

**Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development Initiative
Advisory Board**

Fifth Meeting 10 November 2016 – Canberra, Australia

Meeting Report

The fifth meeting of the Advisory Board for Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development (*Pacific Women*) was held in Canberra, Australia on 10 November 2016. The meeting was chaired by Mr Colin Tukuitonga, Director General of the Pacific Community. The meeting agenda is at [Attachment A](#).

The objectives of Pacific Women are:

- Women, and women's interests, are increasingly and effectively represented and visible through **leadership** at all levels of decision-making.
- Women have expanded **economic opportunities** to earn income and accumulate economic assets.
- **Violence against women** is reduced and survivors of violence have access to support services and to justice.
- Women in the Pacific will have a **stronger sense of their own agency**, supported by a changing legal and social environment and through increased access to the services they need.

The Advisory Board's purpose is to provide advice on the strategic direction of *Pacific Women*. The Advisory Board reflects Australia's commitment to a Pacific-led response to improving the opportunities for political, economic and social advancement of Pacific women. The membership of the Board and attendance at the meeting is at [Attachment B](#).

The meeting commenced with an opening prayer by Board Member, Ms Maere Tekanene, followed by acknowledgement of the owners of the land where the meeting was being held by Tracey Newbury.

Summary update of Implementation and program priorities for 2017

The Board noted the progress of *Pacific Women* presented by Program Director, Tracey Newbury and noted:

- 126 activities funded of which 93 are implementation activities such as investments in projects and long term technical support and 33 are strategic direction setting and learning activities such as scoping studies, project designs and review. Of the 93 activities, 20 were funded through the regional program and 73 were funded through the bilateral program with
- 11 activities have a primary focus on women's leadership and decision-making; 16 on women's economic empowerment; 38 focus on violence against women with 14 of these (37 per cent) in PNG.
- 31 activities work across multiple outcome areas, most often addressing two or more sub categories of ending violence against women and engaging men.

- PNG activities make up the majority (46 per cent) of primary prevention activities funded by the program.
- 28 activities (29 per cent) have a primary focus on enhancing women's agency.

The Board also noted developments in Monitoring and Evaluation including the following:

Year 3 evaluation

This is in progress. ITAD, a company based in the United Kingdom has been contracted to undertake the evaluation which is high level and focused on the extent to which Pacific Women has focused on increased capacity and resources, strengthened relationships and supported action in its key result areas. The evaluation will provide advice on measuring value for money. Field visits were being conducted in Fiji; PNG; Kiribati and Samoa and the evaluation report is due in February 2017.

Project evaluations underway

The Pacific Women Parliamentary Partnerships program and the SPC Progressing Gender Equality in the Pacific Program are both being evaluated with reports due in December 2016.

Program Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (MEF)

This is a critical aspect of the program and is updated annually. The Year 3 evaluation will help shape the MEF. Other areas to be updated include quantitative indicators; value for money assessment and the evaluation questions.

The Board noted the following program priorities for 2017.

- Greater focus on partnership – how can DFAT and the *Pacific Women* Support Unit work better with key partners in the region?
- Design work following from roadmap and evaluation recommendations.
 - Design work to respond to the review of counselling services for survivors of violence.
- Implementing research and capacity building strategies
- Engaging with other donors to increase their funding and advocacy engagement in the Pacific

Responding to Advisory Board issues raised at the April 2016 meeting in Samoa

The Board was provided with an update on efforts to address issues raised at the April 2016 meeting and noted the following:

Low level of awareness and engagement with *Pacific Women* by governments at country level

The program proposes to circulate the Annual Progress Report 2015-2016 to:

- PIF Leaders under cover letter to be signed by Dame Meg Taylor, Secretary General PIFS.
- DFAT Posts which will provide copies to key government counterparts.

The Support Unit and DFAT will jointly brief resident Pacific High Commissioners in Fiji on the program.

Leadership Dialogue

This was a planned activity in 2015 which did not take place and it was noted that planning has begun towards an event that will focus on coalitions for change with an emphasis on supporting the women's movement in 2017. Activities that are helping to shape this include involvement of the program and funding support for the Pacific Feminist Forum scheduled for November 28-30 at the University of the South Pacific in Suva and possible collaboration with the EU Non-State Actors Program and the SPC Triennial scheduled for October 2017.

Importance of data collection, and having the right data and using this to inform and change policy

- Building a useful lessons learnt database will be the next stage of the Knowledge Management System.
- Under the SPC program:
 - 14 countries have enhanced their capacity to produce and use gender statistics
 - 3 countries have strengthened capacity for policy monitoring, evaluation and learning through the use of gender statistics in annual reporting (Cook Islands, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu)
 - 2 countries have disseminated gender statistics publications with SPC support (Palau, Solomon Islands)
 - ADB and SPC published 'Gender Statistics: The Pacific and Timor-Leste'

Discussion

The Board noted the contribution that *Pacific Women* was making to information and knowledge about gender issues in the Pacific region and encouraged the program to share this information more widely including with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) in relation to the Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration report. Similarly, SPC was leading in the area of improving gender statistics in the region and their work needs to be distributed more widely and used to inform broader gender mainstreaming efforts.

