanol poisoning

Drink spiking can happen anywhere. Be alert to the potential risks around drink spiking and get urgent medical attention if you think you or someone else has been drugged. ~~around drink spiking and methanol poisoning.~~ See our advice, including on spiking and methanol risks, on [Partying safely while overseas](#)

~~Methanol can be used in unregulated alcohol production to lower costs. Methanol is highly toxic. As little as one shot can be fatal. Act quickly if you suspect you, or someone you're travelling with, has been poisoned. Urgent medical attention could save your life or save you from permanent disability. Report suspected cases of methanol poisoning to the police.~~

- ~~be careful drinking cocktails and drinks made with spirits~~
- ~~drink only at reputable licensed premises~~
- ~~avoid home-made alcoholic drinks~~
- ~~labels on bottles aren't always accurate.~~

More information:

- ~~Partying safely while overseas~~[Partying safely while overseas](#)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

## Option B

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

## Safety

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

- ~~Be alert to the potential risks around drink spiking and methanol poisoning through consuming alcoholic drinks. Don't leave food or drinks unattended, and pay attention when your drinks are being mixed. Get urgent medical help if you suspect drink spiking. See our advice on [Partying safely while overseas](#).~~

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

- Drink spiking can happen anywhere. See our advice on [Partying safely while overseas](#)

Full travel advice: [Safety](#)

Welcome advice on preference, so we can publish before 3pm. We have at least 5 media queries that we will need to finalise by this time as well.

Cheers

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Director | Travel Advice Section (TIN)  
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Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

---

**From:** Travel Advice  
**Sent:** Thursday, 19 December 2024 10:20 AM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Subject:** Proposed TP's - Fiji Ad-hoc update (drink spiking) - 19 December 2024  
[SEC=OFFICIAL]

## OFFICIAL

Hi <sup>s 22(1)(a)(ii)</sup>

Please see proposed TP's for the update to Fiji's travel advice.

- The travel advice for Fiji was updated on 15 December following the suspected poisoning of Australians. Following Fiji Government advice, the travel advice was updated on 19 December.
- The travel advice for Fiji outlines the potential risks of drink spiking. This is standard advice included on a number of travel advisories for Asia, Africa, Europe and the Pacific. We recommend Australians read and subscribe to our travel advice: [www.smartraveller.gov.au/destinations/pacific/fiji](https://www.smartraveller.gov.au/destinations/pacific/fiji)
- The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade keeps all travel advisories under close review, including regularly and carefully assessing the risks to Australians overseas.

Cheers,

<sup>s 22(1)(a)(ii)</sup>

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

---

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Consular Communications and Policy Branch (CIB) | Consular and Crisis Management Division (CCD)

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

<sup>s 22(1)(a)(ii)</sup> | E [travel.advice@dfat.gov.au](mailto:travel.advice@dfat.gov.au)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Sent:** Friday, 20 December 2024 2:09 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Cc:** Travel Advice; Warren Macilwain; Carli Shillito; s 22(1)(a)(ii) ;  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Fiji travel advice - any update from Post? [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Hi s 22(1)(a)(i)

Sorry for missing your call, there's still a flurry of activity over here as I'm sure there is in Canberra with Vanuatu and this case.

Currently, we have the same position as yesterday as we haven't received any new information but will provide immediate advice to Canberra should this change. s 33(a)(iii)

Thanks for the contacts for the weekend and next week. I hope you enjoy your break and wish you a very happy Christmas and New Year. Thanks for all your help!

Cheers

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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OFFICIAL

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 20, 2024 2:52 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Travel Advice <travel.advice@dfat.gov.au>; Warren Macilwain <Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au>; Carli Shillito <Carli.Shillito@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Fiji travel advice - any update from Post? [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

I've left a voice message to follow up yesterday's flurry of activity to check if there was an update to the progress of the MoH / Fiji police investigations on possible causes of the drink spiking case?

