



House Health Committee releases report on Pacific Health

The House of Representatives Health Committee tabled its report into regional health issues jointly affecting Australia and the South Pacific today.

The report details the committee's inquiry activities and delegation visits to Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands to discuss cross-border health issues including tuberculosis; malaria; and sexually transmitted diseases, as well as other regional health issues like the rise of non-communicable diseases such as Type 2 diabetes; the health impacts of climate change; child and maternal health; and avoidable blindness.

The chair of the committee, Mr Steve Georganas MP (Member for Hindmarsh, SA) said, "This important report refers to a variety of health challenges that we face in the region and the ways in which we as close neighbours can continue to support each other to find solutions."

The report contains 15 recommendations which focus on strengthening our partnerships and people-to-people relationships with Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands; two neighbouring countries which Australia has long-standing and close ties with. In addition to facilitating forums for engagement, further practical assistance and twinning arrangements between institutions, the committee recommends establishing mentoring programs between bureaucrats in our respective countries' health departments, and between women in the Australian Parliament and women in Pacific Island Parliaments or aspiring female candidates.

The report is available on the inquiry webpage <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/haa/pacifichealth/report.htm>. Copies of the report can also be requested by telephoning (02) 6277 4145.

For media comment, please contact the Committee Chair, Steve Georganas, on (08) 8376 9000 (Electorate office) or 0437 387 378 (mobile).

For all other information: please contact the Inquiry Secretary by phone on (02) 6277 4145 or visit the committee's inquiry website: <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/haa/impotence/index.htm>