

**PACIFIC PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
PROGRAMME**

Update of Baseline In-Country Review

Summary Report

Prepared for New Zealand Police

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PREFACE

This report provides a summary of selected high level findings of the original Pacific Prevention of Domestic Violence Programme (PPDVP) Baseline Review Update. The structure of the PPDVP Baseline Review Reports (see Fairbairn-Dunlop and Lievore 2007a, 2007b and Lievore and Fairbairn-Dunlop 2007a, 2007b) were used, at the client's request, as a template for the Baseline Review Update.

To a large extent, the initial section of this report duplicates the introductory chapter of the baseline review. Some minor changes have been made to reflect the current study but it should be noted that the four country studies and the methodology sections generally replicate sections contained in the previous Baseline Reports. Where applicable, the original content has been amended to ensure the current report is as up-to-date as possible. We would therefore like to acknowledge the authors of those reports – Professor Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop and Dr Denise Lievore – as providing this material.

We would also like to acknowledge the role Professor Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop played in the Baseline Review Update. Peggy was involved in the tendering process and in reviewing the methodology. She also acted as a consultant to the project and peer reviewed the final reports.

THE FOUR COUNTRY STUDY

Regional Context

This four nation PPDVP review must be set within the wider happenings in the Pacific region in the past four years. Some of these influence the four nations directly, while others are influenced by the impacts of these.

The global recession is affecting all Pacific Island countries and territories through slower economic growth, increased economic uncertainty and worsening household vulnerability. The Asia Development Bank estimates that an additional 50,000 people were living below the poverty line in the Pacific in 2010 because of the global economic crisis. Continuing high rates of population growth in addition to escalating rates of urbanisation have seen the growth of overcrowded urban settlements in all Pacific Island countries and territories, with all the hallmarks of incipient poverty and social issues this entails. At the same time, rural areas are becoming the areas of women and children. The United Nations Children's Fund says children, youth and women are bearing the 'lion's' share of the burden of the global economic crisis, while surveys conducted by UNICEF in Tonga and Tuvalu in December 2009 reveal that a staggering 80 percent of families living in vulnerable communities do not have enough money for food.

The effects of climate change and natural disasters also impact on Pacific communities and are triggers for violence against women. The region's high vulnerability to earthquakes and accompanying tsunami is seen in the Western Solomon's (2007), the Viti Levu floods (January 2009) and the earthquakes and accompanying tsunami in American Samoa, Samoa and Tonga (2009). The extreme weather and climate variability and accelerated sea level rising associated with climate change are also impacting negatively on family livelihoods, economic wellbeing and health. In addition, Pacific Island countries and territories have witnessed increased political crises, social unrest and violent conflict in recent years. The political situation in Fiji is complex, while in Tonga, which is governed under a monarchy, advocacy is ongoing for a move towards democracy.

Views are that traditional family systems are weakening as people increasingly identify with modern regional and global ideas accessed through IT, education, migration and travel. Not only that, high levels of out migration have left many professional posts unfilled, with severe consequences for the delivery of violence against women, educational and health services, especially to rural areas.

NGOs and women's mechanisms continued to advocate passionately against gender-based violence during this period. Legal literacy and human rights programmes continue in rural as well as urban areas and are supported by training and research programmes and the Pacific Women's Network against Violence (FWCC). National groups such as Vanuatu's 'Won Smol Bag' continue to pioneer community education discussions on domestic violence within a human rights framework, through radio, live theatre and DVDs.

The Cairns Communiqué (2009) signaled the growing recognition of national responsibility for violence against women (see Appendix A) So do did the action plan resulting from the Beijing + 15 Review (see Appendix B). Each of which is relevant to this study.

During this period, the PPDVP project (see Appendix C) has steadily established a place within the wider (mainstream) violence against women basket of activities as seen in its major contribution to the Beijing+15 Pacific Report (SPC, 2010).

PPDVP Baseline Review and Update

This research was part of the wider Pacific Prevention of Domestic Violence Programme (PPDVP). The PPDVP is an initiative of the New Zealand Aid Programme (NZAID) under the International Development Group of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade New Zealand Police (NZPOL) and the Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police (PICP). The programme builds on earlier NZAID and NZPOL support for domestic violence prevention in the Pacific. Feedback from earlier programmes indicates that, while the assistance was well received, there was a need for more consistent and ongoing support. The initial programme duration is five years, which is due to expire on 30 June 2011.