We're standing by for any TA update that may be required – options and approach below. We're not rushing Post, we'll be guided by your advice and timing.



Given weekend is approaching, and a few people are heading off on planned leave (ie me!), can you make sure that Warren (AS CIB) and <sup>s 22(1)(a)(ii)</sup> (Smartraveller cadre) are contacted for anything on the travel advice. Warren will also lead on FMO outreach relating to update/changes.

Many thanks.

Cheers

<sup>s 22(1)(a)(i)</sup>

## Option A

We could do this a technical update / date change (given there is no new information to this update) – this means it would just be an update to the website (no email to subscriber and no social media).

### Latest update

We continue to advise exercise normal safety precautions. ~~Be alert to the potential risks around drink spiking and methanol poisoning through consuming alcoholic drinks. Get urgent medical help if you suspect drink spiking. See Safety.~~

### Overview / Safety

<sup>s 22(1)(a)(ii)</sup>

- ~~Be alert to the potential risks around drink spiking and methanol poisoning through consuming alcoholic drinks. Don't leave food or drinks unattended, and pay attention when your drinks are being mixed. Get urgent medical help if you suspect drink spiking. See our advice on [Partying safely while overseas](#).~~

<sup>s 22(1)(a)(ii)</sup>

- Drink spiking can happen anywhere. See our advice on [Partying safely while overseas](#)

Full travel advice: [Safety](#)

### Full advice / Safety / Crime

~~Drink spiking and methanol poisoning~~

Drink spiking can happen anywhere. Be alert to the potential risks around drink spiking and get urgent medical attention if you think you or someone else has been drugged. ~~around drink spiking and methanol poisoning.~~ See our advice, including on spiking and methanol risks, on [Partying safely while overseas](#)

~~Methanol can be used in unregulated alcohol production to lower costs. Methanol is highly toxic. As little as one shot can be fatal. Act quickly if you suspect you, or someone you're travelling with, has been poisoned. Urgent medical attention could save your life or save you from permanent disability. Report suspected cases of methanol poisoning to the police.~~

- ~~be careful drinking cocktails and drinks made with spirits~~
- ~~drink only at reputable licensed premises~~
- ~~avoid home-made alcoholic drinks~~
- ~~labels on bottles aren't always accurate.~~

More information:

- ~~[Partying safely while overseas](#)~~[Partying safely while overseas](#)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

#### Option B

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

- ~~Be alert to the potential risks around drink spiking and methanol poisoning through consuming alcoholic drinks. Don't leave food or drinks unattended, and pay attention when your drinks are being mixed. Get urgent medical help if you suspect drink spiking. See our advice on [Partying safely while overseas](#).~~

## Full advice / Safety

### Drink spiking and methanol poisoning

Drink spiking can happen anywhere. Be alert to the potential risks around drink spiking and get urgent medical attention if you think you or someone else has been drugged. ~~around drink spiking and methanol poisoning.~~ See our advice, including on spiking and methanol risks, on [Partying safely while overseas](#)

~~Methanol can be used in unregulated alcohol production to lower costs. Methanol is highly toxic. As little as one shot can be fatal. Act quickly if you suspect you, or someone you're travelling with, has been poisoned. Urgent medical attention could save your life or save you from permanent disability. Report suspected cases of methanol poisoning to the police.~~

- ~~be careful drinking cocktails and drinks made with spirits~~
- ~~drink only at reputable licensed premises~~
- ~~avoid home-made alcoholic drinks~~
- ~~labels on bottles aren't always accurate.~~

### More information:

- ~~[Partying safely while overseas](#)~~[Partying safely while overseas](#)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii) - duplicate

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

---

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 19 December 2024 10:34 AM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; Ewen McDonald  
**Cc:** Warren Macilwain; Travel Advice; s 22(1)(a) ; Carli Shillito  
**Subject:** RE: Fiji travel advice review/update? [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Hi s 22(1)(a)(i)

Just want to make sure we're on the same page – we would like CCD's advice and views prior to any changes being made to the TA. s 47C, s 47E(d)

Thanks

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

---

OFFICIAL

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 19, 2024 11:08 AM  
**To:** Ewen McDonald <Ewen.McDonald@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Warren Macilwain <Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au>; Travel Advice <travel.advice@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Fiji travel advice review/update? [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Thanks Ewen and s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Appreciate the update. Most of CCD SES are in a Vanuatu IDETF until 11am, so don't think we can make this deadline. We'll progress ASAP and let you know when revised TA is live on Smarttraveller. I'll try my best to try and make your 12pm (Fiji time) deadline.

