

AFP Submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

Inquiry into Australia's response to the priorities of
Pacific Island countries and the Pacific region



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Introduction

1. The Australian Federal Police (AFP) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission into Australia's response to the priorities of Pacific Island countries and the Pacific Region.
2. The AFP is committed to supporting Pacific Island Countries build resilience to their security challenges as articulated in the *2018 Boe Declaration on Regional Security*.
3. AFP's primary focus in the region is working in partnership with Pacific police organisations to promote regional stability, enhance community safety and security, and maintain the rule of law. Working closely with our regional partners, the AFP is agile and responsive to the changing criminal environment. The submission draws insights from AFP's operational experience and our enduring Pacific policing partnerships.
4. The AFP works with Australian Government partners to support the Pacific, prioritising programs that provide critical training, capability support and infrastructure needs to build a safer and secure region.
5. The AFP is privileged to partner with police officers in the Pacific, working shoulder to shoulder, to keep our communities safe. Through the AFP's strong and enduring partnerships, AFP activities and initiatives are designed and adapted to reflect evolving Pacific police priorities, regional threats and emerging needs.
6. The AFP supports Pacific police leadership, including by empowering and enabling Pacific police to lead the design, development and delivery of capability development initiatives consistent with a 'by the Pacific, for the Pacific' ethos.
7. This submission outlines AFP's enduring commitment to share intelligence, build capability and undertake joint operations with our Pacific policing partners.

Overview of the AFP in the Pacific

8. As at 30 June 2024, the AFP has 133 personnel in the Pacific including Timor-Leste.
9. The AFP engages with Pacific police partners through numerous mechanisms, including a regional program and bilateral policing partnership programs in a number of Pacific countries.. The AFP also has international network positions in Port Moresby, PNG and Suva, Fiji which are focussed on combatting transnational crime through liaising with international partners.
10. The AFP's understanding of Pacific police partner priorities is derived from this multi-faceted engagement approach.
11. The AFP continually reviews and evaluates AFP Pacific policing partnership programs to ensure they are achieving objectives aligned to the requirements of our partners and Whole of Australian Government foreign policy.
12. The AFP supports Pacific law enforcement partners to combat transnational crime, as emphasised in the *Boe Declaration on Regional Security* as a critical regional security issue.

The Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police (PICP)

13. The PICP was founded in 1970 in Suva, Fiji and is one of the oldest regional bodies in the Pacific. Over the past 50 years, the PICP has worked continuously to build safer and more secure communities by improving policing. There are 22 member jurisdictions in the PICP, including Australia, with the Commissioner, Chief or Director of Police of each national police service representing the member state.
14. Alongside Pacific police partners, the AFP is committed to regionalism and to supporting regional institutions, including the PICP, to collectively address regional security challenges and threats.
15. In addition, an AFP member is seconded to the Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police – Secretariat. The PICP Secretariat represents and promotes the Pacific Chiefs interests at regional and international forums and supports the Executive Leadership Team and other Chiefs to deliver on a PICP vision of “Our Blue Pacific: Safer Together”.

Regional Programs and Initiatives

Pacific Police Development Program – Regional (PPDP-R):

16. The AFP, through PPDP-R, manages the following regional initiatives on behalf of the PICP:
 - *Pacific Community for Law Enforcement Cooperation (PCLEC)* - a regional coordination mechanism that supports Pacific-led capability development initiatives for Pacific police and facilitates the sharing of national resources as regional assets. In conjunction with the PICP Secretariat, PCLEC supports the coordination and deconfliction of donor programs and training opportunities in law enforcement priority areas identified by Pacific police, including investigations, intelligence, gender and family harm, emergency management, and officer safety and wellbeing;
 - *Cyber Safety Pasifika (CSP)* – a long-standing cyber forum of the PICP, delivered by the AFP in conjunction with diverse strategic partners, including Pacific police. CSP's activities align to three pillars:
 - Awareness and Education - aimed at increasing cyber safety awareness of vulnerable communities in the Pacific region through empowering Pacific police engagement and the sharing of key digital safety messages;
 - Cybercrime Investigations – equips Pacific police with the skills required to investigate cyber and technology enabled crime; and
 - Cybercrime Legislation and Policy – alongside partners, CSP assists Pacific police partners to implement cyber legislation, effectively utilise investigative powers, and develop policies that enhance cyber capabilities.
 - *Pacific Forensics Working Group (PFWG)* – a PICP forum facilitated by the AFP and partners for sharing information regarding forensic training and building regional forensics capability;

- Pacific Police Training Advisory Group (PPTAG) – a PICP forum facilitated by the AFP and partners to promote the active engagement of Pacific police in the design, development and delivery of police training.

