

Perfect solution flies in

Investigations training adds to Pacific Island capacity through the ‘fly-in, fly-out’ program.

Pacific Police Development Program Regional’s (PPDP-R) mission is to promote the safety and security of Pacific Island communities through effective operational policing.

One way it does this is by addressing gaps in police knowledge and skills related to investigations and crime scene management capability.

As part of this process, the Basic Investigation Program (BIP) in its current format was developed by PPDP-R’s Federal Agent Ron McFadyen in 2012.

Since then, PPDP-R has capacity developed 171 participants and 19 Pacific Island trainers, providing them with skills in presenting and assessing on investigation courses.

The BIP concentrates on the fundamentals of criminal investigations, including initiating investigations and presenting evidence as part of court proceedings.

Federal Agent McFadyen said the program covers all facets of the investigation process.

“We identified back in 2012 that investigation was a big issue that needed assistance right throughout the Pacific,” he said.

The two-week course comprises face-to-face training and allows time for participants to apply new skills. They undertake workplace assessments and are supported by their local supervisors.

The program has received very positive feedback, mainly because the PPDP-R team has focused on the fundamental aspects of investigating crime – those aspects that are



More than 170 Pacific law enforcement officers have received basic investigations training through the Pacific Police Development Program.

similar whether the crime is simple or complex; a theft or a murder.

Delivery of the BIP is a combination of syndicate work (including the development of country-specific police forms) and simulated exercises. This gives the program a true-to-life, practical application of the best practice process for investigating crime.

The key to the BIP’s success is that the course is designed with a phased approach. Over several phases, AFP trainers systematically reduce support until ultimately the Pacific police services are able to conduct their own investigation training.

The phased approach identifies training officers from the Pacific nations who work with PPDP-R advisors to integrate and contextualise the learning and outcomes from the BIP into training course documentation.

These training officers are then supported during a number of BIP courses until they are confident to conduct the training by themselves.

To ensure regional support, Federal Agent McFadyen presented the BIP to the Pacific Police Training Advisory Group, which endorsed the program to the Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police.

This approach has seen the BIP introduced into the police services of Kiribati, Tuvalu, Nauru, Tonga, Samoa, Vanuatu, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. Each country is at different phases of the BIP process.



Tonga Police Detective Senior Constable Ana Aho meets with AFP staff in Canberra for ideas on promoting the message that domestic violence is not on.

On many PPDP-R projects, AGD provides technical, legal and in-country advisory support. PPDP-R has worked collaboratively with AGD in the development and delivery of investigation training programs, implementation of legislation, policy development as well as analysis of forensic legislation and procedures in the Pacific region.

PPDP-R's advisors are backed by a highly professional Program Management Office and dedicated project officers who support the off-shore activities and provide critical linkages to service providers and partner agencies.

The incoming Coordinator PPDP-R Detective Superintendent Todd Hunter in gaining an appreciation of the scope of PPDP-R activities.

"It is clear PPDP-R is making real change in the Pacific using 'for the Pacific, by the Pacific' methodology.

"When we look at some of the key successes, for example Kiribati Police Service being the first Pacific police service

to have completed all phases of the Basic Investigation Program and now having a self-sustainable capability to train their members, or the Cook Islands Police being well equipped and trained to deal with disaster management utilising their headquarters and mobile command facilities, PPDP-R is truly reaching its set objectives."

Detective Superintendent Hunter indicates that the future of the program's activities is bright and is focused on sustainable, effective development, which contributes to stability across the region – which is also a key focus of the AFP and a personal aim of AFP Commissioner Andrew Colvin.

Consolidation is the key to PPDP-R's activities says Detective Superintendent Todd Hunter. "As we continue to deliver effective advisory services and delivery against the Chiefs of Police needs, there is a need to consolidate activities to solidify and sustain longevity in the capabilities being delivered.