Concurrently working on some TP.

Cheers

s 22(1)(a)(i)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

---

Director | Travel Advice Section (TIN)  
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OFFICIAL

**From:** Ewen McDonald <[Ewen.McDonald@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Ewen.McDonald@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 19, 2024 10:05 AM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Warren Macilwain <[Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au)>; Travel Advice <[travel.advice@dfat.gov.au](mailto:travel.advice@dfat.gov.au)>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Fiji travel advice review/update? [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Thanks s 22(1)(a)(ii) Also interested if CCD share our view on the way forward proposed. Ewen

---

OFFICIAL

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 19, 2024 11:00 AM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Ewen McDonald <[Ewen.McDonald@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Ewen.McDonald@dfat.gov.au)>; Warren Macilwain <[Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au)>; Travel Advice <[travel.advice@dfat.gov.au](mailto:travel.advice@dfat.gov.au)>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Fiji travel advice review/update? [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Hi s 22(1)(a)(i)

s 33(a)(iii)

s 33(a)(iii)

Thanks

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[@dfat.gov.au](mailto:@dfat.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Thursday, December 19, 2024 10:31 AM

**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[@dfat.gov.au](mailto:@dfat.gov.au)>

**Cc:** Warren Macilwain <[Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au)>; Travel Advice <[travel.advice@dfat.gov.au](mailto:travel.advice@dfat.gov.au)>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Subject:** RE: Fiji travel advice review/update? [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Thanks s 22(1)(a)(ii) that would be much appreciated. There does seem to be some confusion over the issue, so the AFP update will be useful. And agree that we don't want to change our current information before there is some clarity.

Will revert with a few thoughts from CCD when key people are available this morning (Vanuatu response taking much attention at the moment) to feed into next steps.

Cheers

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[@dfat.gov.au](mailto:@dfat.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Thursday, December 19, 2024 9:22 AM

**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[@dfat.gov.au](mailto:@dfat.gov.au)>

**Cc:** Warren Macilwain <[Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au)>; Travel Advice <[travel.advice@dfat.gov.au](mailto:travel.advice@dfat.gov.au)>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) [@dfat.gov.au](mailto:@dfat.gov.au)>

**Subject:** RE: Fiji travel advice review/update? [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Hi s 22(1)(a)(i)

I briefly spoke to HOM about an update to the TA this morning. We are waiting to receive a full briefing from AFP on s 33(a)(iii)

I'm not sure if we should change it in response to the press conference as yet – given the cause still hasn't been identified and there is still a lot of questions to be answered s 47C, s 47E(d)

I will give you an update once HOM and I have discussed further. We are very interested in yours and Warren's views as well as Team C's views and would be great if you could share with me.

Thanks

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) [@dfat.gov.au](mailto:@dfat.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Thursday, December 19, 2024 9:49 AM

**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) [@dfat.gov.au](mailto:@dfat.gov.au)>

**Cc:** Warren Macilwain <[Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au)>; Travel Advice <[travel.advice@dfat.gov.au](mailto:travel.advice@dfat.gov.au)>

**Subject:** Fiji travel advice review/update? [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Hope all well.

Noting the media reporting out of Fiji about toxicology results on the 'drink spiking' – what is Post thinking about an update to the TA?