Recent Achievements:

17. PPDP-R has provided support to PICP programs in the following ways:
 - Coordination of the Australian hosted PICP Chiefs Conference on Gold Coast in August 2023.
 - Facilitation of the PCLEC National Coordinators forum in Cook Islands in December 2023.
 - Facilitation of the PFWG Forum in Samoa in April 2024.
 - Facilitation of the PPTAG Forum in Fiji in June 2024.
 - CSP training programs conducted in Samoa, Tonga, New Caledonia and Palau for regional policing partners.

Pacific Transnational Crime Network:

18. The AFP is a founding member of the Pacific Transnational Crime Network (PTCN), a proactive criminal intelligence and information sharing network for Pacific law enforcement agencies. The PTCN increases Pacific law enforcements' ability to detect, investigate and disrupt transnational crime in the region.
19. There are currently 29 Transnational Crime Units (TCUs) in 21 Pacific Island Counties (PIC) that form part of the PTCN.
20. The AFP administers the PTCN Secretariat in Canberra on behalf of the PICP.
21. The Pacific Transnational Crime Coordination Centre (PTCCC) is a multi-agency team based in Apia, Samoa whose purpose is to manage and coordinate criminal intelligence through cooperation and collaboration with TCUs and regional stakeholders. The AFP has one permanent member attached to the PTCCC which can accommodate up to 16 persons, who are seconded from PIC TCUs.

Australian Institute of Police Management (AIPM) Pacific Faculty of Policing:

22. The Pacific Faculty of Policing (PFP) is a collaborative effort between the AFP and the Australian Institute of Police Management (AIPM), aimed at enhancing leadership and management capabilities across the Pacific. The PFP focuses on promoting regional stability and maintaining the rule of law through professional, leadership, and executive development opportunities.
23. The PFP plays a vital role in strengthening leadership capabilities and fostering regional stability across the Pacific. Through targeted programs and workshops, the PFP supports the development of police leaders in PICP member countries, ensuring they are well-equipped to address the evolving security challenges in the region.

24. The PFP provides professional, leadership, and executive development opportunities for police leaders across the Pacific. These programs are designed to enhance leadership capabilities and equip participants with the skills necessary to lead and manage current and emerging security threats.

Recent Achievements:

25. *Pacific Leading in Action*: A series of programs held in various locations including Sydney, Vanuatu, and Fiji, drawing participants from the 22 member countries of the PICP.
26. *Pacific Women in Leadership*: Delivered at AIPM, Sydney, with participants from FSM, Fiji, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.
27. *Australia New Zealand Policing Advisory Agency (ANZPAA) Conference and PFP Pacific Partners Program*: Held in Melbourne with Senior Executive participants from Fiji, Samoa, Vanuatu, Nauru, Kiribati, Tuvalu, PNG, and Tonga.

AFP Pacific Policing Partnership Program (AP4)

28. In May 2023, the Australian Government agreed to invest funds to further support our partners in the Pacific, allowing the establishment of the AP4. The AP4 provides an uplift to AFP capabilities, providing the resources to maintain and enhance current Pacific police partnerships and remain the partner of choice in addressing Pacific police security needs of mutual and regional interest.
29. Through AP4, the AFP is further aligning efforts with domestic and international partners to bring an integrated approach to engagement with the Pacific, through established and trusted partnerships.
30. The AP4 augments the AFP's ongoing efforts to enable genuinely flexible, agile and responsive projection into and integration with the Pacific, including operational and investigative responses, civil disorder, humanitarian and disaster response, infrastructure, equipment and building policing capabilities.
31. AP4 strengthens regional mechanisms for Pacific police partnerships, such as the PCLEC, building trust and commitment throughout the region with enhanced coordination of like-minded contributions to the needs of policing partners.
32. AP4 enables the AFP to provide our Pacific police partners with the assistance they need to reinforce regional security, and includes:
- Enhancements to the AFP's Pacific Command to provide expanded capability support to Pacific police;
 - Establishment of the Law Enforcement Cooperation Program (LECP) to provide critical training and equipment to the Pacific;
 - Increased AFP footprint in the Pacific;
 - Expanded initiatives in PNG to provide enhanced policing support to PNG; and
 - A Pacific Police Infrastructure Program to deliver on known infrastructure needs across the Pacific.

