

# The <sup>New</sup> Pacific Civil Registrars Network

## Data Sharing across the Pacific Islands

### About the Network

Registrars throughout the region have been central players in both national and regional activities and processes to improve CRVS. In most cases we play an active role in our national CRVS improvement committees.

While there are regional Pacific networks for our counterparts in statistics and health information, registrars have not previously had a dedicated network to focus on registry issues.

**The Network provides an opportunity to share information, lessons learned, and good practice. It fosters coordination and integration of Civil Registrars' input and ideas into the implementation of the Pacific Vital Statistics Action Plan and the Asia Pacific Regional Action Framework for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics.**

A coordinating group has been established including registrars from the Cook Islands, Fiji, New Zealand, Samoa, and Vanuatu. Membership is open to any Civil Registrar with State or Country level responsibility for civil registration or vital statistics, or their nominee. Invitations for associate membership have also been extended to relevant partner agencies.



# PCRPN

Pacific Civil Registrars Network



One of the greatest challenges in the Pacific region is the need to share data on vital events that happen overseas.....



### Data sharing

- Pacific Islanders frequently travel overseas for treatment when their local hospital does not provide the facilities or treatment necessary for their condition.
- Many Pacific Island Countries and Territories are therefore unable to get accurate counts of births and deaths, and cause of death distributions.
- This has a serious impact on the vital statistics produced by these countries, and adds further challenges to health and development planning. There are also identity fraud risks from birth records remaining open for deceased people.
- The Pacific Registrars Network has identified data sharing between countries as the major focus of our initial work plan.
- Due to limited resources, the network intends to focus initially on this issue and use it as an opportunity to develop the network. Project support is currently being provided by New Zealand, Australia and BAG partners.

While the network will initially be self-resourcing, with a limited scope of work, the coordinating committee is exploring options for ongoing funding and support.

The Pacific Civil Registrars Network will work with members to identify issues that need to be addressed to improve data sharing – including legal frameworks, data compatibility, and identification of events for Pacific Islanders.



For more details on the network – contact Mr Jeff Montgomery, the Registrar General of New Zealand  
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