



Kia ora Colleagues and a belated 'Happy New Year' to you all!

There is so much happening in the world of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) at the moment. Of course there are the usual births, deaths and marriages - and that alone is enough to keep us busy. There are also lots of initiatives in countries and also globally to improve birth and death registrations. This newsletter contains links to many of those.

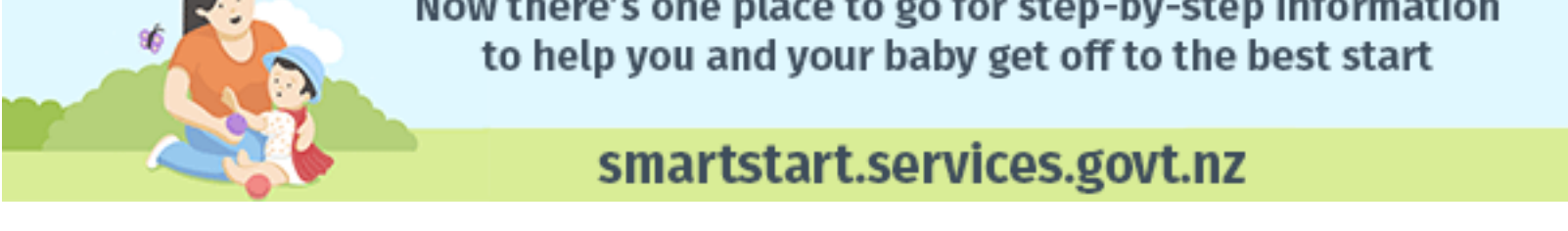


The impact of disasters - cyclones, floods, earthquakes - on CRVS is a significant issue and a focus for PCRN in 2017. I have been developing plans for a workshop for civil registrars on this topic with an application currently with NZ Foreign Affairs for funding support. Fingers crossed! We will also be seeking support from other agencies and business partners - stay tuned!

In my 'day job' at the NZ registry, we have launched SmartStart. This is a online service which allows parents to get all the information and services they need from one place - pregnancy information, access to financial support, baby health advice, passport information - and of course birth registration online! Check it out at www.smartstart.services.govt.nz

In future newsletters, I'd like to include information about changes in your country. Please let me know. I'd like to promote this newsletter far and wide! Please forward your copy to anyone with an interest in advancing CRVS within the Pacific.

Arohanui, Jeff.





REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY

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The Philippines Statistics Authority created a video highlighting the importance of Civil Registration, how and where to do this and who to ask for help. This included birth registration, certificate of marriage and death registration. Click the [link](#) to watch to video on Facebook.



Get every one in the picture

In September UNESCAP held the second meeting of the Regional Steering group for CRVS in Asia and Pacific. This meeting was to evaluate the main achievements of the group, identify priorities and the priorities for regional support. It was attended by PCRN members Claudine Henry-Anguna and Jeff Montgomery. [Click here](#) for more information.



Data Analysis and Report Writing Workshop for Civil Registration Based Vital Statistics

Ponifasio Vasa - Deputy Registrar in Samoa recently attended the Data Analysis and Report Writing workshop organized by Brisbane Accord Group (BAG) and led by the Pacific Community (SPC). 18 participants from Kiribati, Tuvalu, Samoa, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands. Click on [link](#) for more information



Brisbane Accord Group Meeting

The Brisbane Accord Group held their annual meeting in October 2016 in Suva Fiji. The group met to review the progress made with regards to implementing the Pacific Vital Statistics Action Plan over the parts year, identify and address emerging issues/priorities and to plan for the next phase.



The World Bank group attended and had recently signed off on a joint work program with BAG and will focus on supporting the Pacific islands. To read more about this meeting click [here](#).




Cook Islands, Tuvalu, Niue, Nauru, Tokelau and American Samoa gather in Auckland

The majority of the small Pacific Island countries completed their initial assessments and plans for improving CRVS in their country several years ago. As much work has been done, lessons learnt through experience and training opportunities, and the changing global environment around CRVS, the Brisbane Accord Group felt it is time to take stock. Registration, Health and Statistics officials from the Cook Islands, Tuvalu, Niue, Nauru, Tokelau and American Samoa are gathering in Auckland, New Zealand from 21-24 February to visit the New Zealand Births, Deaths and Marriages office and to work together to strengthen their own systems. Side discussions are planned on sharing death and name change records between countries - a priority for PCRN.








Bloomberg Philanthropies

Bloomberg Data for Health Initiative active in Pacific

Working with partners including the CDC Foundation, Johns Hopkins University, the World Health Organization, Union North America and the University of Melbourne – over the next four years, Data for Health aims to help more than one billion people in 20 countries across Africa, Asia, and Latin America live healthier, longer lives. In the Pacific D4H is working in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. Here is a link to a paper about the work in the Solomon's - <http://www.bloombergphil.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/20160304Overview-Solomon-Islands-010616.pdf>

- and here is a link to the general resources that have been produced that can be useful in any country - <http://www.bloombergphil.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/20160304Overview-Solomon-Islands-010616.pdf>



THE WORLD BANK

Principles on Identification

The [Principles on Identification for Sustainable Development: Toward the Digital Age](#) identifies a set of common principles fundamental to maximizing the benefits of identification systems for sustainable development while mitigating many of the risks. This is a key issue for Civil Registrars as ID systems can either strengthen or weaken the advancement of civil registration. These principles have been endorsed by 15 organizations across UN, other development partners and international agencies, and private sector.



PCRN

Pacific Civil Registrars Network

Who is PCRN?: Membership is open to any Civil Registrar with state or country level responsibility for civil registration or vital statistics and their nominees. Associate membership has also been extended to partner agencies. We currently have members from 36 countries, 25 agencies and 12 businesses. We are supported by the Brisbane Accord Group and secretariat support is provided by New Zealand.