Law Enforcement Cooperation Program / AP4 Funded Projects

33. The AFP, through LECP, are supporting the INTERPOL – Project Blue Pacific. The project aims help law enforcement agencies maximise the services provided by INTERPOL and sustainably use INTERPOL resources for increased information sharing and capacity building within the region.
34. In May 2024, the LECP and PCLEC supported United Nations Assessment for Mission Service Training in Fiji. Pacific Trainers from Nauru, Kiribati, Fiji, Vanuatu, Samoa and Tonga participated on the course, to develop their abilities to train their respective country participants in preparation for UN deployments.
35. The LECP funded the deployment of an AFP Specialist Operations Capability Advisor to assist the Vanuatu Police Force develop specialist programs, frameworks and governance relating to Use of Force.
36. The AFP, through LECP is supporting multiple capability development initiatives in Kiribati, including, investigations, intelligence and Operational Safety Training (OST) programs.

Bilateral Programs and Initiatives

Papua New Guinea

37. The AFP and the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary (RPNGC) have a longstanding and positive relationship, working together to enable law enforcement cooperation activities such as transnational crime investigations and criminal intelligence sharing through a Senior Officer (SO) and TCU Advisor in Port Moresby; as well as an extensive policing partnership program through the PNG-Australia Policing Partnership (PNG-APP).

PNG – Australia Policing Partnership

38. The 2022-2026 PNG-APP program supports the RPNGC's focus on delivering effective policing services that support PNG and Pacific communities. Through targeted "on-the-shoulder" advisors and capability uplift, the partnership enhances investigative outcomes that target transnational crime and assists the RPNGC to meet the evolving and complex global criminal environment.
39. PNG-APP support is aligned to three pillars:
 - Operations;
 - Training; and
 - Corporate Reform.

Bilateral Security Agreement (BSA)

40. Australia and PNG reiterated their commitment to security collaboration through the signing of the BSA in December 2023. The BSA elevates, broadens, and modernises Australia's longstanding security relationship with PNG, working together to contribute to our region's security.

41. The BSA identifies policing as a priority activity for cooperation and a basis for expanded support to bolster regional security. Under the BSA, Australia is investing in the PNG-APP which includes:
- Expansion of provincial policing support in Mount Hagen and Kokopo, in addition to Port Moresby and Lae;
 - Uplift RPNGC Forensics Capability, including infrastructure to support enhanced investigation and prosecutions outcomes;
 - Prosecutions and investigations uplift, including targeted support for RPNGC engagement of experienced international policing experts to middle-management positions;
 - RPNGC Officer Placement Program with Queensland Police;
 - Dedicated support to RPNGC specialist functions including, Less Lethal Use of Force training and maritime training;
 - Enhanced critical policing infrastructure including, police barracks and accommodation; and
 - Construction of a Centre of Excellence at Bomana, as part of the Pacific Policing Initiative.

