

**Statistics for Development Division (SDD)**

**5<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference of Heads of Planning and Statistics (HOPS)**

(Noumea, New Caledonia, 14-16 November 2017)

SPC/HOPS 2017/Session 2 – Information Paper 1.5A

Original: English

**SESSION 2 – STATS NZ PACIFIC ANNUAL ATTACHMENT PROGRAM  
(PAAP)**

*(Document presented by Andrew Tideswell)*



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Pacific Annual Attachment Programme (PAAP) – brings five Pacific statisticians to Stats NZ for 5 weeks every March to undertake training by working on priority outputs, with a focus on economic statistics, required by their National Statistics Office. They work alongside Stats NZ buddies in their field of interest in order to complete and to present on their learning and their completed product.

## BACKGROUND

2. Every year Stats NZ subject matter areas (SMAs) collectively host up to five Pacific Island statisticians for five weeks. This programme – known as the Pacific Annual Attachment Programme (PAAP) – has operated successfully over many years and is one aspect of Stats NZ's contribution to building statistical capability in the Pacific. PAAP is externally funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's New Zealand Aid Programme.

## RATIONALE

3. Stats NZ's obligations as a national statistical office extend to supporting Pacific offices to improve their statistical capability. It is also supported because as a New Zealand agency we have an inherent cultural connection with the Pacific. This connection is more formerly recognised in our own *Strategy for Building Statistical Capability in Pacific Island Countries and Territories* and in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade priorities for the NZ Aid Programme, which include:
  - Promoting human development by building technical, analytical and strategic capability through providing technical/vocational training.
  - Building safe and secure communities by ensuring that the public sector in partner countries is efficient in its use of resources, has the capacity to deliver results, and is able to be held to account by its own citizens.

## OUTCOMES

4. The PAAP seeks to contribute to wider development goals by ensuring that:
  - Participants from the Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) engage well with Stats NZ's processes and report successful learning experiences.
  - Statistical capability building in the Pacific benefits from coordination of resources and efforts.
  - Participants enjoy good learning experiences and forge lasting networks
  - Statistical and data capability of Pacific NSO increases wrt collection, analysis and dissemination
  - Contributes to economic development through capability to develop collections that monitor progress and contribute to informed decision-making.
  - Statistical capability of PICTs and the region in general increases as a result of AAP participation.
  - Participants gain additional knowledge and experience about statistical methods and approaches that can be utilised to improve capability beyond specific project areas. For example, participants can support national statistics offices (NSOs) and other offices in PICTs.
  - Projects typically support PICT NSO's implement their National Statistical Development Strategies/Plans (NSDS/NSDP) and/or meet their UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).
  - National, regional, and/or international decision-makers can better identify the need for new or improved collection/analysis/dissemination of statistics that support social, economic, or environmental decisions.

5. At the end of their attachment, participants will be better equipped to:
- Improve statistical capability in the Pacific by providing Pacific statisticians with specific skills and knowledge needed to advance the collection, analysis and dissemination of statistics for their Pacific Island Country or Territory.
  - Contribute to economic development in the Pacific by providing the capability needed to develop statistical collections that monitor progress and provide sound evidence for decision makers e.g. fit for purpose national accounts statistics.
  - Have a greater understanding of statistical methods and concepts and how these might apply to their own issues in producing their statistics; and
  - Develop stronger networks with Stats NZ staff and with statisticians in the Pacific.

## PROCESS

6. The AAP process includes the following steps:
- The project manager is Andrew Tideswell, Manager Statistical Education.
  - A project team is formed to help with arrangements (including Statistical Education Manager Andrew Tideswell, a programme administrator, and managers/delegated "buddies" of relevant SMAs).
  - External partners (Secretariat of Pacific Community (SPC) in Noumea & New Caledonia and Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre (PFTAC) in Suva & Fiji) are consulted regarding the applications from participating countries and the applicants. The Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs is consulted over the welcome function.
  - Applications are assessed against agreed criteria (see attached selection matrix), with skype/phone interviews of candidates/managers conducted by Stats NZ panel convened by Manager of Statistical Education. Panel typically includes Statistical Education Manager, Statistical Education Senior Analyst, independent Senior Analyst from Stats NZ and SMA buddy/Manager.
  - Subject matter areas participate with Statistical Education in the selection of candidates.
  - Study plans are developed with candidates and SMAs/buddies. Training materials and schedules are also developed.
  - Attachment takes place over 5 weeks normally in Wellington and Christchurch offices but occasionally in the Auckland office.
  - Candidates present on their projects at Stats NZ to their buddies, MFAT and MPIA guests, plus invited senior managers/DCE sponsor from Stats NZ.
  - Follow-up activities are monitored and reported back to sponsors.

## SCHEDULE FOR 2017/18 PAAP

Input	Timing	Responsibility
Programme Schedule agreed	15 November 2017	Stats NZ
Partners working to recruit resources	16 November 2017	MFAT, PFTAC , SPC with Stats NZ
Programme Applications close	24 November 2017	Stats NZ
SMA's indicate availability	30 November 2017	Stats NZ
Potential Candidates identified	30 November 2017	MFAT, PFTAC , SPC with Stats NZ
Final Participants selected and notified	8 December 2017	Stats NZ
Programme commences	5 March 2018	Stats NZ
Programme completed	9 April 2018	Stats NZ
Final Report submitted	7 May 2018	Stats NZ

## SOME PAST PROJECTS

- Balance of Payments
- CPI rebase, sampling methods to support a price index
- Census related
- Survey development e.g. accommodation survey
- Data management, metadata
- Demographic e.g. international migration data, internal migration
- Analysis of crime data
- Dissemination plans
- Evaluation of trade reports

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