



Kia ora Colleagues

A lot is happening in the wider work of civil registration at the moment so I thought it was time for a quick update. Hopefully you enjoy our fresh-look newsletter.

Work has started on PCRN meeting in 2017 – see story below for more details.



A number of leading civil registrars across the Pacific have moved on to new endeavours. Each has contributed to strengthening CRVS in both their own jurisdictions and across borders. There are more details below. In future newsletters, I'd like to include information about changes in your country. Please let me know!!



And the winner is ...time for me to brag! Last month my team won the [NZ Public Service Award for Excellence](#) in Digital Government for our Birth Registration Online service. Now 90% of NZ babies are registered online by their parents. No more registration forms to data enter!

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.

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Comings and Goings



Musu Kevu, Registrar for the Solomon Islands has retired. Many of you will remember Musu from our meeting in Noumea earlier this year! He has been replaced by Roderick Kidoe.



Some might remember Susan Poutoa from NZ, pictured here with NSW Registrar Amanda Ianna, star of *Hatch Match and Dispatch*, both of whom were at our meeting in Fiji last year. Susan is currently working for NZ Internal Affairs in Sydney, leading one of our passports teams. She'll be back in NZ later this year.



Erin Keleher is no longer Registrar BDM, Victoria. Erin was instrumental in forming PCRN at the Registrars' conference in Pattaya. The Acting Registrar is Vicki Bahen.

CRVS and SUSTAINABLE the DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Karen Carter, SPC and BAG have produced a really handy flyer ([click here](#)) which links the SDG with civil registration. A useful resource when advocating for more government support for your work!

CRVS and Disasters

PCRN's priority for 2017 is disaster preparation and response, as outlined in our [Strategic Plan link](#).

Jeff is working with the Pacific Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives ([PARBICA](#)) and donor agencies to organise a joint training opportunity in 2017. Meanwhile, World Vision is planning to do training and simulation on information management using CRVS data and geo-spatial data. The first country to do this in the Pacific will be the Solomon Islands.

Bloomberg Data for Health

Bloomberg Philanthropies, in partnership with the Australian government, is launching [Data for Health](#), a \$100 million initiative that will enable 20 low- and middle-income countries to vastly improve public health data collection. The Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea are part of this initiative.



In September there is a meeting of the UNESCAP Asia-Pacific Regional Steering Group for CRVS. The Pacific is represented by Claudine Henry-Anguna from the Cook Islands, pictured here and Minister Usamate from Fiji, also pictured as well as Joe Johnson Iati from Vanuatu and Jeff Montgomery from NZ/PCRN. The Regional Steering Group comprises 30 members: 22 from member states and eight development partners. It provides guidance for the implementation of the Regional Action Framework on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific, and is entrusted to act as custodian of the Asia and Pacific CRVS Decade (2015 - 2024). The purpose of the meeting is to review progress in the implementation of the framework and opportunities for acceleration. We'll report back after the meeting. For more information [click here](#).



News from Kiribati

A proposal has been made that couples planning to marry be required to undertake counselling. It is hoped to determine the couple's readiness to marry and ensure that they understand their roles and avoid divorce and it's implications on families. Contact Temaava K Lilipa for more details. This is a boxed text block. You can use it to draw attention to important content.

**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.



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