Recent Achievements

42. On 19 June 2024, the AFP gifted the RPNGC Police Patrol Vessel (PPV) Minigulai with funding for ongoing running and maintenance costs. As part of the RPNGC capability uplift, PNG-APP is assisting RPNGC water police department with training its members. The vessel will also take part in cross-border patrols between PNG and Australia.
43. In May 2024, the AFP, RPNGC and Queensland Police Service (QPS) launched a new enhanced RPNGC Police Officer Cadets training program.
- Between May and August 2024, four contingents of RPNGC Cadets will undertake a two-week placement with QPS, where they will have the opportunity to develop their leadership capabilities in an operational policing context.
 - More than 60 RPNGC cadets are scheduled to undertake training in north Queensland and Sydney to enhance policing and leadership skills.
 - The cadets will also undertake a Policing Leadership Program at the Australian Institute of Police Management (AIPM) in Sydney.
44. In May 2024 the AFP and RPNGC commenced construction of new housing for RPNGC police recruits in Port Moresby and Mt Hagan, with more housing to be built across 10 provinces over the next three years.
45. In response to a request from RPNGC Commissioner Manning after landslides in Enga province in May 2024, AFP deployed a disaster victim identification specialist to provide advisory support to RPNGC.
46. OP GEPARD (Port Moresby Post) was a 5-month joint AFP/RPNGC operation commencing in November 2022. OP GEPARD monitored the activities of an Australian TSOC syndicate, which required the support of the RPNGC during the investigative phase. The joint operation monitored the arrival of a 'black flight aircraft' into Bulolo, PNG where 71.5kg of methamphetamine was loaded into the aircraft and returned to Monto, Queensland where police subsequently arrested Australian based syndicate members including the two pilots.

Solomon Islands

47. Since 2003, the AFP have supported the development of a trusted, responsive policing capability in the Solomon Islands.
48. The AFP's longstanding support to the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) is now delivered through the RSIPF & AFP Policing Partnership Program (RAPPP).

Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) & AFP Policing Partnership Program (RAPPP)

49. The RAPPP is a four-year policing partnership program (2021-2025), which was endorsed by the Solomon Islands Government (SIG) Cabinet. In January 2024, an extension of the current program design and footprint until June 2026 was requested by Commissioner RSIPF and former SI Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare. The extension was agreed to by the AFP and Australian Government.
50. Through the RAPPP, the AFP provides technical policing and enabling advisory support and assistance to the RSIPF to identify, target and combat emerging crime and security issues. The AFP has committed 35 advisors, including sworn and professional officers, deployed to SI to support the delivery of the program in the following key areas:
 - Frontline, Investigations, Forensics, Intelligence, and Learning and Development;
 - Major operations support;
 - Corporate support in human resources, finance, planning, logistics, mobility and infrastructure;
 - Ongoing implementation of the expansion of the RSIPF NRD; and
 - Specialist technical advisory support where agreed.

Recent Achievements

51. Recent achievements in the Solomon Islands have included:
 - Delivery of major infrastructure projects included the rebuilding of five police stations, upgrades to RSIPF training facilities and ongoing infrastructure support.
 - Support to RSIPF operational readiness through the provision of thirty-six (36) road ready specialist fit-for-purpose operational vehicles for frontline, NRD and Executive.
 - Support to RSIPF NRD expansion including completion of the Tier 2 re-armament program, armoury upgrades and enhancement of Public Order Management (POM) capability.
 - Establishment of Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) and surveillance capability.
 - Provision of operational support, equipment, training and development in support of Pacific Games (PG23) and the National General Election operations (NGE24) including enhancement of the Police Operations Centre.
 - Development of RSIPF Digital Forensics Capability and enhancement of drug detection and analysis capability.

- The RSIPF Exchange program commenced in 2022. RSIPF members are embedded as part of AFP teams to gain exposure to the AFPs specialist and intelligence capabilities. This highlights AFP's continued commitment to enhance the capabilities of our pacific partners as well as promote stability within the region.

Solomons' International Assistance Force (SIAF)

