



FROM THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S DESK

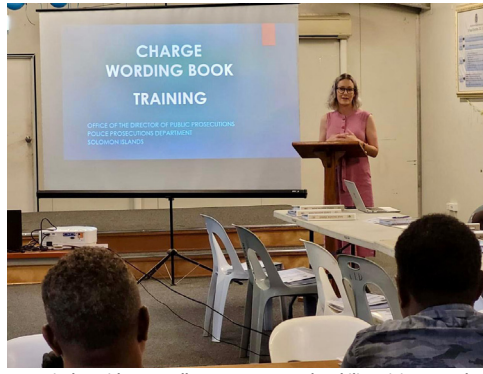
ROD HILTON

Solomon Islands - Australia Partnership

Australia and Solomon Islands - improving law and justice for everyone



Charge Wording Book training with the Police participants



Nicole Smith, Counsellor Governance and Stability, giving remarks to the Charge Wording training participants



Sara Lailey, First Secretary Governance and Stability handing over ICT equipment to Andrew Kelesi, Office Director Public Prosecution

Australia and Solomons Islands have a lot in common. We share a commitment to democracy and the rule of law, which means that the law applies equally to everyone. That's why Australia has been Solomon Islands' number one law and justice partner for 30 years.

Solomon Islands knows that a strong law and justice system means people will be safe, secure and prosperous. So we are working together through our partnership. We help people across the country to settle disagreements within their communities. We train first responders, the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF), to investigate and charge offenders. If people need to settle disagreements in court, we support legal services for them to access. We assist the courts to hear cases as quickly as they can. And if people go to gaol, we support the correctional services who deal with offenders.



George Hoa'au, PS Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs, Chairman of SI Law Reform Commission and Nicole Smith Counsellor Governance, at the handover

A strong law and justice system helps people feel safe and secure, and businesses grow – it's very important for development. Today I want to celebrate some big law and justice projects Australia and Solomon Islands have been working on. They show how we are using technology to transform law and justice service delivery across the country.

MODERNISING PROCESSES ACROSS THE WHOLE LAW AND JUSTICE SYSTEM – 10 YEARS OF JIMS

It's the ten-year anniversary of the Justice Information Management System (JIMS), supported by Australia. This is a very important system for many law and justice agencies in Solomon Islands and it's the first of its kind in the Pacific!



Andrew Kelesi, Director, Office Director Public Prosecution with ICT resources provided by DFAT

Thousands of employees and nine government agencies use JIMS to do many different things, from writing new laws, to managing court processes, to tracking people through the corrections system. JIMS has allowed the RSIPF to process over 54,000 police clearances so that Solomon Islanders can work and study overseas. And it has helped lawyers to case manage over 16,000 legal matters. Soon, instead of using paper files, High Court officials and private sector lawyers in Solomon Islands will be able to manage legal matters entirely online, through JIMS. This will help courts deal with matters more quickly and efficiently and

protect important records from damage like fire and floods.



Women in Law and Justice Network Event

I am also very happy that through ASIPJ and JIMS, Australia has helped Solomon Islands to digitise 30,000 land records, including some from the late 1800s! This will make sure that land titles, deeds and other records can be accessed for many years to come. It will allow people to search for records electronically, which can make it easier for government officials, banks and members of the public to access records.

MAKING SOLOMON ISLANDS LAW FREELY AVAILABLE TO EVERYONE

To access justice, everyone should be able to freely find and access the laws of the country.



Lindsay Buckingham, Australian High Commission Minister Counsellor speaking at the Women in Law Sector Event

That's why I'm excited that Solomon Islands will soon have free and easy online access to updated versions of all laws, going all the back to 1996. It's taken seven years of work, but Australia has supported Solomon Islands to update and digitise 224 Solomon Islands laws.

Up to date and historical versions of these laws will soon be available on the Attorney-General Chambers' website and the Solomon Islands Government Portal. They will also be easily updated if the Parliament changes them. This means lawyers, businesses and the public will be able to access the right laws at any time. It's another important milestone for Solomon Islands' development and access to justice for people across the country.



Nicole Smith DFAT Counsellor, Juanita Matanga Deputy Police Commissioner and Andrew Kelesi Director ODP

Australia supports a lot of physical infrastructure in Solomon Islands, like schools, hospitals and roads, so I'm happy to talk about some of the exciting new 'digital infrastructure' that Australia is supporting through our law and justice partnership. Using technology to improve services for everyone will help Solomon Islands to prosper today and in the future.

Lukim iu neks taem!