The Board noted and questioned the high levels of funding being given to United Nations agencies and international non-governmental organisations (INGOS) when compared to funding allocated to Pacific governments, Pacific NGOs and Pacific regional organisations. DFAT indicated that often funds are channelled through UN but are distributed to NGOs or Governments to implement activities. It can be difficult to directly fund regional or national NGOs if they have not met due diligence requirements and where there is opportunity, DFAT has concentrated on supporting capacity building of these organisations in order that they can in time become direct grant recipients. This was the case with the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre (funded by DFAT/*Pacific Women*) building the capacity of the Tonga Women and Children's Crisis Centre (TWCCC) so that now TWCCC is a direct recipient of Australian funding. DFAT noted that building the capacity of Pacific organisations is a high priority for *Pacific Women*.

DFAT's gender mainstreaming efforts

The Board heard about DFAT's ongoing efforts to mainstream gender equality across all of its work including through internal institutional mechanisms such as:

- High level of investments – now up to 78% of investments with an adequate response to gender (up from 74% in 2014).
- Significant new programs including:
 - Pacific women mentoring program - \$5.4 million
 - A pilot program to expand access to long-term contraceptives through social marketing in Solomon Islands (\$500,000 - funded by the Gender Equality Fund)
 - Three global UN programs with Pacific elements:
 - Global Acceleration Instrument on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action (\$2 million – from Gender Equality Fund)
 - Statistics and Knowledge
 - Essential services package for women and girls subject to violence

In addition, the Board was informed about progress on the implementation of DFAT Pacific Gender Guidance Note and ongoing work outside of the aid program. This included such initiatives as: Inclusion of gender equality language in statements and briefings for Ministers and in visit programs; ensuring that Australia's response to TC Winston addressed the disproportionate impact on Fijian women; strong gender element included in Ministerial visits; work to address gender imbalance in the Seasonal Worker Program; and support for endorsement of a Gender Strategy by Forum Fisheries Agency.

Discussion

The Board acknowledged the progress being made within DFAT to mainstream gender across the aid program and across its wider foreign relations and public diplomacy work.

Update on Pacific Gender Research Scoping Study and Symposium/Workshop and Review of EAW Counselling Services in the Pacific

The Board was given an overview of two direction setting pieces of work conducted over the course of 2015-2016.

Pacific Gender Research Scoping Study and related symposium and workshop

The presentation covered objectives, methodology, conclusions and recommendations from the study and agreed actions from the workshop. These cover the following: (i) identified gaps and areas for further research on gender in the Pacific; (ii) capacity building; (iii) strengthened partnerships; (iv) Pacific gender research clearinghouse or hub; (v) ethics; and (vi) quality assurance.

Review of EAW Counselling Services in the Pacific

The presentation covered purpose, methodology, findings and summary recommendations. The recommendations are: (i) **In smaller countries** the focus should be on supporting existing organisations with competent leadership to fill in some of their gaps; (ii) **In medium sized countries** initial focus should be on building up quality before progressive scale-up, particularly in areas with limited or no services for survivors of GBV; and (iii) **In larger**

countries the focus should be on advocating for government funding, scaling up existing services and addressing gaps with particular groups (such as people with disability) and the broader population.¹

Discussion

The board noted the presentations and acknowledged the progress of this work since the last Board meeting commenting on the comprehensive nature of the research in both initiatives and the importance and validity of the findings.

The findings are being considered and taken forward in different ways by the organisations involved in both the study and the work. For example, the findings and recommendations are being used to inform work of a PNG *Pacific Women* research group; and the development of the Pacific Women research strategy; and organisations such as UN Women used the study and the outcomes of the workshop to inform discussions around improving research on women in leadership in the Pacific at their September workshop on women in leadership held in Fiji. With regard, to the research clearinghouse or hub, it was noted that various models were presented at the workshop with agreement to scope a partnership model suited to and based in the Pacific.

In relation to the Review of EVAW Counselling services in the Pacific, the Board:

- Noted that the implementation of recommendations requires Government support and resourcing as current initiatives were being totally funded by donors
- Recommended that the report be sent to Governments and regional organisations and development partners working in this area
- Expressed thanks to the team and commended the report

Update on design of the Pacific Women Roadmap

The roadmap is to provide *Pacific Women* with a strategic, prioritised approach to addressing the four outcome areas of the program and to enable DFAT to make transparent funding decisions in relation to regional and multi-country investments. There was a lot of information to consider and synthesis and a key question is “What can Pacific Women do to be catalytic?”