The long-term goal of the PPDVP is '*a safer Pacific free from domestic violence*'. Its primary focus is building the capacity of Pacific Police services to prevent and respond effectively to domestic violence. The programme involves both regional and national level components.

- at the regional level, all Pacific countries are invited to participate in a range of training, networking and information-sharing activities.
- at the national level, the programme is working more intensively with four Pacific countries – Samoa, Tonga, the Cook Islands and Kiribati – providing on-the-ground sustained support for the development of Police domestic violence policy, strategy, action plans, systems and training programmes. An NZPOL mentor has been assigned to each of the four countries to support these efforts. Vanuatu joined the programme as a participating country from 1 July 2008.

PPDVP Baseline Reviews of the Cook Islands, Samoa, Tonga and Kiribati were completed in 2007, and the Baseline Review of Vanuatu was completed in 2009. The aim of these reviews was to gather baseline data and to engage agencies and communities in reflection on domestic violence.

Findings from the baseline reviews have provided a key awareness-raising tool for politicians, community leaders and communities, as well as a benchmark to measure the performance and effectiveness of the PPDVP. The aim of the current project is to provide an update on each of the four countries involved which the PPDVP Management Team will use to help them develop an appreciation of the impact of the PPDVP activities. A Programme Evaluation will be completed in early 2011, which will in turn inform any decisions on future activity or completion of the Programme.

Four Baseline Review Updates were carried out, Samoa, Kiribati, Tonga and the Cook Islands. As with the PPDVP baseline research, this study adopted the definition of domestic violence used by the PPDVP: that is, '*violence against women by a partner or spouse*'.

The broad aims of the research were to ascertain/assess the current state of:

- data available in each country
- the extent of domestic violence and people's responses to it
- agencies' and communities' views of domestic violence, particularly how things had changed since the baseline reviews were carried out in 2006.

The research team worked closely with the NZPOL mentor in each project country to develop the research approach and timeframes. We also saw it as important to employ a Pacific research framework. To achieve maximum involvement and sharing of ideas, we partnered with one non-government organisation (NGO) throughout the planning and implementation of research activities in all countries except Kiribati. This had the dual aim of empowering Pacific communities by fostering enquiry and debate on domestic violence, and

consolidating ongoing partnerships for future PPDVP activities. The research was conducted predominantly in urban areas and the team acknowledges that the report findings may not be applicable to rural regions or outer islands.

PART 1: POLICE ATTITUDES, POLICY AND PRACTICE

Since the baseline review, the following key successes were identified across each of the four participating countries in relation to Police attitudes, policy and practice:

- **establishment of Domestic Violence Units** – although different in structure, role and staffing levels each country has a dedicated Domestic Violence Unit. This has provided a central point for issues pertaining to domestic violence and is the public face of the PPDVP. **Improved data collection** – a major achievement, since the introduction of the PPDVP, has been the implementation of systems geared towards improved data collection. Much of this can be attributed to the PPDVP Case Management and Intelligence System (CMIS) domestic violence database, which was implemented in 2007. The Cook Islands is the only site that has extended use of the CMIS database beyond domestic violence
- **improved Police partnerships** – although this is a work in progress there is evidence, in each country, that partnerships between the Police, NGOs and other government agencies has improved.

Issues Needing to be Addressed and Suggested Actions

Possible barriers to the eradication of domestic violence in each country were identified. These issues and barriers are presented below against suggested actions.

Issues	Suggested Actions
<p>Under-reporting of domestic violence was attributed to one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ a lack of public trust in the Police ▪ a general belief that Police Officers engaging in domestic violence are treated leniently and that the Police would try to shelter fellow staff members in such an event ▪ historical Police emphasis on reconciliation rather than prosecution 	<p>The following multidimensional approach was suggested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ develop and implement specific policy and practice arrangements for dealing with Police Officers as domestic violence offenders. ▪ increase senior Police leadership to ensure appropriate prosecution of domestic violence cases. Implement a no drop policy, which will result in an increase of public trust and an increase in reporting.
<p>There is confusion amongst officers about how to adhere to the DV best practice principle. This was attributed to adherence to reconciliation practices by senior or long serving officers, enabling police-authorized withdrawals and failure to develop and appropriately implement a no-drop policy</p>	<p>Formalising or correctly implementing no-drop policies will provide clear direction about arrest and prosecution expectations and procedures. NGOs strongly urge that any charges laid against a person resulting from a domestic violence incident should only be withdrawn by the magistrate. In addition, there should be standardised guidelines for this rather leaving it to the discretion of individual JPs / magistrates. DV training workshops for judicial officers are also needed.</p>
<p>No tracking of domestic violence cases through to prosecution is currently undertaken. In addition, any trend or outcome analysis requires a case-by-case</p>	<p>Opportunities exist for improved tracking of domestic violence cases through to prosecution.</p>

