

---

The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

# Report of the Australian Parliamentary Delegation to Indonesia and Tonga

**24 September – 1 October 2011**

Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters

May 2012  
Canberra

---

© Commonwealth of Australia 2012

ISBN 978-0-642-79672-1 (Printed version)

ISBN 978-0-642-79673-8 (HTML version)

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 Australia License.



The details of this licence are available on the Creative Commons website:

<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/au/>.



## Foreword

During September 2011 members of the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters visited Indonesia and Tonga as part of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Committee Exchange program.

Indonesia with its population of over 200 million, and Tonga with little over 100 000 people, are demographically very different countries in the Asia Pacific region. One thing they have in common is that both are making the important transition to democratic governance, with Indonesia starting its democratic journey in 1999 and Tonga holding its first democratic election in 2010.

The delegation greatly appreciated the time and effort of the many individuals and organisations in Indonesia and Tonga that met with us during our visit. The program included a combination of high level meetings and opportunities for delegates to hear first hand individuals' experiences of their country's democratic progress and their aspirations for a democratic future. This was of great assistance to delegates to better appreciate the democratic transition underway in these still relatively new democracies.

Through its governance and electoral support programs, Australia is playing a role in assisting these countries to make practical democratic improvements. This visit provided a valuable opportunity for delegates to gain an appreciation of the strong relationships that the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, AusAID and the Australian Electoral Commission, are building with electoral authorities and key stakeholders in the Asia Pacific.

The effective conduct of elections is an important component of good governance and viable democracies, and was of particular interest to the delegation. It is important for Australia to remain engaged in Indonesia and Tonga, and the broader Asia Pacific region, and provide the governance and electoral support needed to help our neighbours realise their democratic aspirations.

I thank my fellow delegates for their participation and commitment to the demanding program and contribution to a productive and informative delegation visit.

The Hon Alan Griffin MP  
Delegation Leader



# Contents

Foreword .....	iii
Membership of the Committee .....	vii
Membership of the Delegation.....	viii
Acknowledgements .....	ix
List of abbreviations .....	xi

## REPORT

<b>1 Background to the Delegation .....</b>	<b>1</b>
The Delegation .....	1
Australia's engagement in the region .....	1
Objectives .....	3
Structure of report .....	3
<b>2 Indonesia.....</b>	<b>5</b>
Background .....	5
Elections .....	7
Voter registration.....	9
Australia and Indonesia.....	10
Electoral assistance .....	11
Yogyakarta mayoral election.....	14
General observations .....	17


<b>3</b>	<b>Tonga.....</b>	<b>19</b>
	Background .....	19
	Australia and Tonga.....	21
	Constitutional and electoral reform.....	22
	Tonga’s Electoral Commission.....	25
	Electoral boundaries .....	27
	2010 General Election.....	27
	Parties and forming government .....	32
	General observations .....	32

## **APPENDICES**

	<b>Appendix A – Delegation program .....</b>	<b>35</b>
	Indonesia .....	35
	Tonga .....	37
	<b>Appendix B – Excerpt of <i>Polling Station Staff: Guidebook</i> .....</b>	<b>39</b>
	<b>Appendix C – Sample Tongan ballot paper .....</b>	<b>41</b>

## **FIGURES**

Figure 2.1	Delegation visit to the AEC office in Jakarta .....	13
Figure 2.2	Candidates for the Yogyakarta City Head and Vice Head of Local Government .....	14
Figure 2.3	Delegation visiting a polling booth in Yogyakarta .....	16
Figure 2.4	Elector displaying finger ink after voting in Yogyakarta election .....	16
Figure 2.5	Ballot count for the Yogyakarta election .....	17
Figure 3.1	Delegation with the Speaker and members of the Tongan Legislative Assembly.....	22



## Membership of the Committee

**Chair** Mr Daryl Melham MP

**Deputy Chair** The Hon Alexander Somlyay MP

**Members** The Hon Bronwyn Bishop MP

The Hon Alan Griffin MP

Ms Amanda Rishworth MP


Senator Simon Birmingham

Senator Carol Brown

Senator Helen Polley

Senator Lee Rhiannon

Senator Scott Ryan



## Membership of the Delegation

Leader	The Hon Alan Griffin MP Member for Bruce, Victoria
Deputy Leader	
<i>Indonesia</i>	The Hon Bronwyn Bishop MP Member for Mackellar, New South Wales
<i>Tonga</i>	Senator the Hon Gary Humphries Senator for the Australian Capital Territory
Members	Senator Helen Polley Senator for Tasmania  Senator Scott Ryan Senator for Victoria
Secretary	Ms Samantha Mannette





## Acknowledgements

The delegation thanks His Excellency Mr Greg Moriarty, the Ambassador to Indonesia, and High Commissioner Thomas Roth in Tonga, for providing the delegation with valuable briefings and guidance on undertaking successful visits to the respective countries.

In Jakarta, the delegation appreciated the opportunity to meet with: Vice President Boedino; Mr Irman Guzman, Speaker of the Regional Representatives Council of Indonesia; members of Commission II; Professor Djohermansyah Djohan, Director General for Regional Autonomy, Ministry of Home Affairs; members of the Indonesian Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation Committee and Indonesia-Australia Parliamentary Friendship Group; and Commissioners Nuryanti, Endang and Aziz of the General Elections Commission. The delegation also met with the Director of the International Foundation for Electoral Systems, Indonesian media and representatives of relevant non-government organisations.

The delegation appreciates the work of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) officers in the planning and coordination of the delegation program for its visit to Indonesia, the in-country support and briefings, and the briefings provided prior to the delegation's departure. In particular, the delegation extends its thanks to DFAT representatives Mr Michael Bliss and Mr Julian Bowen, and AusAID representatives, Ms Victoria Coakley and Ms Elizabeth St George.

Thanks also go to the Australian Electoral Commission representative in Indonesia, Mr Patrick Satie and local AEC officer Ms Erika Widyaningsih, who provided the delegation with informative briefings on the operation of elections in Indonesia, and accompanied the delegation to polling stations during the local election in Yogyakarta on 25 September 2011.

At the time of the delegation's visit, the then King of Tonga, His Majesty King George Tupou V, was out of the country and so it was not possible to call on His Majesty. Regrettably, in March 2012, the King passed away in Hong Kong and was succeeded by his brother, His Majesty King Tupou VI.

The delegation appreciated the opportunity to meet with: the Acting Prime Minister, the Hon Samiu Vaipulu; the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Tonga, Lord Lasike; the Minister for Justice, the Hon Clive Edwards; and a number of Tongan parliamentarians.

In Tonga, the delegates also had interesting meetings with: Mr Barrie Sweetman, the Electoral Commissioner, and officers of the Tongan Electoral Commission and the Electoral Boundaries Commission; and members of civil society groups and local media.

The delegation offers its sincere thanks to the many individuals and organisations who generously gave their time, to meet and share their views and experiences during the visit. This was of great assistance to delegates to better appreciate the democratic transition underway in these countries, and how the Australian Government and Parliament can assist its neighbours to develop and realise their democratic goals.



## List of abbreviations

AEC	Australian Electoral Commission
AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development
BRIDGE	Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections
CEC	Constitutional and Electoral Reform Commission
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
DPD	Regional Representatives Council (Indonesia)
DPR	House of Representatives (Indonesia)
IFES	International Foundation of Electoral Systems
KPU	General Elections Commission
MoHA	Ministry of Home Affairs
MPR	People's Consultative Assembly (Indonesia)
NCPR	National Committee on Political Reform
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

