



The Pacific Police Development Program-Regional is 'For the Pacific, by the Pacific'.

A helping hand

The Pacific Police Development Program-Regional is a perfect case of 'for the Pacific, by the Pacific' cooperation.

It is understandable when people discuss AFP regional missions that the immediate thought turns to the Regional Assistance Mission Solomon Islands (RAMSI) or other big deployments. The size and scale of major deployments to missions like RAMSI or the PNG-APP Police Development Program attract significant attention.

Even so, the quiet achievements of the Pacific Police Development Program (PPDP) and the Pacific Police Development Program-Regional (PPDP-R) are an important element of Australian Government efforts to promote effective governance in the Pacific region.

The difference between the two programs is that the overarching PPDP consists of permanent off-shore missions within the host countries (see Figure 1) to support a broad range of bilateral and multi-country police development activities throughout the Pacific region.

The program works with police in Pacific nations on improving the rule of law as a prerequisite for economic, social and political development of the region.

The program is operating a regional component, as well as country-specific programs in Vanuatu, Samoa, Tonga, Papua New Guinea and Nauru.

PPDP-R

The PPDP-R was established as a 'mission' to complement the PPDP framework in 2008 and conducts its operations on a 'fly-in, fly-out' as-needed basis to meet the specific needs of the seven host countries. Member countries include Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Niue, Palau, Tuvalu and Republic of Marshall Islands.



AFP Pacific Police Advisor Lautoa Faletau, right, brings a deep wealth of knowledge on Pacific law enforcement from her career with Tonga Police.

AFP Pacific Police Advisor Lautoa Faletau says PPDP-R presents challenges. Ms Faletau (a former senior officer of the Tonga Police) says the seven PPDP-R priority countries are among the seven poorest nations in the world and are situated in the world's largest expanse of water. The 165 million square kilometres of the Pacific Ocean is larger than all of the Earth's land areas combined.

"Their security issues are not just related to crime," Ms Faletau says. "They have other pressing national concerns like climate change, rising sea levels, health issues related to their living environment – water supply and sanitation. They are policing some of the smallest populations but that doesn't make their job any easier."

The tyranny of distance is a constant challenge. One of the benefits of having the seven countries in one coordinated program is that joint planning and sharing of resources is possible. Operational planning and training activities can



[Click here to watch an interview with AFP Pacific Police Advisor Lautoa Faletau.](#)



Disaster Victim Identification training funded by the Pacific Police Development Program – Regional in progress.

be conducted in a single location rather than repeating the same initiatives in seven countries.

From the massive expanse of Kiribati – half the size of Australia – to the tiny nations of Tuvalu and Niue, there is no single typical Pacific Island country. Even within this small group of countries, the differences are quite stark. Niue has just 16 police on one tiny island, whereas Kiribati has more than 500 police scattered across more than 30 islands in 3.5 million square kilometres of ocean.

“It’s quite a challenging mission to be part of but also really exciting because you are not just working with one country. You are working with several different ethnic groups and they are all unique cultures. So you have to be flexible and responsive,” Ms Faletau says.

The PPDP-R is closely aligned to the Australian Government’s policy of promoting prosperity, reducing poverty and enhancing stability. To this end it has two primary outcomes. The first is for the police in host nations to earn community legitimacy and be accountable for their actions. The second is for the law and justice agencies to have increased capacity to develop, implement and operate within legal frameworks that are just, effective and support rule of law.

The support to these outcomes is multifaceted (see PPDP-R – a success story). Major projects for the 2015-16 financial year

PPDP-R at a glance

AFP’s Pacific Police Development Program-Regional (PPDP-R) is an integral part of International Operations.

The PPDP-R promotes the security of Pacific Island communities through effective operational policing under the motto ‘For the Pacific, by the Pacific’.

It is strongly aligned with the Australian Government’s development policy of ‘promoting prosperity, reducing poverty, enhancing stability’. The program supports two key outcomes:

- Police earn community legitimacy and are accountable for their actions
- Law and justice agencies have increased capacity to develop, implement and operate within legal frameworks that are just, effective and support rule of law.

PPDP-R key outcomes are achieved through activities that:

- Improve community confidence in the police
- Improve engagement between police and their communities

- Improve bilateral and regional police engagement and cooperation
- Improve police operational effectiveness through enhanced policing skills and confidence development, leadership and management, and enabling service improvements
- Develop and improve the implementation and understanding of legal frameworks that govern law enforcement.
- Support gender equality and gender mainstreaming.

2015/2016 FY Projects are centred on the following themes:

- Corporate services reform
- Gender
- General Policing
- Investigations
- Legislation and Policy reform
- Regional Forums
- Specialist Policing

