



Tanoa Waterfront Hotel, Lautoka, Fiji Islands
1st – 2nd June, 2016

PSSC-12 Agenda 4.3

Meeting Paper Title: Training on Certificate in Official Statistics

1. Purpose of Paper

- To advise progress on Certificate in Official Statistics since PSSC-11

2. Background

2.1. Please refer to Annex I

3. Key Issues

3.1. Please refer to Annex I

4. Key Recommendations

4.1. None

5. Annexes

Annex I: Building Official Statistics User Capability in the Pacific

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Building Official Statistics User Capability in the Pacific

AGENDA ITEM: 4.3

- ii. SNZ to advise progress in certificate in official statistics

Paper presented at 12th Pacific Statistics Steering Committee Meeting
Lautoka, Fiji
Wednesday 2nd June 2016

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The National Certificate in Public Services (Official Statistics) is a tertiary level course comprising 4 taught units and a work placed based project that applies data to decision making. The period December 2015-May 2016 has seen the completion of face to face teaching in Apia, and the delivery of the first half of face to face teaching in Suva.

The Fiji Bureau of Statistics has been a key partner in promoting and hosting the certificate programme. Statistics NZ particularly acknowledges the support and leadership of the Fiji Government Statistician, Mr Epeli Waqavonovono, in promoting the certificate in Fiji. We would also like to thank the tireless efforts of Ms Emali Soderberg and others from the Bureau in providing the administrative and logistic organisation required to ensure the success of the programme.

We thank the relevant managers of the participating agencies for their support and encouragement towards their staff, as well as their assistance in helping identify suitable work place projects for candidates.

Approved project proposals from candidates in Fiji so far include:

1. *Explaining Customs Revenue Gap in 2015 : An analysis of Fiscal duty and Import VAT* (Fiji Revenue & Customs Authority)
2. *Trend Analysis of Child Welfare Cases From 2012 to 2015* (Fiji Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation)
3. *Notifiable Diseases Reporting Systems for Central Division, Fiji from 2010 to 2014* (Fiji Ministry of Health and Medical Services)
4. *Factors affecting gender participation in the formal paid employment* (Fiji Bureau of Statistics)
5. *Agricultural Income in Fiji* (Fiji Bureau of Statistics)
6. *ACBA report for Labasa Hospital* (Fiji Ministry of Health and Medical Services)
7. *The relationship between assault frequency and ethnicity in Fiji* (Fiji Police)
8. *Modernising Economic Survey Processes at Fiji Bureau of Statistics* (Fiji Bureau of Statistics)
9. *Mortality due to deliberate self-poisoning in the past 10 years (2005-2014) in Fiji* (Fiji Ministry of Health and Medical Services)
10. *Fijian Correction Systems Age, Gender and Education level of inmates found with Contraband* (Fiji Corrections Service)
11. *Human Resource Development in the Fiji Corrections Service* (Fiji Corrections Service)
12. *Assisting FNPF members to save for meaningful retirement* (Fiji National Provident Fund)
13. *Renewable Energy Consumption in Fiji* (Fiji Bureau of Statistics)

The teaching programme has been mildly impacted by the recent cyclone, with the balance of face to face teaching of the course postponed from March to May. Four extra days of tuition will be offered to the Fiji cohort to assist them as a result of disruption to study caused by the cyclone.

The Samoa Bureau of Statistics (SBS) has continued to support the certificate in the wind down phase in Apia. At this point 12 candidates from Tokelau or from Samoa have completed the certificate. (Detailed figures below). We also acknowledge the leadership and support of the government Statisticians, Kele Lui and Sefuiva R Muagututia themselves, in promoting and supporting this project.

Samoan and Tokelauan Cohort (2015)

Completed	12	50%
Continuing	7	29% (5 of these candidates have completed all but the research project)
Withdrawn	5	21%
Total	24 ¹	

Internationally Publishable projects from Samoa

Two projects have been identified as being of a particularly high standard and as suitable for publication international publication.

1. *Motor Vehicle Operating Expenses and Maintenance costs of Government Ministries* was a project completed by a member of the Samoa Audit Office which found that there is a large amount in variation of spending on fuel between government ministries, and that Ministries' expenditures on motor vehicle operating costs are ever increasing.
2. *Teenage Pregnancy in Samoa* was completed by a candidate from the Samoa Bureau of Statistics, and found that teenage pregnancy rates have increased in Samoa, and that the majority of teenage pregnancies occurred within marriages to teenagers living in rural areas.

We have permission from the author to use *Teenage Pregnancy in Samoa* as part of the assessment materials for US23269 in Fiji (which was delayed due to Tropical Cyclone Winston). It will be beneficial for candidates in Fiji to see a completed project being used within the course.

We will be approaching the candidates and employing agencies to investigate possible permission to arrange publication of these studies on a suitable international policy website most likely including Australian Policy Online research and data base. <http://apo.org.au/>

One of the pleasing aspects of the delivery of this course in Apia has been identifying staff who have an interest in and expertise to assist in teaching this course elsewhere in the Pacific. Informal discussions have begun with them and their managers.

Looking forward

Teaching for the Cook Islands is planned to commence in July.

¹ Reasons for the withdrawal of the 5 candidates include change of employer, change of personal circumstances.