Warren (AS CIB) and I were planning to catch up this morning to discuss, so welcome early thoughts.

s 33(a)(iii), s 33(b)

Many thanks

Cheers

s 22(1)(a)(i)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 33(a)(iii)

s 33(a)(iii), s 33(b)

[UNCLASSIFIED]

s 33(a)(iii), s 33(b)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**From:** Warren Macilwain  
**Sent:** Thursday, 19 December 2024 2:10 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Cc:** Travel Advice  
**Subject:** RE: media response - Fiji [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

I suggest we go with this pending post advice

The [travel advice for Fiji](#) was updated on 19 December 2024.

**On background (for use in reporting, not for attribution)**

DFAT keeps all Smartraveller travel advisories under close review, including regularly and carefully assessing the risks to Australians overseas to ensure that we provide accurate and up-to-date information. Smartraveller publishes a range of information on overseas travel safety including about [Partying safely while overseas | Smartraveller](#).

s 47E(d)

**Warren Macilwain**  
Assistant Secretary  
Consular Communications & Policy Branch | Consular & Crisis Management Division  
Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade

Ts 22(1)(a)(ii)  
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We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, waters and community.

OFFICIAL

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 19, 2024 2:01 PM  
**To:** Warren Macilwain <Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Travel Advice <travel.advice@dfat.gov.au>  
**Subject:** media response - Fiji [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Warren – I used some of the points from the desk cleared lines that went to FMO last night. If you're happy with this, I can send around to desk/post for views.

//

Fiji police are actively investigating the incident and that their findings have found no evidence of illicit drugs or methanol in the drinks served to those people. This is a matter for Fiji authorities to comment on. We await further details from the Government of Fiji on the results of further testing.

We are in close contact with local authorities and stand ready to assist should they request it.

The [travel advice for Fiji](#) was updated on 19 December 2024.

**On background (for use in reporting, not for attribution)**

DFAT keeps all Smartraveller travel advisories under close review, including regularly and carefully assessing the risks to Australians overseas to ensure that we provide accurate and up-to-date information.

s 47E(d)

At a brief press conference on 18 December, Fiji Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism, Viliame Gavoka, announced that tests conducted by the Fiji Police Force found no evidence of illicit drugs or methanol in the drinks served to seven people, including four Australians, at the Warwick resort on Saturday night (14 December). Fijian Health Secretary James Tudravu did not reveal the cause of the illnesses, nor the results of the samples taken from the patients — only samples from the tainted drinks. The toxicology tests for the seven affected people are still under way. Officials indicated the detail from that investigation will first be provided to the individuals affected before it is made public.

The seven people affected had presented with symptoms including nausea and vomiting, intestinal issues, as well as some neurological symptoms. The toxicology testing is examining whether it was a chemical issue or an infection. PS Tudravu said that further investigations are ongoing to get the definitive cause. DPM Gavoka said that all of the affected tourists and the local Fijian affected have now been discharged from medical care, and fully recovered.

Smartraveller's travel advice for Fiji was updated on 15 December following information about the hospitalisation of a number of people, including Australians, due to suspected alcohol poisoning at a resort in Fiji. Following Fiji Government advice on the 18 December, DFAT has reviewed and updated the advice today (19 December). References to the standard Smartraveller language of drink spiking and methanol poisoning remains in the travel advice.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

---

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Communication & Policy Branch | Consular & Crisis Management Division

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

---

**From:** Ewen McDonald  
**Sent:** Thursday, 19 December 2024 11:01 AM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) Warren Macilwain; Travel Advice; s 22(1)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: TPs and suggested TA update [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 33(a)(iii)

Thanks for your help.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

---

OFFICIAL

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 19, 2024 11:50 AM  
**To:** Ewen McDonald <Ewen.McDonald@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Warren Macilwain <Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au>; Travel Advice <travel.advice@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: TPs and suggested TA update [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Sounds like a plan! Holding response is the way to go. (and you can blame Canberra!)

Perhaps use these key points then.