review. Such an approach is resource intensive and is open to human error	
There is a need for ongoing Police training to ensure best practice domestic violence guidelines and practices are seamlessly incorporated into Police operations	<p>Suggested trainings include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ refresher courses for general policing ▪ how to navigate tensions arising out of cultural pressure to reconcile rather than prosecute ▪ Police roles in relation to counselling and advising, the need for the Police to issue messages about how to keep safe, victim empowerment, active listening, maintaining boundaries within the role of Police ▪ senior and long serving Police Officers urgently need updated training on domestic violence best practice and investigative interviewing techniques.
There is a need to measure the extent to which attitudes towards, and knowledge of, domestic violence change as an outcome of training provided	<p>Development of pre- and post-training measures. Training programmes should measure the extent to which attitudes towards, and knowledge of, domestic violence shift as an outcome of the training provided. Ideally, mechanisms should be implemented to measure behavioural change.</p>

In the reviewers' opinion the degree to which PPDVP has achieved success can be attributed to:

- strong and consistent leadership at the highest level of the Police
- written up-to-date best practice domestic violence guidelines
- the involvement of passionate and dedicated officers
- the existence of an external 'watch dog' (usually an NGO)
- dedicated staff in domestic violence units
- efficient recording and monitoring systems (for example case management systems that incorporate NGOs)
- internal structures that monitor Police practice (for example professional development plans)
- study tours and other forms of mentoring that expose Police to international domestic violence best practice
- a programme of ongoing and regularly updated staff training
- the role played by the PPDVP mentors.

PART 2: GOVERNMENT, NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS AND COMMUNITY ATTITUDES AND RESPONSES

Key successes

The following key successes were identified by NGO and government agency representatives across each of the four participating countries:

- **increased awareness** – awareness of domestic violence has increased markedly across each of the countries. Positive shifts in domestic violence were also evidenced through public outcry against publically trialled cases. The increased awareness of

domestic violence was generally attributed to extensive education and grassroots awareness campaigns that have more recently been complemented by Police community engagement and awareness programmes.

- **increased number of people accessing services** – the number of victims of domestic violence accessing specialist agencies has increased steadily over preceding years. This increase is believed to be associated with changes in social acceptance and cultural tolerance and increased awareness of domestic violence.

Issues needing to be addressed

Key areas of concern are presented below against suggested actions.

Issues	Suggested Actions
The need for continued awareness raising	<p>Suggested components of future campaigns included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ non-physical forms of abuse within prevention campaigns ▪ developing a shared understanding of 'domestic violence' ▪ healthy drinking messages.
Resource provision targeted at NGOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ evaluate campaigns and educational programmes to determine which strategies have been most successful at raising awareness and have resulted in some form of domestic violence intervention. ▪ explore each countries need for a shelter/refuge for victims of domestic violence. ▪ a service and referral process is needed for the court to refer domestic violence perpetrators.
Negative views Police may deter victims from seeking Police help	<p>Develop strategies to counter perceptions that the Police will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ breach victim confidentiality ▪ be open to bribery ▪ provide insufficient interventions.
Addressing domestic violence is not a priority of mainstream churches and religious organisations. As such, religious organisations remain a greatly underutilised mechanism of domestic violence awareness raising, education and intervention	<p>It is suggested that domestic violence training curricula be developed for Pacific theological colleges. A precedent exists as for example, Malua Theological College in Samoa has provided domestic violence training to its students since 2007.</p> <p>It is important that Church organisations take up the campaign against family. The Church has the potential to be involved to a greater extent in the campaign against gender-based violence due to the pivotal role and power it has in society in Pacific Island countries and territories.</p>

In the reviewers' opinion, the importance of the maintain the successes achieved by PPDVP relies upon the support and cooperation of NGOs specialising in addressing gender-based violence and gender equity. NGOs play a vital role in ensuring Police and criminal justice system accountability and the provision of crucial services to victims of domestic violence.

PART 3: CHANGES SINCE THE FIELDWORK
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As in any project of this nature, there have been changes in the four participant countries since the fieldwork was undertaken in September 2010. Some of these have addressed issues highlighted in the individual country reports (see Kingi and Roguski, 2011a, 2011b and Roguski and Kingi 2011a, 2011b). Key changes are set out by country below.

