



Tēnā koutou, Gude Hi Hai, Fakatalofa atu, Fakaalofa atu, Ekamorwir Ormo, Kaselehlie, Alii, Talofa koutou, Halo, Talofa lava, Malo e lelei, Kia orana, Ni sab ula Vinaka, Halo Olketa, Iqkwe, Mauri, and warm Pasefika greetings to you.

Welcome to our 2<sup>nd</sup> PJSP newsletter for 2024.

As we enter into Matariki (the Māori New Year in Te Ao Māori – the Māori world view) it is a time of remembrance, joy and peace. A time for communities to come together and celebrate and a reminder of our connection to the environment and our responsibilities to look after it (e.g plant a tree to give back to the environment, recycle, saving power). I hope you find time to pause, celebrate, reflect and plan for the next year.

Our July edition outlines recent Pacific Justice Sector Programme activities including a spotlight on Niue. For our Pacific Partner Countries, there is also an update on the processes for applying to our Vaka and Lift funds.

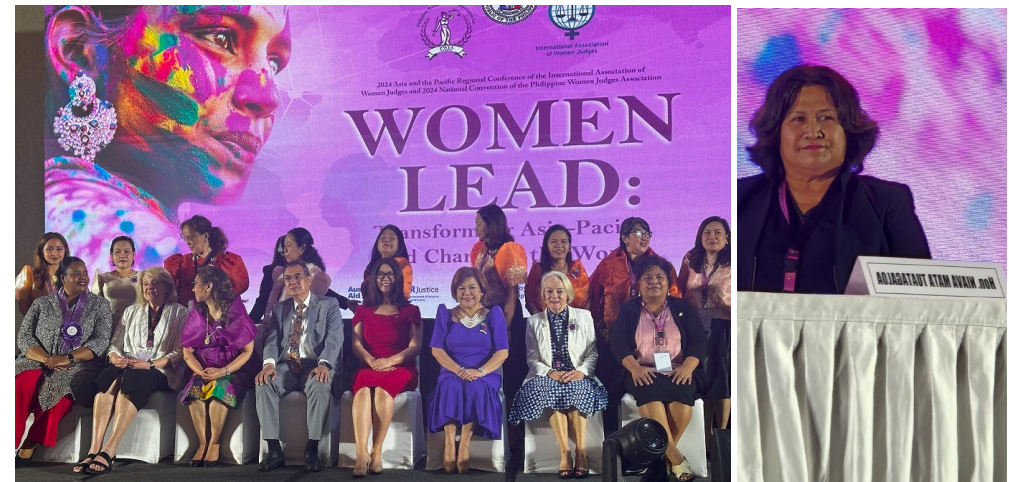
We welcome your suggestions, comments or contributions to our newsletter. If you have feedback, please confirm the PJSP team at [contact@pjsp.govt.nz](mailto:contact@pjsp.govt.nz)

Ngā mihi, kind regards,  
Toli Sagaga  
Director, PJSP

## International Association of Women Judges—Asia-Pacific Region Conference

Cebu City, Philippines

*Women Lead: Transforming Asia Pacific and changing the World* was the theme of the International Association of Women Judges conference in Cebu in May.



Through our Vaka fund, PJSP supported seven representatives from our partner countries Nauru, Tuvalu, Kiribati, Samoa, and Republic of Marshall Islands to attend the conference. Senior Advisor Education and Development Toilolo Leilani Taula and PJSP Principal Advisor Tina Pope represented New Zealand.

Reflecting on the three-day event, Toilolo said: "It was exciting to be a part of, with many interesting conversations about women in justice - whether that be as Judges, defendants, prisoners, or as victims/survivors. It was great seeing women support each other and interesting to hear how important women's issues are dealt with in different jurisdictions."

Justice Mata Tuatagaloa of Samoa (pictured above, right) presented on gender equity in judiciaries in the Pacific, including the research of PJSP's Human Rights Advisor Dr Carolyn Graydon.

