



Submission No 33

Inquiry into Australia's aid program in the Pacific

Organisation: Attorney-General's Department

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Australian Government
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Criminal Justice Division

06/7575

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Senator Marise Payne
Chair
Human Rights Sub-Committee
Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator

Update on Submission no 15 by the Attorney-General's Department to the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade's Inquiry into Australia's Aid Program and its Impact on Human Rights and Security in the Pacific.

I enclose an update of the material contained in the Attorney-General's Department's Submission to the Inquiry, dated 30 June 2006.

I trust this information will be of assistance to the Sub-Committee.

The action officer for this matter is Michelle Worthington who can be contacted on (02) 6250 6777.

Yours sincerely

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Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

Human Rights Sub-Committee

Australia's Aid Program and its Impact on Human Rights and Security in the Pacific

Submission no 15 by the Attorney-General's Department, dated 30 June 2006

Updates

Enhanced Cooperation Program (ECP) (page 1 of Submission)

We have now conducted a recruitment process for a Papua New Guinean Solicitor-General under the Enhanced Cooperation Program, and we expect that position to be finalised very shortly. Several other positions including prosecutors, litigators and corrections officers have also been advertised.

Legal Library Twinning Program (page 2 of Submission)

The Attorney-General's Department's Lionel Murphy Library has introduced a program of legal research training in Tonga and Samoa.

This latest activity will see Attorney-General's staff provide legal research training in Tonga and Samoa in the following areas; Basic computer skills, internet skills and electronic and hard copy research skills for legal professionals in the public and private sector.

Pacific Islands Law Officers' Meeting (page 3 of the Submission)

The 25th Pacific Islands Law Officers Meeting did not take place in December 2006, but rather was postponed to this week. The Attorney-Generals' Department currently has two delegates in Kiribati participating in the meeting.

Pacific Legal Knowledge Program (page 4 of Submission)

The Pacific Legal Knowledge Program conducted the first Pacific Legislative Drafting Workshop in Canberra in July 2006, with 24 legal officers travelling from 12 Pacific Island Countries to participate in the three day program.

People Movement (page 5 of the Submission)

In addition to holding the responsibility for people trafficking legislation, the Department is also responsible for the development Communication Awareness Strategy to increase awareness of the issues amongst members of the community who may come into contact with trafficking victims and to promote compliance with the *United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children* supplementing the *United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime*.

The Australian Government has worked closely with the States and Territories through the Australasian Police Ministers' Council (APMC) to develop a *National Policing Strategy to Combat Trafficking in Women for Sexual Servitude* which was endorsed by APMC in 2004. The Strategy addresses the roles of the States, Territories and the Australian Government in regulating and criminalising people trafficking. A revised Strategy was endorsed by the APMC at its meeting in November 2006 .

In 2006, Bali process activities included workshops such as 'Combating Child Sex Tourism' and 'Human Trafficking: Victim Support'.

National Judicial College of Australia (page 6 of Submission)

During 2006, the National Judicial College of Australia organised orientation courses for new judicial officers and training programs attended by judges and magistrates from Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands.

Federal Court of Australia (page 7 of Submission)

In January 2007, an Information Technology specialist from the Federal Court of Australia visited Tonga to install a new computer network in the Supreme Court and to train court staff on how to utilize it.

The Pacific Judicial Development Program is a new Federal Court initiative that is supported by NZAID and AusAID and is aimed at strengthening governance and the rule of law. The Program is now being established in 15 Pacific Island Countries and will focus on professional development for judicial officers, as well as on issues of

case management. It will include a mixture of workshop based training and network building initiatives.

Anti-Corruption for Development Strategy (page 9 of Submission)

Over the past six months the Attorney-General's Department has participated as a member of a core group of Australian agencies in the preparation of an Anti-Corruption for Development Strategy. The Development Policy has now been finalised, and is due for release in the near future.

Anti-Money Laundering Assistance Team (page 10 of Submission)

Over the past six months the Anti-Money Laundering Assistance Team has progressed several projects with Pacific island countries, including commencing work with Papua New Guinea and Nauru on the establishment of Financial Intelligence Units, mentoring the Cook Islands police on case management for a money laundering investigation, reviewing compliance guidelines for the Cook Islands Financial Intelligence Unit, and delivering a workshop on Anti-Money Laundering for the bar and judiciary in Palau.

AUSTRAC (page 11 of Submission)

AUSTRAC's *Pacific Islands' FIU Database Project* has now been supplemented by the *FIU in a Box Database Application Support Project*, which commenced in late January 2007 and is set to run for a 12 month period.

The project is funded through AusAID's Pacific Governance Support Program, and is aimed at providing Database support for Financial Intelligence Units in the Cook Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu, Palau, Samoa and Solomon Islands. The project also aims to install databases in financial intelligence units in several other countries.

Another recent development is the news that AUSTRAC will cooperate with other Australian Government Agencies to support Australia's hosting of APEC in 2007. AUSTRAC will host two counter-terrorism financing workshops for officials from APEC member economies, including Papua New Guinea. The workshops are funded

under AusAID's Public Sector Linkages Program.

Mercury 05 (page 12 of Submission)

Feedback received in the follow-up to Mercury 05 has been very positive. The next multi-jurisdictional exercise *Mercury 08* is scheduled to be conducted in October 2008. While planning is in the very early stages, it is anticipated that an International Observer Program will be offered.

Counter-Terrorism Discussion Exercises (page 12 of Submission)

Our Submission noted that a follow-up task from the Counter-Terrorism Exercise *Ready Pacifika* was to consult Pacific Forum leaders about how to deal with requests for assistance that might be made in response to a terrorist incident in the Pacific.

This consultation occurred at the 37th Pacific Islands Forum, held in Fiji from 24 – 25 October 2006.

Leaders agreed that an approach to facilitate such requests should be developed for consideration by the 2007 Forum Regional Security Committee and Leaders' Meeting.

Crisis Response (page 13 of Submission)

In November 2006 Emergency Management Australia passed to AusAID the management of the Solomon Islands Disaster Risk Management Institutional Strengthening Project. However, Emergency Management Australia expects to have an ongoing role in the project, which assists the Solomon Island Government to develop and maintain a national disaster management capacity.