52. In November 2021, at the request of the SIG, the AFP deployed additional members to protect life and key infrastructure, and to safely restore order in Honiara.
53. Since 27 November 2021, law and order has been maintained in Honiara and the SIAF remains in place; consisting of visiting contingents from Australia, Fiji and New Zealand. Papua New Guinea has also deployed contingents under a separate bilateral agreement.
54. In August 2023, the Australian Government committed to extending SIAF until 30 June 2024 to support the RSIPF operations for PG23 and the NGE24. In March 2024, both governments agreed to a further extension of SIAF until August 2024, allowing time for visiting contingents to administer the drawdown.
55. The AFP, through the RAPPP and SIAF, provided extensive operational and planning support to RSIPF major operations for the PG23 and the NGE24.
56. This resulted in the successful delivery of a security overlay, providing a safe environment for both PG23 and NGE24 with no significant security incidents, maintaining Australia's position as the leading security partner in the region and AFP's position as policing partner of choice to Solomon Islands.
57. The AFP provided additional personnel and capability during the operations – more than 150 additional members in a surge capacity for PG23 and more than 100 additional members for NGE24. This surge capacity comprised AFP uniform members trained in POM, Tactical Response Team and frontline support.
58. The AFP supported the RSIPF in key areas both in the lead up and during the PG23 and NGE24 operations:
 - embedding AFP members in the joint planning teams for PG23 and NGE24;
 - delivery of observer programs for RSIPF planners in the lead up to the events, providing exposure to AFP specialist and planning areas;
 - undertaking POM interoperability exercises with RSIPF, AFP and SIAF members to support operational preparedness;
 - support to RSIPF Provincial Police with advisory, planning and implementation support in the following locations Renbel, Choiseul, Western, Malaita, Central, Temotu and Makura San Cristobal; and
 - joint high visibility patrols and community engagement.

Vanuatu

Vanuatu Australia Policing and Justice Program

59. The AFP has delivered capability uplift to Vanuatu Police Force (VPF) via our bilateral partnership programs since 2002.
60. The Vanuatu Australia Policing and Justice Program (VAPJP) is a joint policing and justice program implemented by the AFP, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and supported by the VPF. The goal of the program is improved policing, justice and community services in Vanuatu.
61. The focus of the program is:
 - increased focus on targeted provincial centres;
 - increased support for effective handling of cases involving violence against women and children;
 - legal education and outreach activities;
 - increased support for the judiciary;
 - support for law reform;
 - technical advisory support for the office of the public prosecutor; and
 - strengthening and administrative capacity for the VPF and the Justice and Community Services Sector.

Recent Achievements

62. Ongoing improvements to the quality and reach of policing and justice services in Vanuatu through the VAPJP include:
 - ongoing in-country support of seven AFP personnel;
 - maximising the effect of the Vanuatu Decentralization Strategy through the construction of Provincial police posts and regional policing infrastructure;
 - joint operations, training and strategic initiatives including the Policing and Justice Services Study and Wellbeing Strategy 2024;
 - enhanced capability through the provision of specialist forensic equipment, Use of Force duty rigs, mobility assets, IT equipment, police uniforms, vehicles, quad bikes and boats;
 - assisted VPF with two AFP forensic members to investigate the cause of the fire that destroyed the Chiefs Nakamal, the custom Parliament for Vanuatu's Chiefs;
 - established a new Specialist Capability Training Hub and Forensic Laboratory;
 - delivered specialist Detective Training, Child Interviewing and Use of Force programs;
 - ongoing operational engagement with Vanuatu through the PTCN to detect, deter, prevent and disrupt crime and harm in the Pacific; and
 - established a new Cyber Training Facility at the Police Training College.

Fiji

Suva Post

63. The AFP recently expanded our footprint in Fiji (from two to three) to strengthen collaboration between the AFP and Fiji law enforcement agencies, including the Fiji Police Force (FPF), to detect, deter, prevent and disrupt transnational and organised crime in the Pacific. Two members are attached to Australian High Commission focusing on traditional crime themes and one member is attached to the FPF Transnational Crime Unit (TCU) as an advisor.

Recent Achievements:

64. From 29 April to 10 May 2024, AFP and FPF conducted UN pre-deployment training at the Republic of Fiji Military Force Blackrock military facility for police forces from Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Samoa, Vanuatu, Nauru, PNG, Tonga and Tuvalu. This training was delivered with LECP funding and coordination assistance from PCLEC.
65. The Pacific TSOC Taskforce is an inter-agency taskforce between Australia, Fiji, Tonga and New Zealand. To date the Pacific TSOC Taskforce has seized in excess of 86kgs of cocaine, 78kgs of methamphetamine, 2kgs of MDMA and 4.5 ton of cannabis being produced or transhipped through Fiji and Tonga. Over 50 offenders have been arrested and charged in Australia, Fiji, Tonga and NZ with serious drug offences.
66. Coordination between the Pacific TSOC Taskforce members has also resulted in over 30 outlaw motorcycle gang (OMCG) members and high level TSOC entities having either been refused entry or detained upon arrival entering Fiji and Tonga, and over 20 high risk vessels of interest being interdicted by Fiji and Tonga TCUs.
67. The AFP and FPF Operation NAUTILUS/LEGALEGA resulted in the seizure of 4.27 tonnes of methamphetamine in Fiji and 13 arrests to date. AFP support to the investigation included intelligence support and specialist training support, including crime scene and digital forensics. The investigation is ongoing.