Country	Changes
Kiribati	The Kiribati Police Service (KPS) have taken on board the Tonga Police Domestic Violence policy. It has been modified to meet their specific needs. The Commissioner has read the policy and agrees with it and he has now submitted it to his Executive for their review.
	The Officer in Charge of the Domestic Violence and Sexual Offences Unit (DVSO) has been offered a position with UNIFEM and it appears that she will take up that role in early 2011. This leaves a significant gap in the DVSO, and especially on the community aspects of Sergeants Okoro's work, that KPS and PPDVP are struggling to fill.
	Following on from the SPC/RRRT national consultations on law reform in 2010, support was expressed for the comprehensive integrated approach to violence against women legislation.
Samoa	Samoa Police Deputy Police Commissioners Crime and General Policing (Avinga and Pulu) have agreed with the need for greater and specific awareness training for their staff. They have offered, through Sue O'Neil, who is the PPDVP replacement mentor for Karen Smith, to sponsor specific training in DV for their NCOs and Inspectors.
	White Ribbon Day - The Samoan Prime Minister spoke strongly at the White Ribbon Day Parade Day parade. <i>He "called on village and church leadership to be proactive in the fight."</i> www.samoaoobserver.ws http://www.samoaoobserver.ws/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=29879:men-in&catid=51:editorial&Itemid=103
	The Samoan Police in collaboration with the PPDVP and supported by the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development and civil society organisations organised a public march to commemorate White Ribbon Day. http://www.samoaoobserver.ws/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=29833:marching-against&catid=1:latest-news&Itemid=50
	The Samoan Rugby Union approached the Samoan Police and PPDVP seeking to engage for White Ribbon Day. While it was anticipated that they would welcome support from New Zealand Rugby Players they in fact wanted their high performance development players (young men aged about 18) to have a training session delivered by the Samoa Police on the dynamics of domestic violence.

Country	Changes
	<p>The Samoan Police DV unit have published their first, in-house newsletter which includes photos of White Ribbon Day and reference to and photos of the rugby training (see above).</p> <p>http://www.ppdvp.org.nz/2010/12/08/samoa-police-dv-team-newsletter/</p>
Cook Islands	<p>There has been an increased focus on the needs of victims in the Cook Islands. Dr Erica Anderson is undertaking a Masters and then a PhD on family violence. She has completed her initial study of the cases of seven women victims and their experiences including with Police and the Courts. The report is currently being peer reviewed but Erika has presented the findings to a workshop on White Ribbon day and also had a two hour 'spirited' session with Cook islands Police. Furthermore, the women's NGO Punanga Tauturu Inc has complained to the Chief JP - John Kenning - about poor decisions reached in the Courts on domestic violence cases. This has resulted in a review of all DV cases being undertaken by the Cook Islands Justice Department.</p> <p>Cook Islands Police have confirmed, and have in place, a domestic violence officer in the Community Policing Unit. Sergeant Rebecca Hosking-Ellis has taken up the community and NGO interaction role. She started in September 2010 and attended the PPDVP Regional Conference. She has also participated in a series of community meetings in the Cook Islands Northern group, with NZ Police and others, around community engagement, DV and other issues. This fills the gap identified in the baseline update analysis.</p>
Tonga	<p>Tonga Police have worked with PPDVP and New Zealand Rugby to produce three television commercials which will run in Tonga in 2011. In these the rugby players and a senior police member deliver the message in Tongan that violence is 'Not OK'.</p> <p>Following feedback from the in country work around the No-Drop Policy not being correctly applied, the Tongan Police Commander has taken immediate remedial action. He found that the Prosecutors were withdrawing cases without the right authority, and that the OC CIB was making decisions on cases outside of the Commanders policy. He has taken direct action with the members to reinforce his instructions.</p> <p>The Commander has also directed that once a charge is laid, then only the Solicitor General may intervene to stay a prosecution or to withdraw a charge or take other action available to the Solicitor General.</p> <p>These changes are reflected in the Domestic Violence Policy for the Tonga Police Force and were put into immediate effect after the visit / assessment in September 2010.</p>

Source: PPDVP New Zealand Police

White Ribbon Day 2011 was a massive event for PPDVP across the region. Using White Ribbon Day as a Police focussed programme is proving to be of significant value in that largely male organisations are speaking out on violence against women.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

PACIFIC ISLAND FORUM (CAIRNS) COMMUNIQUÉ, 2009

That, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is now widely recognized as a risk to human security and a potential destabilizing factor for communities and societies alike remains pervasive across the Pacific and is still considered a sensitive issue in most Pacific cultures, its prevalence often goes underreported. There is urgent need to acknowledge the prevalence of SGBV in the Pacific at all levels of the community whether occurring in the domestic context ordering conflict and post –conflict situations (Pacific Island Forum Communiqué, p 63).

