



## Fact Sheet

### Greg Urwin Awards

#### Background

Greg Urwin was the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) from 2003 until his passing in August 2008. Prior to his appointment at PIFS, Greg had an esteemed career with the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, where he held numerous senior diplomatic postings in the Pacific region. His family life was centred around Samoa, where he now rests.

Greg Urwin's capable and strategic leadership of PIFS led to many major achievements, including the establishment of the Pacific Plan as the platform for strengthened regional cooperation for the benefit of Pacific peoples. Greg was deeply committed to the Pacific and he spent much of his career devoted to the region.

In August 2008 at the Leaders' Forum in Niue, the Chair of the Pacific Leaders' Forum, President Toke Talagi of Niue, and the Australian Prime Minister, Mr Kevin Rudd, jointly announced the establishment of the Greg Urwin Awards to honour Greg's memory. The Awards are funded by Australia, and co-administered by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and the Pacific Leadership Program, an AusAID program located in Suva. The Greg Urwin selection committee is comprised of the Secretary General PIFS; the Australian High Commissioner, Fiji; Ms Suliana Siwatibau, PLP Advisory Panel Member; and AusAID Minister Counsellor for the Pacific.

#### What are the Greg Urwin Awards (GUA)?

In recognition of Greg Urwin's leadership role, the GUAs are available to Pacific Islanders with the potential to become eminent leaders in their chosen field of excellence. The placement provides valuable experience and exposure to a region-wide canvass, and the opportunity to develop beneficial links and contacts.

The GUAs provide financial and administrative support for scholars and professionals to undertake a three to six month placement with a Pacific regional organisation of relevance to the recipient's professional development and leadership potential. The candidate must show exemplary academic achievement and leadership experience in their field. Applicants must also demonstrate how their chosen placement will provide them with valuable professional experience and exposure to new ideas and networks that will assist them to develop their leadership capacity in the Pacific.

The placement may be one, or a combination of the following:

- A work attachment with an organisation in the Pacific region (including Australia or New Zealand); or
- Post-doctoral research and professional experience.

At the request of Mr Urwin's family, special consideration will be given to applicants in the health sector who wish to pursue a project related to cancer awareness, treatment and/or research with applications for the Pacific.

### **Who is eligible to apply?**

Applications are sought from individuals who meet the following criteria:

- ✓ Are Pacific Island nationals;
- ✓ Have completed, or are about to complete<sup>1</sup>, a postgraduate qualification (Masters level or higher) from a recognised University; and
- ✓ Can demonstrate or show potential for leadership in contributing to developmental change in the Pacific.

Applications are sought from scholars and professionals in a diverse range of fields including the private sector, public sector, civil society, academia and health sector.

### **What support is provided?**

- ✓ Financial support of up to \$25,000AUD to be expended during the professional placement<sup>2</sup>;
- ✓ Assistance from PLP in the facilitation & coordination of your placement proposal, including administrative and financial support;
- ✓ Access to technical advice, mentoring and other services through the PLP Leadership Resource Hub; and
- ✓ Support in securing the appropriate visa required to undertake the placement noting that securing the appropriate visa remains the responsibility of the individual.

### **What are the responsibilities of award recipients?**

- ✓ Undertake a professional placement of three to six months with a relevant organisation in the Pacific region within 12 months of receiving their Award;
- ✓ Complete a placement that will demonstrate professional development towards developing leadership capacity;

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<sup>1</sup>Students can apply for a GUA in the final year of their postgraduate degree, however the degree must be fully conferred prior to starting their professional placement.

<sup>2</sup> Financial support can be used to pay for things such as accommodation, travel, equipment, salary, costs incurred by the host organisation etc. Financial support will not be provided up front or in a lump sum and must be acquitted appropriately.

- ✓ Obtain the correct class of visa required for the placement and comply with all relevant visa restrictions while completing their placement;
- ✓ Acquit all financial support provided during the course of the placement; and
- ✓ Deliver a presentation on the outcomes of the placement to the Greg Urwin Award selection committee within 12 months of receiving their Award.

#### **What are the responsibilities of host organisations?**

- ✓ The Pacific Leadership Program (PLP) will enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the host organization. This MOU will contain all relevant details to ensure the success of the placement noting that any costs incurred by the host organisation will be covered by the PLP; &
- ✓ Provide the necessarily facilities, support and supervision for the GUA recipient during their placement.

#### **What have past GUA recipients achieved?**

**Taniela Faletau** of Tonga was a Greg Urwin Award recipient in 2010. With the support that the Award provided, Taniela undertook a professional placement with the Secretariat for the Pacific Environment Program (SPREP). In his placement Taniela worked on SPREP's Pacific Futures Program and other activities under their Climate Change and Sustainable Development portfolios. He also had the opportunity to attend a major regional conference on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction. Following his placement, Taniela was successful in gaining full time employment with his host organisation, SPREP. In reflecting on his GUA experience Taniela said, "The opportunity not only opened new doors to my development as an individual but will have potential returns for my country and the region".

**Akka Rimon** from Kiribati was a Greg Urwin Award recipient in 2010. Motivated by the threat that climate change poses to her country's survival and existence, Akka used her Greg Urwin Award to undertake a professional placement with World Vision Australia. She chose World Vision because of its prominent role in the promotion of human rights and children rights and its power to influence and shape public opinion and the decisions of Government and other stakeholders. During her placement Akka had the opportunity to work with senior policy managers to deliberate issues such as health, climate, gender, child welfare, war and famine and other human rights issues. Akka said that working with World Vision gave her a greater understanding of how to influence high-level policy dialogue on climate change. This is essential in ensuring that the voices of small island states such as Kiribati, who are at the front line of climate change, are heard in global forums. Since completing her placement, Akka has returned to Kiribati where she works as the acting Deputy Secretary of the Ministry of Labour & Human Resource Development.