Discussion

The Board acknowledged the work that had been put in by the team to develop the roadmap and endorsed the areas of focus identified in the draft document. The focus on adolescent girls and addressing social norms were seen as important areas of work. The need for an explicit focus on women with disabilities was also noted. There was a discussion on terminology – in particular whether the roadmaps should reference culture or social norms.

¹ **Classification:** smaller countries are those with populations <100,000; medium-sized countries 100,000-700,000; larger countries >700,000

It was agreed that social norms would be used, but with a clear definition which states that this term includes culture, behaviours and beliefs.

It was agreed that Board Members would send in comments to Linda Petersen, Team Leader of the *Pacific Women* Support Unit.

Priorities for the Advisory Board for the next six months

The Board members prioritised the following actions:

- Distribution of the Annual Progress Report 2015-2016 including to PIF Leaders under cover letter from SG PIFS, once the report was launched.
- 16 days of activism on violence prevention program being developed by DFAT and would feature stories from the Annual Progress Report 2015-2016
- Ms Marilyn Tahī was confirmed as the Board member on the Program Management Committee and outgoing PMC Board Member, Natalia Latu was thanked for her contribution
- Development of promotional material to be used by Board Members to promote the program with governments

Reflections on the meeting and agreement on the report

Board members reflected that the meeting had been productive and welcomed the opportunity to discuss the draft roadmap and Pacific Women future priorities.

Next Meeting

The Chair invited the Advisory Board to next meet in Noumea, New Caledonia in July 2017 when SPC would be celebrating its 70th anniversary. It was likely that Leaders would be attending those celebrations and so presented the opportunity to communicate the work of the program at a high level in the region.

Ms Lesieli Taviri will chair the next meeting.

Conclusion

The Board expressed its appreciation to DFAT for the opportunity to engage with *Pacific Women* and thanked SPC Director General for chairing the meeting.

Attachment A: Agenda

Agenda Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development Advisory Board Meeting 10 November 2016

Venue: Crawford Room, RG Casey Building, DFAT

Chair: Mr Colin Tukuitonga

9:00 – 10:00 Meeting with Hon Julie Bishop, MP Minister for Foreign Affairs

- 9:00 Board members will be collected from their hotel at 9:00 and driven to Parliament House
- 9:30 Meeting with the Minister, accompanied by Tracey Newbury
- 10:00 Meeting concludes and transport to DFAT

10:30 – 12:30 Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development update

- 10:30 Summary update on implementation of Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development: Tracey Newbury, Director
- 11:30 Presentation on the research mapping and regional research symposium and outline the findings of the regional counselling review: Linda Petersen, Team Leader *Pacific Women* Support Unit
- 12:00 DFAT's Pacific work on gender equality outside of *Pacific Women*

12:30 - 2:00 Lunch – Plimsoll Room

The Board will have lunch with Ms Frances Adamson, Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Mr Daniel Sloper, First Assistant Secretary (Pacific Division); Mr Robert Christie, Assistant Secretary (Pacific Aid Effectiveness and Advice Branch)

2:00 - 3:30 The Roadmaps

2:00 Representatives from the roadmap teams (Charmaine Rodrigues – Leadership; Bernadette Whitelum – violence against women; Jane Daniels – economic empowerment) will present an overview of the process of developing the roadmaps and the main issues and findings.

2:45 Discussion

3:30 – 5:00 The roles and direction of the Advisory Board

- 3:30 Afternoon Tea
- 4:00 Priorities for Advisory Board for the next six months
- 4:30 Reflections on the Meeting and Agreement on the Report
- 4:45 Date and location for next meeting and Wrap Up

Attachment B: Members of the Advisory Board

Dr Colin Tukuitonga, Director General, Secretariat of the Pacific Community;

Ms Maere Tekanene, former Minister for Education (Kiribati);

Ms Merylyn Tahu, Coordinator of the Vanuatu Women's Centre (Vanuatu);

Ms Natalia Palu Latu, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Policy and Reform Division, Ministry of Finance and National Planning (Tonga);

Ms Savina Nongebatu, immediate past Co-Chairperson of the Pacific Disability Forum (Solomon Islands);

Reverend Sereima Lomaloma, Anglican Minister and Ministry Officer, Anglican Diocese of Polynesia & Chairperson of House of Sarah (Fiji);

Ms Yoshiko Yamaguchi-Capelle, Pacific Young Women's Leadership Alliance (Republic of Marshall Islands).

Ms Natasha Stott Despoja (Observer), Australia's Ambassador for Women and Girls

Sione Tekiteki, Director Political Governance and Security represented Ms Andie Fong Toy at the meeting.

Hon Fiame Naomi Mata'afa, Ms Andie Fong Toy, Dr Lawrence Kalinoe, Ms Jane Kesno and Ms Lesieli Taviri sent their apologies for this meeting.