“...increased Pacific engagement in relevant global initiatives aimed at preventing and eliminating violence against women and girls in all part so the world and; committed to eradicate SGBV and to ensure all individuals have equal protection of the law and equal access to justice Leaders committed to eradicating SGBV and to ensure that all individual have equal protection and access to justice” (Ibid: p64c-d).

CAIRNS COMPACT on Strengthening Development Coordination in the Pacific (2009) states that members are “supporting the implementation of measures, existing commitments and programmes aimed at increasing awareness of and addressing the causes and consequences of sexual and gender based violence and *developing legislation to criminalize gender based violence in all forms*” (Ibid: Annex C: b:v).

APPENDIX B
BEIJING + 15 REPORT

1. Progress in implementation of the critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action and the further initiatives identified in the twenty third special session of the General Assembly (SPC, 2010)
 - 1.1. Community outreach violence against women programmes are essential given that rural women especially still rely on chiefs, family, community and church for support and guidance in these cases. Reports are that each of these largely male dominated agencies usually counsel women to resolve any differences within the family systems. The Vanuatu Women's Centre system of over 35 CAVAWs (Community against Violence Against Women Committees) spread through most of Vanuatu's inhabited islands are a model which could be adapted for use in other Pacific islands and territories. Committee members receive on-going training in gender and violence against women, research, management, data keeping and counselling. Males, including Police officers participate in these committees. The Vanuatu Women's Centres counselling dial-in services are also available on all the main islands. Mobile counselling units are also playing an important role in Vanuatu and also in Tonga. In Vanuatu, males are starting to use these counselling and support systems as well as females.
 - 1.2. For over a decade the UN Trust Fund in Support of Actions to End Violence against women has supported innovative community based initiatives to eliminate violence, including programmes by the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre, YWCA and WAC in Fiji, the Samoa AIDS Foundation and IWDA working in Fiji. RRRT is also a recipient of the fund with the "Changing Laws, Protecting Women": lobbying for legislative change in violence against women/family law in order to enhance protective legislation for women and girls in six Pacific islands and territories. The approach is to implement quality campaigns for violence against women and family law reform in six main participating countries. Moreover the aim is to build a cadre of skilled national level legislative supporters and advocates specialising in violence against women and Family Law legislation. Assistance will be provided through the provision of timely and individual technical assistance in advocacy, lobbying and law reform. There would be use of established networks from community paralegals, members of parliament, lawyers, magistrates and civil society organisations.
 - 1.3. For example, the Vanuatu study on Women's Lives and Family Relationships (2009-2010) involved the training of 52 research assistants, who carried out interviews in 3,750 households covering eight provinces (Pacific Women Against Violence April-June 2009). This research process continues to be an empowering experience for the research team as well as for the participating communities.

B: Examples of obstacles encountered and remaining gaps and challenges

- 1.4. While human rights based, constitutional, justice and legal systems also privilege traditional laws.
- 1.5. Violence against women initiatives are not understood or applied in a human rights framework.
- 1.6. The slow progress of bills through the parliamentary system is a major problem. Vanuatu's Family Protection Act (2009) was first discussed in the 1990s. Delays in the FPA were reportedly due to customary attitudes regarding traditional familial roles in Melanesian society and 'to the misconception and misunderstandings of the Bill by the general public, who think that the Bill is another one of the Women's Rights Movement

charades designed to grant women more power to destabilise the status quo in Melanesian society.¹

- 1.7. Community understandings of what constitutes domestic violence, customary taboos and what has been termed 'an acceptance' of physical violence in some Pacific islands and territories is a critical obstacle. Bible verses are often used to defend the use of violence.
- 1.8. A serious gap in policy and practice is the provision of systems for women in rural areas especially to ensure women and girls receive a fair and safe hearing on domestic and sexual violence related issues.
- 1.9. In some Pacific Islands and Territories military barracks and police stations are known locations for gang rape means the ability of women to report or seek protection from the legal system is also non-existent.

