



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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2013 PRESIDING OFFICERS AND CLERKS CONFERENCE 2013—CANBERRA

**Communique of Australian and Pacific Presiding Officers and Clerks meeting in Canberra on the occasion of the 44<sup>th</sup> Australian and Pacific Presiding Officers and Clerks Conference from 1-4 July 2013**

We the Presiding Officers and Clerks of 19 Australian and Pacific Parliaments have held a joint meeting in Canberra, Australian Capital Territory to discuss a range of regional issues and have agreed to the issuing of a joint communique. We represent the Parliaments of: Australian Capital Territory; Autonomous Region of Bougainville; Commonwealth Parliament of Australia; Cook Islands; Kiribati; Nauru; New South Wales; New Zealand; Niue; Northern Territory; Papua New Guinea; Queensland; Samoa; Solomon Islands; Tasmania; Tonga; Tuvalu; Victoria; and Western Australia.

We recognise that parliamentary democracy in our region is being strengthened through the Pacific Parliamentary Partnerships program which has seen Australian and Pacific Parliaments enter into twinning arrangements with each other.

We consider that the Pacific Parliamentary Partnerships program has made a significant contribution to the professional development of parliamentarians, the capacity building of parliamentary secretariats and the enhancement of community engagement with parliaments throughout the Pacific region.

We believe the Pacific Parliamentary Partnerships program provides a sustainable model for democratic development as it is helping to build enduring relationships among parliaments in the Pacific region and therefore a vibrant Pacific community of parliamentary democracy.

We acknowledge the significant support that has been provided to the program by the Australian Government's international development agency, AusAID, and recognise that without AusAID support the program would not have been able to achieve the many outcomes that are evident to us.

We also recognise the support that NZAID and AusAID provides through the Centre for Democratic Institutions and international agencies such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in delivering capacity building programs in Pacific Island countries.

We consider there is still much work to be done in boosting democratic governance throughout our region.

We renew our commitment to the Pacific Parliamentary Partnerships program.

We note that funding support for the next stage of the Pacific Parliamentary Partnerships program has yet to be secured.

We urge the Australian Government to continue the funding of the Pacific Parliamentary Partnerships program so that the benefits of the program can continue to be realised.

We note that AusAID funding through the Pacific Parliamentary Partnership program has been the catalyst for significant input from the Federal, State and Territory Parliaments in the form of funding, expertise and other resources thus creating a true collaborative effort.

Canberra

4 July 2013