## Spotlight on Niue

2024 is a significant year for the bilateral relationship between Niue and New Zealand, marking 50 years of Niue’s self-governance in free association with us. Around 19,000 people live on the coral island Niue, sometimes called “the Rock of Polynesia”. Niue’s court system is three tiered – High Court, Court of Appeal, and Privy Council. The current Chief Justice is Judge Craig Coxhead, who will soon take up the role of Deputy Chief Judge at the Māori Land Court. Niue’s judicial system includes Civil and Criminal Commissioners, Land Commissioners, and Justices of the Peace.

PJSP Advisor Education and Development Delwyn Te Moni, and trainer, former judge Tagaloa Enoka Puni, received a warm welcome when they arrived in Niue in May to facilitate training for Niue Land Commissioners in May (see group photo at right).

The purpose of the visit was to deliver bespoke training for Land Commissioners, support the delivery of access to justice initiatives, and help devise a training plan for Niue’s justice sector. The week began with group interviews with Commissioners, Justices of the Peace, court staff, advocates, and lawyers to help inform the development of a three-year training plan for Niue justice sector, before moving into three days of targeted training for Land Commissioners.



While the training was designed for Land Commissioners, Civil and Criminal Commissioners and Justices of the Peace sat in on the sessions.



PJSP Director Toli Sagaga joined Delwyn and Enoka in Niue for talanoa with Charlene Tukiuha from Ministry of Social Services (pictured with Toli above), the Niue Council of Women, Chief of Police, and several social sector partners.



## Training and Engagement Highlights: Auckland, Solomon Islands and Samoa

PJSP welcomed Justice Vui Clarence Nelson of Samoa (pictured below, third from left) to Te Kura Kaiwhakawā 'Responding to Diversities and Vulnerabilities' workshop in **Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland** in May. The two-day workshop focused on good decision making and best practice communication in the courtroom, including the ability to communicate with a diverse range of people, exploring unconscious bias and stereotyping, and understanding mātauranga Māori.



Dr Carolyn Graydon (pictured front middle) joined PJSP Senior Advisor Holly Ewens, Services Coordinator Tere Silas, and Judge John Adams in **Solomon Islands** for an intensive three weeks of training and hui in June.



The tour began with sessions in Honiara for Magistrates Court clerks from Malaita, Makira, Central, Guadalcanal and Western Provinces. Activities included a lively mock court (pictured left), Decision Making training for courts in Aruligo and Auki, a High Court Judgment Writing workshop, developing systems for remote applications and a 'tok stori' with civil society organisations and community groups.

The NZ Law Society Continuing Legal Education programme hosted a three-day *Introduction to Civil Litigation Skills* workshop with PJSP in **Samoa** in April. The training was designed to help around 30 young litigation lawyers from across the Pacific develop their skills and confidence in civil litigation.

The distinguished Faculty assisting and assessing the participants included Hon Raynor Asher KC, Hon Justice Sir William Young KC, Hon Michael Whitten KC (former Chief Justice of Tonga), Chief Justice of Samoa, Hon Satiu Perese and Chief Justice of NZ and Tokelau Rt Hon Dame Helen Winkelmann. In her speech to the group on the last evening of the event, Chief Justice Winkelmann spoke to the lawyers about the importance of courage and fostering a sense of individual responsibility to improve access to justice for both their clients and their communities.

*Pictured right, Faculty and participants with Chief Justice Winkelmann.*



## Changes to Vaka and Lift Fund Lead-in Times



PJSP offers the [Lift Fund](#) and the [Vaka Fund](#), which support justice sector activities and travel to training and events for groups and individuals from our 15 partner countries. Please note that applications must now be received **at least 8 weeks before** the planned activity. Applications must be endorsed by a Chief

Justice, Head of Bench, Court Manager, Law Society President, or other key stakeholder, and meet the remaining PJSP criteria for approval.

### Connect with us

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Keep an eye out for our new website live late July!