Samoa

68. The AFP has three members deployed to Samoa; two members under the Samoa Australia Police Partnership (SAPP) and one network member as part of the Pacific Transnational Crime Coordination Centre (PTCCC), which is the coordination hub for the PTCN.

Samoa-Australia Police Partnership

69. The SAPP leads and coordinates AFP engagement with the Samoa Police, Prisons and Corrections Service (SPPCS). First initiated in 2009, Samoa-Australia Police Partnership (SAPP) provides the framework for collaboration between the SPPCS and AFP to strengthen SPPCS' delivery of its mandate to maintain a safe and stable Samoa.

70. The new SAPP 2021-25 design came into effect July 2021 and is framed by the following

Partnership Goal and Outcomes:

- Partnership Goal: To support SPPCS to maintain a safe and stable Samoa.
- Partnership Outcome 1: SPPCS has the workforce and institutional capacity to deliver high quality corporate and strategic planning and management.
- Partnership Outcome 2: SPPCS has enhanced capabilities in targeted areas aligned to both the Samoa Law and Justice Sector Plan (2012-2016) and AFP International Engagement Strategies and Plans.

Recent Achievements:

71. As a result of an official request from the Commissioner of Samoa Police, the AFP is supporting the SPPCS with their Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) preparations through delivery of training, equipment, advice and specialist support including:

- Emergency Radio Network (ERN).
 - \$4.7m has been allocated from the Pacific Policing Infrastructure Program to deliver a new ERN in time for CHOGM. Remediations have also been made to ensure the current ERN maintains an ongoing capability.
- Safer City CCTV Network.
 - AFP through SAPP have funded and supported the design and implementation of Samoa's first safer city CBD CCTV network. This network consists of 30 sites with the potential for future expansion.
- Public Order Management training.
 - Two Samoa Police Members participated in a Train the Trainer program delivered by the RSIPF.
- Establishment of a Digital Forensics (DF) laboratory.
- Close Personal Protection (CPP) Train the Trainer.
 - This is a four phase CPP foundation program that trained eight trainers, which has now led to the delivery of training to over 150 members of the SPPCS.
- Police Operations Centre Renovation.
- Cyber Safety Pasifika (CSP) computer lab.
- Organisational Performance Study.
- Samoa Police Domestic and Family Violence Strategy.
- Road safety equipment and training.
- Bomb search equipment and training.
- Localised Investigative Interviewing training.

Tonga

Tonga-Australia Policing Partnership

72. Since 2008, the AFP has supported Tonga Police through a bilateral program. The AFP currently supports Tonga Police through the Tonga-Australia Partnership Program (TAPP), which comprises three AFP members and one member on a 12-month intelligence support deployment.
73. The overarching goal of the partnership is that "communities in Tonga are safe and secure, especially for women, girls and marginalised groups." Three Partnership Outcomes support this goal:
 - Enhanced national security, focusing on illicit drugs and transnational crime.
 - Improved frontline response to survivors of family violence (including through the Families Free of Violence program).
 - Strengthened capacity and capability for ethical and effective policing.

Families Free of Violence

74. The Families Free of Violence (FFOV) Program is an Australian Government-supported initiative to support the Government of Tonga (GoT) achieve its objectives in strengthening its response to gender-based violence (GBV).
75. The FFOV provides support for survivors of family violence to access better quality services and ongoing support. FFOV supports Tonga Police improve frontline responses to survivors of family violence, as well as its commitment to implementing the Family Protection Act 2013.
76. The program is managed by the AFP, working closely with the Ministry of Internal Affairs' Women Affairs and Gender Equality Division (WAGED) and the Tonga Police.