C: Lessons learned

- 1.10. The importance of research to inform policies and programmes is a vital lesson learned. Research is confirming the large numbers of women and girls who have been/ are abused, the brutality of these attacks, the younger age groups involved, intergenerational influences, incest, sexual exploitation, alleged witchcraft related incidents and trafficking (UNFPA 2009) Research has also noted an increase in reported acts of sexual violence, gang rape and rape in marriage and child sexual abuse.
- 1.11. Most of the violence against women research has involved local women and communities and partnerships between NGOs and Government mechanisms including National Statistics Offices, especially the studies which followed the WHO Multi-country Study methodology, such as Kiribati, Samoa and Solomon Islands, as this forms part of the research methodology. Such collaborations have been key both to the success of the research and its use and recognition nationally, and should thus be emulated elsewhere.
- 1.12. Violence against women is a cross cutting issue and requires cross cutting solutions. Partnerships and collaboration in addressing violence against women is developing - by Government and NGOS and private sector agencies, and with chiefs, the church, community members, victims, education and training agencies, the media and the Police.

Violence against women

- 1.13. To further the progress already made in addressing violence against women and child abuse and neglect.
- 1.14. Policies and laws are needed for the protection of women who report sexual assaults and/or domestic violence.

National

- 1.15. Support to prepare violence against women legislation and present this through Executive and Parliamentary level decision-making processes.
 - 1.16. Support research on violence against women and child abuse and neglect (CAN) for countries which have no data bases.
 - 1.17. Support ongoing training for police officers and judicial and legislative staff in advocacy, awareness raising and training on violence against women.
 - 1.18. Ongoing Advocacy with youth and school students on male/ female behaviours and security and safety as, the right not to be hit.
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- 1.19. Creating community discussions about the domestic and family violence and, the role of culture and tradition in ensuring safe communities.
- 1.20. Support the critical need for professionally trained family violence counsellors – male and female. Work to mainstream violence against women across government departments. Ensure that this violence against women is addressed in an integrated and multi sectoral approach. For example question the legislative assembly on the cause and consequence of violence against women. Furthermore question the health budget to take into account the costs of violence against women to the health system. Address the issue of the education curriculum that reinforces stereotypes about women which ultimately legitimate violence against women.

Regional

- 1.21. Ensure on-going support to the FWCC in its regional research, education and training programmes and support to the development of national violence against women and CAN strategies.
- 1.22. Support national level training focusing on legal processes and the preparation of violence against women policies and legal procedures.
- 1.23. On-going support and sharing of expertise and resources through regional policing programmes. This will require review of the PRPI training materials.
- 1.24. Support to the establishment and on-going maintenance and management of safe houses for women and children affected by family violence.

Donors

- 1.25. Support national violence against women and CAN research in countries where there is none.
- 1.26. Support for legal processes for example penal code reviews, Family Protection Acts, Family Courts, Women Police Stations as part of the holistic response to violence against women and CAN.

APPENDIX C
BEIJING + 15 REPORT

PPDVP INCLUSION IN REGIONAL REPORT (SPC, 2010): Examples of successful policies, legislative change and programme and projects

Research carried out under the Pacific Prevention of Domestic Violence Programme (PPDVP) in Cook Islands, Kiribati, Tonga, Samoa and Vanuatu, has been exploring how Police respond to domestic violence related calls, the systems in place to ensure women receive a just response to their complaints (from the front line policing desks through to the justice systems), as well as the capacity of Police officers to work with other government agencies, NGOs and communities to prevent violence against women (violence against women). Although an aim of the PPDVP is to reduce and prevent domestic violence and to achieve legislation which will make domestic violence a criminal act, the absence of such laws has not hindered project progress. Instead, the PPDVP has focussed on putting in place a range of supporting measures such as:

- Establishment of violence against women units in Police Stations (note the different naming of these units).
Vanuatu - Family Protection Unit; Kiribati - Domestic Violence and Sexual Offences (DVSO) Unit; and Tonga, Samoa, Solomon Is, Nauru Domestic Violence Units (DVU).
- Designated domestic violence coordinators as in the Cook Islands, Tuvalu, Niue, and in FSM at the Pohnpei State Police Department.
- Violence against women interview rooms at police stations, so that victims do not wait at the public complaints desk.
- Computerized record systems to document and track cases and counter many incidents of misplaced notes (See AusAID ISP Samoa).
- Specialized training for officers in the violence against women units.
- The inclusion of violence against women and child abuse and neglect in training curricula for police officers and refresher course materials (e.g. AusAID Police Project).
- Partnerships with NGOs to ensure the appropriateness and relevance of these materials to the local context (e.g. AusAID Police Project, Vanuatu).
- The recruitment of women police officers and support to advance women's career pathways in the Police Force.