- DFAT Smartraveller's travel advice for Fiji was updated on 15 December following information being provided about the hospitalisation of a number of people, including Australians, due to suspected alcohol poisoning at a resort in Fiji.
- The purpose of travel advice is to alert Australians to possible risks.
- Following Fiji Government advice on the evening of 18 December, DFAT is currently reviewing the travel advice for Fiji.
- DFAT keeps all Smartraveller travel advisories under close review, including regularly and carefully assessing the risks to Australians overseas to ensure that we provide accurate and up-to-date information.

- if there are significant changes to the risks Australians may face overseas, we change the travel advice (language and /or level) on the Smartraveller website.
- our advisories are an objective assessment of the risks Australians face overseas
  - they are not influenced by diplomatic, political, or commercial considerations.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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Communication & Policy Branch | Consular & Crisis Management Division

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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OFFICIAL

**From:** Ewen McDonald <[Ewen.McDonald@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Ewen.McDonald@dfat.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Thursday, December 19, 2024 10:44 AM

**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>

**Cc:** Warren Macilwain <[Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au)>; Travel Advice <[travel.advice@dfat.gov.au](mailto:travel.advice@dfat.gov.au)>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>

**Subject:** RE: TPs and suggested TA update [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Just to reiterate I am not asking for a change to the advice until we all agree. So hold fire for the moment.

---

OFFICIAL

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Thursday, December 19, 2024 11:38 AM

**To:** Ewen McDonald <[Ewen.McDonald@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Ewen.McDonald@dfat.gov.au)>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>

**Cc:** Warren Macilwain <[Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au)>; Travel Advice <[travel.advice@dfat.gov.au](mailto:travel.advice@dfat.gov.au)>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>

**Subject:** RE: TPs and suggested TA update [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

And apologies for the typos! – in haste. Updated below

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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Communication & Policy Branch | Consular & Crisis Management Division

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Sent:** Thursday, December 19, 2024 10:37 AM

**To:** Ewen McDonald <[Ewen.McDonald@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Ewen.McDonald@dfat.gov.au)>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>

**Cc:** Warren Macilwain <[Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au)>; Travel Advice <[travel.advice@dfat.gov.au](mailto:travel.advice@dfat.gov.au)>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>

**Subject:** TPs and suggested TA update [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Ewen, s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Apologies – these points are not cleared by SES colleagues, s 33(a)(iii)

. Our suggested edits to the travel advice are below as well. Let me know if this works for you.

Cheers

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

#### TP's for the update to Fiji's travel advice.

- DFAT Smartaveller's travel advice for Fiji was updated on 15 December following the suspected poisoning of Australians in country.
  - The update was published after the Australian High Commission in Fiji received confirmation from local authorities s 33(a)(iii) that they were treating this incident as suspected alcohol poisoning.
- The travel advice alerts Australians to possible risks, even if it was an isolated event.
- Following Fiji Government advice on the evening of 18 December, the travel advice was/will be updated on 19 December.
- The Fiji travel advice will retain a reference to the potential risks of drink spiking in the Full advice section under safety. This is standard advice now being included in a number of travel advisories for Asia, Africa, Europe and the Pacific.
- DFAT keeps all Smartaveller travel advisories under close review, including regularly and carefully assessing the risks to Australians overseas to ensure that we provide accurate and up-to-date information.
  - if there are significant changes to the risks Australians may face overseas, we change the travel advice (language and /or level) on the Smartaveller website.
  - our advisories are an objective assessment of the risks Australians face overseas
    - they are not influenced by diplomatic, political, or commercial considerations.