Recent Achievements:

77. The TAPP is assisting with capability uplift for Tonga Police in preparation for the Kingdom of Tonga to host the 2024 PIF Leaders Meeting.
78. The TAPP and the AIPM supported the Organisational Performance Study of Tonga Police to support strategic decision making and inform continuous improvement.
79. In November 2023, the AFP supplied Tonga Police with Automated Fingerprint Identification Software (AFIS) and specialist training. The new software allows Tonga Police to develop a database of identification material to support investigations and improve prosecutions.
80. FFOV continued the upskilling of Tonga Police Domestic Violence skills, consisting of the first ever training across all the main Islands of Tonga. This support extends to the refurbishment of the Domestic Violence Units offices and kids' corner, along with the purchase of two domestic violence-specific Police vehicles to assist in supporting the survivors of violence.
81. FFOV provided expert training in sexual offences and child abuse investigations. Senior Tonga Police officers undertook this advanced course in Canberra, expanding the capabilities and reach of Tonga Police and their counterparts.

82. TAPP provided additional staffing to assist Tongan Police with a strategically critical investigation for a period of approximately four months. This support shaped the investigation and provided specialist investigation assistance.
83. TAPP completed phase two of the communications program. This enables Tonga Police to have effective emergency communications across Tonagtapu and Ewa. Phase three is due to be completed in July 2024 will see this coverage extended across the majority of the Tongan Islands.

Nauru

84. The AFP collaborates with the Nauru Police Force (NPF) in the areas of transnational crime, border security, operational capability, training, and corporate reform.

Nauru-Australia Policing Partnership (NAPP) Recent Achievements:

85. During 2023 (July and December) NPF, closely supported by the AFP, successfully respond to two major Unexploded Ordinances (UXO - WWII 500-pound bombs). In complex joint operations with the DFAT, ADF, and multiple Government of Nauru agencies, NPF evacuated approximately 6000 people and approximately one third of the island land and sea areas on both occasions. NAPP funding that trained two NPF members in UXO management greatly assisted the whole of government overall response.
86. In 2023, the AFP supplied NPF with Automated Fingerprint Identification Software (AFIS) and provided specialist training to NPF officers. The new software allows NPF to develop a database of identification material to support investigations and improve prosecutions in partnership with the Nauru Department of Justice.
87. Through a joint partnership with United Nations Development Program (Fiji), NAPP supported training on sexual assault and family violence investigations for NPF officers and local women and health services. This training was 'victim centred' and focused on the needs of the victim as opposed to an evidentiary focus.
88. The delivery of the Basic Investigators Program training in Nauru to 20 front line and emerging officers provided the necessary skills to enhance evidence capability and techniques.
89. The purchase, delivery and training of the TruNarc Handheld Narcotics analyser provided NPF with the capability to immediately identify illicit substances. This capability has enhanced Nauru's capacity to participant in regional efforts to counter transnational drug crime in the Pacific and provide timely intelligence on the movement of illicit substances in the Nauru region.

Timor-Leste

Timor-Leste Police Development Program

90. The AFP implements the TLPDP in cooperation with the Policia Nacional de Timor-Leste (PNTL). The Timor Leste Police Development Program (TLPDP) has been working with the PNTL in Timor-Leste since 2004. The partnership program is currently in its 5th phase of operation covering 2023-2028.

91. TLPDP's priority areas of focus for PNTL include support across the key thematic areas of:
- Operational command, humanitarian and disaster response, maritime and border security.
 - Community policing - including training, management and development, and women and children's safety.
 - Enabling police capability – including through ICT related support, investigations, intelligence, cyber, forensics and support to corporate and enabling services (Human Resources and Finance).

Recent achievements:

92. TLPDP extended the PNTL digital radio network covering central municipalities across Timor-Leste to enhance PNTL communications. This work is ongoing and on track deliver a national radio communications capability.
93. Innovation in Forensics has delivered a sustainable and local forensic chemical production technique for fingerprint analysis.
94. The AFP is delivering improved CCTV capability for the PNTL in Dili to enhance community safety and security.
95. TLPDP assists the PNTL investigate gender-based violence, including supporting the recent conviction of an Australian national for child sex offences in Timor-Leste.