

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMICS
REVIEW OF THE FOUR MAJOR BANKS AND OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Commonwealth Bank of Australia

CBA97QW: (a) Please list the countries in the Pacific Islands where your bank currently provides banking services.

(i) Please outline what banking services are offered in each of these countries.

(b) Are there any countries in the Pacific Islands where your bank provided banking services in the past 5 years but no longer provides banking services?

(c) If you have stopped providing banking services to any Pacific Island country, please list the name of the country and for each country explain:

(i) the reason for ending banking services;

(ii) whether the cost of meeting Australian AML/CTF requirements contributed to your decision to stop providing banking services.

Answer: (a) (i) The Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA) currently provides institutional banking services in the following countries: Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, and New Caledonia.

These banking services include:

- Papua New Guinea – Correspondent Banking, AUD Vostro Account, Deposits, Fixed Income, and FX.
- Fiji – Correspondent Banking, AUD Vostro Account, Deposits, Fixed Income, and FX.
- Solomon Islands – Correspondent Banking, AUD Vostro Account, Deposits, and Fixed Income.
- Vanuatu – Correspondent Banking, AUD Vostro Account, Deposits, Fixed Income, and FX.
- New Caledonia – Correspondent Banking.

CBA does not have a physical presence in these countries, and does not provide retail banking services in any Pacific Island country.

(b) Yes.

(c)(i) CBA ceased providing banking services to one Pacific Island country in the past five years, which was Tonga in 2019. This was due to managing associated risks; equally, we took a commercial decision in relation to foreign currency accounts that we had been providing in that market.

(ii) No.

Note: This response is specific to CBA and does not include ASB Bank in New Zealand, which maintains a similar network of correspondent banking relationships.