



FUTURE DEVELOPMENTAL LEADERSHIP

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Pacific Leadership Program (PLP) is a regional initiative of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade that recognises the pivotal role of leadership in development. PLP builds, applies and shares knowledge on developmental leadership (i.e. individuals, organisations and other stakeholders working together on inclusive policy and institutional change for the public good).

PLP's work is structured around the following Results Streams:

- Building a body of knowledge on developmental leadership in the Pacific;
- Supporting collective action by Pacific Islands leaders;
- Enabling and achieving policy and institutional change;
- Delivering high quality and influential communication to inform policy and practice.

PLP commenced in 2008. Phase 3 of the program began in July 2014 and is expected to run for three to five years. Guided by an Advisory Panel of influential Pacific Islanders, PLP works at the regional level, including with regional organisations, and nationally and sub-nationally in four countries – Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.

HOW WE WORK

PLP works with influential individuals, organisations and stakeholders as they work to pursue an identified policy reform or behaviour change. We recognise that exercising developmental leadership can be complex and unpredictable, and provide flexible support that is tailored to the specific needs of each partner. This includes: funding, mentoring, capacity development, research, M&E, training (including on adaptive leadership), networking and information sharing.

PLP also facilitates and supports collective action by bringing stakeholders together to share information and resources, and linking groups of people working together (i.e. coalitions) to other reform initiatives occurring nationally, regionally and internationally.

OUR WORK

PLP's regional activities are aligned with the shared priorities of Australia and Pacific Island Countries, with a particular focus on private sector development, women's leadership and ensuring effective regional institutions. PLP works through robust relationships with Pacific Regional Organisations, private sector and non-government stakeholders. We support our partners to develop and implement their own leadership initiatives, and facilitate participation in broader, cross-sectoral coalitions for policy and development change in the following areas.

- Private Sector Leadership
- Political – Bureaucratic Leadership interface (including effective regional institutions)
- Women's Leadership
- Future Developmental Leadership

Youth Development Leadership

PLP's support for future developmental leadership often intersects with the issue of youth unemployment - a critical development challenge for young people in the Pacific. PLP has contributed to regional and national initiatives that enhance young people's ability to advocate for policy and institutional change, encourage young entrepreneurs and provide training opportunities for young people.

COUNTRY AND REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS AND INITIATIVES

Regional

PLP commissioned a **Pacific Regional Youth Employment Scan** in 2015 to consider the best options for policy engagement on this important issue. The scan found few examples of effective policy action leading to improved labour market outcomes for young people. It noted that ministries of youth are under-resourced and there is a lack of coordination between relevant government ministries and the government and private sector. The scan also identified opportunities to address these challenges in each country, for example through collective action and new pathways to enhance skills and education.

The scan has continued to inform the work of PLP, its partners and the wider development community seeking to address this critical development challenge. The full Youth Employment Scan report can be downloaded from the PLP website at: www.plp.org.fj/resource/report

A long-term partnership between PLP and the **Pacific Youth Council** has enabled it to become a key player in progressing youth issues at the regional level. The Council hosted a Regional Young Entrepreneurs Forum involving five countries in 2016. Outcomes included the sharing of new tools for young entrepreneurs to expand their businesses, progress towards the formation of a Pacific Youth Entrepreneurs Network, and decisions on key policy items to feed into regional and national policy decision-making spaces. The Forum also helped country coalitions to establish closer engagement between the private sector and youth-based organisations. One example is the recent formation of a Youth Entrepreneurs Council in Vanuatu, to be hosted in the Vanuatu Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

PLP also administers the **Greg Urwin Awards** in partnership with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS). The Awards were established in memory of the late Secretary General of PIFS, a committed supporter of regional development.



Up to five emerging leaders are selected each year to undertake short placements in regional or national organisations in the Pacific. Recent cohorts have covered a range of fields including regional fisheries, legislative drafting, medical research, cancer research, children's rights, and women's and community health. A total of 24 placements have been completed to date.

Samoa

PLP and the Samoa Government's Division for Youth re-established the **Samoa National Youth Council** in 2009. The Council is now a strong recognised voice for youth issues in Samoa. In 2016/17, the organisation has been finalising a Tracer Youth Employment Survey, which has identified a range of priority needs for young people in Samoa. These include: more support for the informal sector (particularly around cultural and creative enterprises); youth-centred services and infrastructure; sexual and reproductive health education; and support services for young mothers. The Council will now advocate for policy and institutional change in these areas as well as addressing the need for youth services through the development of an e-youth platform. The platform will link youth to information on vacancies, employer skills demand, and job application and interview skills. It will also provide an avenue for the Council to match youth with training and other opportunities to build job readiness.

Solomon Islands

The **Youth@Work** program in the Solomon Islands was developed by the Pacific Community (SPC) and PLP in 2012 in response to the country's youth unemployment crisis and a perceived leadership gap on this issue. To date over 2,000 youth have been provided with job- and life-skills training, as well as practical experience and support towards workforce participation. PLP continues to provide financial and technical support to this innovative program, particularly in the areas of design and monitoring, evaluation and learning.

Tonga

PLP is also a long-term partner of the **Tonga National Youth Congress**, which provides advocacy and practical responses to development challenges affecting young people in Tonga.

The Congress has recently implemented an organic farming initiative to address youth unemployment, with technical and financial support from PLP, Oxfam and other stakeholders. This initiative has employed over 200 young people, including 68 women and 10 people with disabilities, who have developed much-needed skills in horticulture and marketing vegetables and handicrafts. To safeguard this livelihood opportunity for Tonga's youth, the Congress has also drafted a position paper on organic agriculture for submission to Cabinet. The Congress is also active on wider social problems affecting young people, working with other stakeholders on issues such as anti-corruption and teenage alcohol abuse.

For further information on PLP visit www.plp.org.fj or email: info@plp.org.fj