**Latest update**

We continue to advise exercise normal safety precautions in Fiji. [Be alert to the potential risks around drink spiking and methanol poisoning from alcoholic drinks. Get urgent medical help if you suspect drink spiking. See Safety.](#)

**Overview/Safety**

- Crime in Fiji includes robbery, theft, violent assault, sexual assault and home invasions. Most crime is opportunistic. The high risk is at night. Be careful in downtown Suva after dark.
- [Be alert to the potential risks around drink spiking and methanol poisoning through consuming alcoholic drinks. Don't leave food and pay attention when your drinks are being mixed. Get urgent medical help if you suspect drink spiking. See our advice overseas.](#)
- Credit card fraud and ATM card skimming occur. Protect your PIN and be alert when using ATMs. Regularly check your cards for fraud.
- Avoid protests, street rallies and areas with military activity. Protests can occur with little warning and can turn violent. Look for set up checkpoints and close roads. Follow their advice and monitor media for updates.
- November to April is cyclone season, but cyclones may occur at other times. They can cause flooding and disrupt essential services. Have an accommodation's evacuation plan. If a cyclone is approaching, find your nearest shelter and follow the advice of local authorities.
- Flooding is common, especially in downtown Nadi and on the Coral Coast. Floods can cut off road access, including to the airport. Follow the advice of local authorities.

Full travel advice: [Safety](#)

**Full Advice/Safety/Crime****Drink spiking and methanol poisoning**

Be alert to the potential risks around drink spiking [and methanol poisoning through consuming alcoholic drinks. See our advice overseas.](#)

Get urgent medical attention if you think you or someone else has been drugged.

[Methanol can be used in unregulated alcohol production to lower costs. Methanol is highly toxic. As little as one shot can be fatal. If you, or someone you're travelling with, has been poisoned. More information: Urgent medical attention could save your life or cause disability. Report suspected cases of methanol poisoning to the police.](#)

- [be careful drinking cocktails and drinks made with spirits](#)
- [drink only at reputable licensed premises](#)
- [avoid home-made alcoholic drinks](#)
- [labels on bottles aren't always accurate](#)

**More information:**

- [Partying safely while overseas](#)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Sent:** Sunday, 22 December 2024 2:13 PM  
**To:** Warren Macilwain; Carli Shillito; s 22(1)(a)  
**Cc:** Travel Advice; s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Fiji travel advice - any update from Post? [SEC=OFFICIAL]

## OFFICIAL

Thanks Warren and Carli. I've spoken with HOM – he is comfortable with the plan for going with Option A, with the below amendments to the content (in red). As advised earlier, we're not ready for this update to go live as yet. I will come back with the green light from HOM once we receive confirmation of the blood test results from the Health Ministry. This may not happen until tomorrow.

Thanks for all your help on this today, particularly given Vanuatu.

Cheers

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

### Option A

We could do this a technical update / date change (given there is no new information to this update) – this means it would just be an update to the website (no email to subscriber and no social media).

#### Latest update

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

- **Know your alcohol limits.** Drink spiking can happen anywhere. See our advice on [Partying safely while overseas](#)

Full travel advice: [Safety](#)

Full advice / Safety / Crime

#### **Alcohol safety** ~~drink spiking and methanol poisoning~~

**Know your alcohol limits and be safe around water.** Drink spiking can happen anywhere. Be alert to the potential risks. ~~around drink spiking and - Get urgent medical attention if you think you or someone else has been drugged.~~ ~~around drink spiking and methanol poisoning.~~ See our advice, ~~including on spiking and methanol risks,~~ on [Partying safely while overseas](#)

- 
- 
- 
- 

More information:

- [Partying safely while overseas](#)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Warren Macilwain <Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au>

Sent: Sunday, December 22, 2024 2:55 PM

To: Carli Shillito <Carli.Shillito@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
@dfat.gov.au>

@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)  
(ii)

Cc: Travel Advice <travel.advice@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
@dfat.gov.au>

@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Subject: Re: Fiji travel advice - any update from Post? [SEC=OFFICIAL]

### **OFFICIAL**

I've done that

As per call with HOM the other day his view is "deletion not an option and carrying the text as general advice is good".