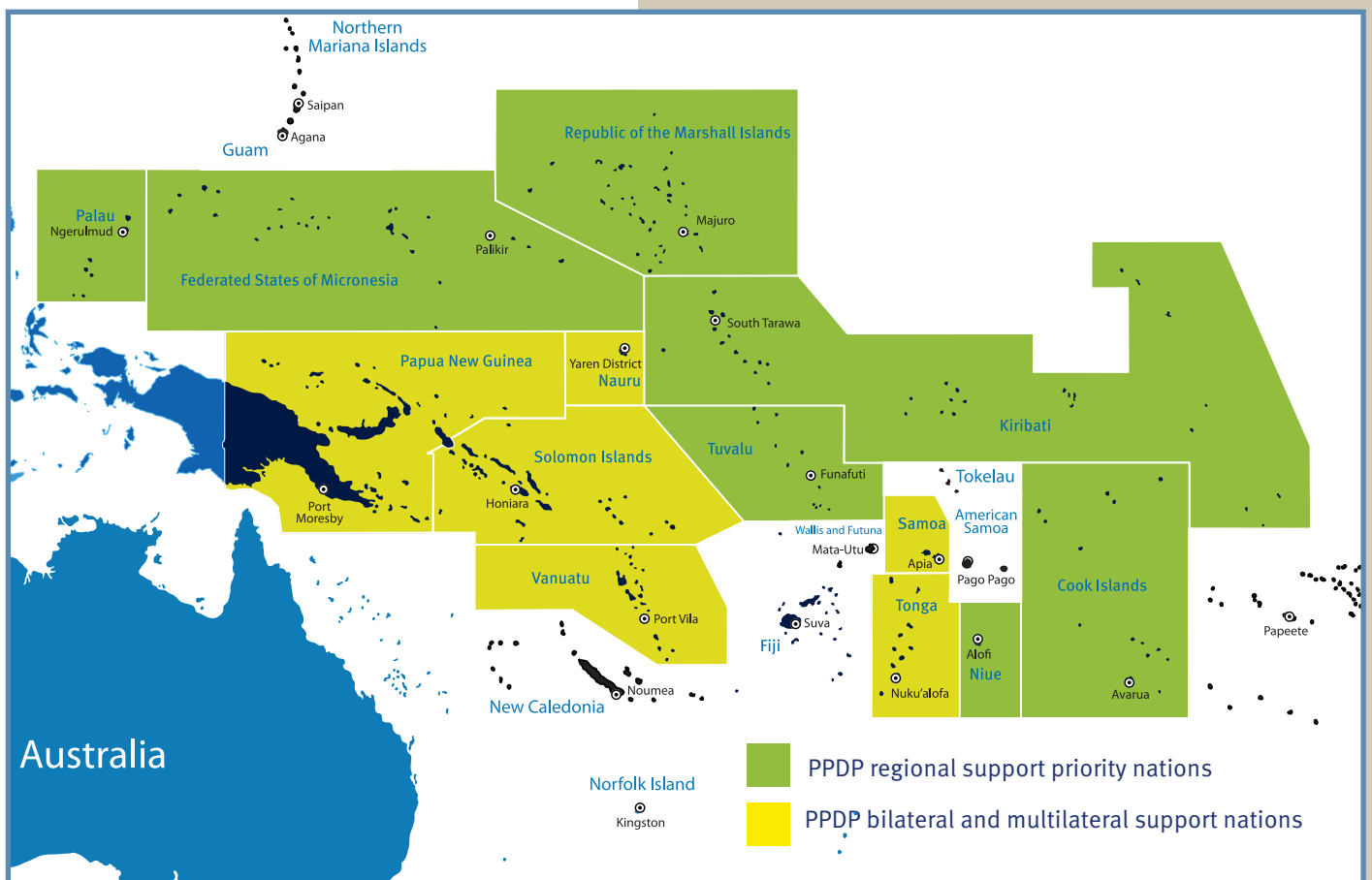
include corporate services reform, gender, general policing, investigations, legislation and specialist policing. But Ms Faletau says that a primary focus is building capacity within the host nations. She highlights the creation of the Pacific Police Training Advisory Group (PPTAG) as a major success.

PPTAG

A priority of the PPDP-R from the outset was to develop close bilateral ties between the seven nations and regional organisations like the Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police (PICP) a non-profit organisation made up of (21 Pacific Island) police service members from across the Pacific. Regional working groups and networks to promote collaborative and peer learning were quickly established in the first year, with a particular focus on capacity development. One of the first outcomes was PPTAG.

The PPTAG working group comprises training managers from PICP member countries. Key training needs were identified through a regional needs analysis to identify and 'fill in the gaps' where they existed. Rather than AFP assistance being directed to individual countries, PPTAG is an opportunity to address training needs holistically within the region.

Figure 1. The AFP and Pacific island partnerships are an important element of promoting rule of law as a prerequisite for economic, social and political development.





Importantly, the training managers report to their respective Commissioners and PPTAG report directly to the PICP Conference as a mandated PICP working group. It was not an advisory group established for PPDP-R as such but is an advisory body for the 21 chiefs of police within the Pacific region and will live on beyond any broader developments of the PPDP-R. That was the intent.

Ms Faletau says PPTAG sub-working groups focus is on priority training areas established to research and develop concept papers for PICP on a range of police training issues. To date, PPTAG has completed a training needs analysis and for the first time a definitive snapshot of the regional needs of the Pacific is available.

“The success for us is stepping back and supporting the Pacific in providing advice to their commissioners as a collective, advice to their individual commissioners and providing really good advice to us as a program as a bi-product.”

Achievements and future

In the past year PPDP-R has provided regional and national level police development support drawing on the annual Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police meeting outcomes and regional security and law enforcement meetings to inform program planning. PPDP-R has provided funding and technical advisory support to PICP established working groups including the Pacific Forensics Working Group, Cyber Safety Pasifika, PPTAG, the PICP Womens Advisory Network and the Pacific Prevention of Domestic Violence Program (PPDVP) managed by the New Zealand Police and startup funding for the Pacific Police Information Technology Program working group.

Another unique feature of the PPDP-R mission is its partnership with the Australian Attorney-General's Department (AGD).

Below: The Pacific Police Training Advisory Group is a “major success” of the Pacific Police Development Program-Regional.