To keep it low key we would suggest option A below (my advice)

Cheers

**From:** "Carli Shillito" <[Carli.Shillito@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Carli.Shillito@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Date:** Sunday 22 December 2024 at 1:07:01 pm  
**To:** "s 22(1)(a)(ii)" <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>, "Warren Macilwain" <[Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au)>, "s 22(1)(a)(ii)" <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** "Travel Advice" <[travel.advice@dfat.gov.au](mailto:travel.advice@dfat.gov.au)>, "s 22(1)(a)(ii)" <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>, "s 22(1)(a)(ii)" <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Fiji travel advice - any update from Post? [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

I can follow up with Craig.

Carli Shillito

---

Assistant Secretary  
Fiji Vanuatu Branch | Pacific Melanesia Division  
Office of the Pacific  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

---

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 22, 2024 1:02 PM  
**To:** Warren Macilwain <[Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au)>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>; Carli Shillito <[Carli.Shillito@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Carli.Shillito@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Travel Advice <[travel.advice@dfat.gov.au](mailto:travel.advice@dfat.gov.au)>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Fiji travel advice - any update from Post? [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

HOM's just asked if Craig is aware and shares the view to go with one of the options below?

---

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 22, 2024 1:48 PM  
**To:** Warren Macilwain <[Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au)>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>; Carli Shillito <[Carli.Shillito@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Carli.Shillito@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Travel Advice <[travel.advice@dfat.gov.au](mailto:travel.advice@dfat.gov.au)>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Re: Fiji travel advice - any update from Post? [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Thanks Warren, appreciate you coming back so quickly. I'll share with HOM and revert.

---

**From:** "Warren Macilwain" <[Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Date:** Sunday 22 December 2024 at 13:29:14  
**To:** "s 22(1)(a)(ii)" <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>, "s 22(1)(a)(ii)" <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>, "Carli Shillito" <[Carli.Shillito@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Carli.Shillito@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** "Travel Advice" <[travel.advice@dfat.gov.au](mailto:travel.advice@dfat.gov.au)>, "s 22(1)(a)(ii)" <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>, "s 22(1)(a)(ii)" <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Re: Fiji travel advice - any update from Post? [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

On the last point I mean for use in explaining to the Fijians why we've left it in there. Not linking to it in TA

---

From: "Warren Macilwain" <[Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au)>

Date: Sunday 22 December 2024 at 12:27:47 pm

To: "s 22(1)(a)(ii)" <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>, "s 22(1)(a)(ii)" <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>, "Carli Shillito"

<[Carli.Shillito@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Carli.Shillito@dfat.gov.au)>

Cc: "Travel Advice" <[travel.advice@dfat.gov.au](mailto:travel.advice@dfat.gov.au)>, "s 22(1)(a)(ii)" <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>, "s 22(1)(a)(ii)" <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>

Subject: Re: Fiji travel advice - any update from Post? [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

s 33(a)(iii)

Cheers

---

From: "s 22(1)(a)(ii)" <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>

Date: Sunday 22 December 2024 at 11:31:38 am

To: "Warren Macilwain" <[Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au)>, "s 22(1)(a)(ii)" <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>, "Carli Shillito"

<[Carli.Shillito@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Carli.Shillito@dfat.gov.au)>

Cc: "Travel Advice" <[travel.advice@dfat.gov.au](mailto:travel.advice@dfat.gov.au)>, "s 22(1)(a)(ii)" <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>, "s 22(1)(a)(ii)" <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>

Subject: RE: Fiji travel advice - any update from Post? [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL****OFFICIAL**

Hi all

Post has received a copy of the outstanding blood test results (appears to be for three of the four affected Australians) which we believe shows no methanol or illicit drugs. s 33(a)(iii)

In the meantime, HOM has asked for CCD's advice on updating the travel advice so we have a cleared version ready to go. He's keen to know if CCD recommends reverting to our previous travel advice (prior to this incident occurring) or moving to one of the options proposed by <sup>s 22(1)(a)(ii)</sup> in the below email chain. I suppose the primary considerations for either reverting to the previous or changing the travel advice are: the test results are not showing methanol or illicit drugs as the cause; this is an isolated incident at one resort; and we still don't know the cause.

@Warren Macilwain s 22(1)(a)(ii) – grateful for your views/recommendations on how we proceed.

Thanks

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 20, 2024 3:18 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Travel Advice <travel.advice@dfat.gov.au>; Warren Macilwain <Warren.Macilwain@dfat.gov.au>; Carli Shillito <Carli.Shillito@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Fiji travel advice - any update from Post? [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Perfect, thanks s 22(1)(a)(ii) .

Merry Christmas to you and hope you manage to enjoy some time off as well.

Cheers

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

---

Director | Travel Advice Section (TIN)  
Communication & Policy Branch | Consular & Crisis Management Division

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii) - duplicate

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Sent:** Friday, 27 December 2024 12:19 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT: Update to Fiji travel advice - heavy rain and flooding - 27 December  
[SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Thanks so much – we're not ready to make those changes as yet. I hope in the next few days we'll be able to.

## Thanks

§ 22(1)(b)(ii)

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 27, 2024 1:14 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT: Update to Fiji travel advice - heavy rain and flooding - 27 December [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Importance:** High

OFFICIAL

Hi <sup>522(1)(b)(ii)</sup>

I'll action this travel advice update shortly, but just wanted to check whether you want me to also make the following changes to the existing content about drink spiking, etc from the following sections of the Fiji TA:

Section of TA	Current content
Overview/Safety	s 22(1)(a)(ii)



- [Drink spiking can happen anywhere. See our advice on Partying safely while overseas.](#)

Full advice/Safety

**Drink spiking and methanol poisoning**

[Drink spiking can happen anywhere.](#) Be alert to the potential risks around drink spiking and [methanol poisoning through consuming alcoholic drinks. See our advice on partying safely while overseas.](#)

[Get](#)get urgent medical attention if you think you or someone else has been drugged. [See our advice, including on spiking and methanol risks, on Partying safely while overseas.](#)

[Methanol](#)**More information:**

- [Partying safely while overseas](#)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Assistant Director | Travel Advice Section  
Communication & Policy Branch | Consular & Crisis Management Division

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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*[We acknowledge](#) the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all First Nations peoples, their cultures and to their Elders, past, present and emerging.*

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[@dfat.gov.au](mailto:dfat.gov.au)>  
**Date:** Friday 27 December 2024 at 12:38:00 pm  
**To:** "Madeleine Casey" <[Madeleine.Casey@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Madeleine.Casey@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** "Travel Advice" <[travel.advice@dfat.gov.au](mailto:travel.advice@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** URGENT - FOR APPROVAL - : Update to Fiji travel advice - heavy rain and flooding - 27 December [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Maddie

Sorry to disturb you during the break, but grateful your approval of urgent adhoc update and social media for significant weather event in Fiji:

Please see below email request and HOM approval from post.

Proposed changes:

Section of TA	Proposed changes
s 22(1)(a)(ii)	

- Be alert to the potential risks around drink spiking and methanol poisoning through consuming alcoholic drinks. Don't leave food or drinks unattended, and pay attention when your drinks are being mixed. Get urgent medical help if you suspect drink spiking. See our advice on [Partying safely while overseas](#).





s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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Full travel advice Safety

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## Crime

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### Drink spiking and methanol poisoning

Be alert to the potential risks around drink spiking and methanol poisoning through consuming alcoholic drinks. See our advice on [partying safely while overseas](#).

Get urgent medical attention if you think you or someone else has been drugged.

Methanol can be used in unregulated alcohol production to lower costs. Methanol is highly toxic. As little as one shot can be fatal. Act quickly if you suspect you, or someone you're travelling with, has been poisoned. [Urgent medical attention](#) could save your life or save you from permanent disability. Report suspected cases of methanol poisoning to the police.

- be careful drinking cocktails and drinks made with spirits
- drink only at reputable licensed premises
- avoid home-made alcoholic drinks
- labels on bottles aren't always accurate.

#### More information:

- [Partying safely while overseas](#)

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