

Recommendations of the mid-term review of the Solomon Islands Justice Program for 2015-17 and Post 2017

Rec. #	Recommendations of the review for 2015-17	DFAT's Responses	Next Steps	Timeframe
1	DFAT should further develop its policy engagement with SIG, based on mutual accountability and clarity about respective donor and government roles. In the long term it should aim to support SIG to develop its own vision and long-term objectives for the sector.	Agree	Building on the whole of sector discussions that have been undertaken on implementation of the MTR recommendations, work together with SIG on a) a common workplan of sectoral priorities for SIG, within which those to be supported by SIJP are identified; b) how to allocate the resources available under the program to support their shared sectoral priorities and c) commence discussion on performance benchmarks and identify three initial benchmarks and agreement on how to measure them.	Underway
2	SIJP should allocate resources in line with the original focus proposed for the program in the formal justice sector. This includes increased focus on services to people in the rural areas, alongside ongoing support to central law and justice agencies.	Agree	<p>The proposed SIJP adviser model includes a Provincial Outreach Coordinator (locally engaged) for reach into the provincial areas to support functionality of magistrates courts in provincial areas newly outposted magistrates.</p> <p>Other advisors will focus efforts on improving the functioning of the magistrates court outside Honiara,</p>	<p>February 2016</p> <p>January 2016</p>

			including increasing circuit court sitting days. Performance benchmarks will be targeted here also	Dialogue to commence December 2015
3	<p>SIJP should develop a targeted and informed change strategy that focuses on mobilising local stakeholders to solve problems. In particular, SIJP needs to broaden its approach from a largely technical perspective to incorporate a more politically informed and problem-focused approach. This is in line with recent research on effective law and justice support, While this should clearly be developed in ways which are appropriate to Solomon Islands context, it is likely to include the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Identification of champions and change agents and increased cooperation with them, b. Limited work with institutions especially where there are neither change agents nor opportunities to achieve change at this time, c. Active identification of opportunities and situations where change can be triggered and a shift to resource these, d. A focus on problem-solving to achieve service outcomes, e. Systems which are developed from local experience, reflecting local problem solving. 	Agree	<p>Obtain an agreement with SIG for a greater proportion of advisors not to be attached to one agency, but in a pool that works across the sector with the capacity to evolve work plans regularly to respond to emerging issues, in problem focused work, with reduced investments on an institution by institution level. This will allow the advisors to work flexibly on emerging issues with champions as they emerge etc.</p> <p>This will include expanded out-reach to private sector in addition to government lawyers, with new partnerships for example with the Solomon Islands Bar Association.</p> <p>Opportunities will be sought to work with relevant and appropriate other partners that can support change or provide solutions. For example Transparency Solomon Islands to</p>	<p>Agreement with SIG made. Transition to new advisor structure commences in January 2016.</p>

			undertake court monitoring; Family Support Centre to expand services available to victims of family violence.	
4	Tighter systems should be introduced to accompany the existing technical adviser of the adviser work against terms of reference. Terms of reference should be redeveloped to support the revised objectives of the program.	Agree	The Team Leader will have new systems introduced to improve the process for agreeing terms of reference, outcomes and timeframes for advisors	January 2016
5	An exit plan should be developed for all technical advisers, with an understanding that where they serve either as an in-line or central role, discussions begin around how SIG will maintain that role post-2017. Given that DFAT is committed to maintaining basic functionality in the justice system in the immediate future, it is further recommended that in development of these exit plans, particular attention is given to adviser positions in the Magistrate's Courts, Office of the Director Public Prosecutions and the Public Solicitor Office.	Partially agree	This is recognised as a long term goal. The current proposed approach is an initial step towards this goal - This will provide technical advisers to work across the sector on common priorities areas such as finance and procurement, human resources and infrastructure.	January 2016 through to the end of SIJP
6	In line with the focus on service delivery, a more deliberate strategy of engagement in rural areas should be developed, alongside the community officer program that will be delivered by the World Bank.	Agree	As per recommendation 2 the provincial outreach coordinator will have a role in trialling. The Community and Governance and Grievance Management Project (J4P) delivered by World Bank project is at start up phase in in Makira and Rennell, with a plan to will expand to two further provinces in 2016.	January 2016

7	The ongoing support for the RSIPF will be decided in due course, but SIJP should further develop working relationships with police, based around agreed project areas such as attention to family violence and the community officers program.	Agree	Closer liaison with RAMSI and RSIPF on shared priorities Support the organisation and running of a workshop focused on implementing the Family Protection Act to be run by Police Commissioner	Underway Underway
8	As SIJP seeks to move forward with a new approach, it should collaborate with DFAT sector programs, particularly gender, health and governance, in order to increase impact and demonstrate to SIG the value of collaboration across sectors and skills sets.	Agree	Start with SIGOV and gender. The new DFAT structure and introduction of DFAT team leader will assist. J4P can trial efforts with health and education Look beyond that in 2016.	Underway
9	Action research approach should be instigated to accompany the program in order to address ongoing performance assessment and learning needs.	Agree	Recruit and M&E advisor to support the program collect evidence and tell a story about the impact of the program and to support SIG.	January 2016
	Recommendations for 2017 and beyond	DFAT's Responses	Next Steps	Timeframe
10	Construct an overall strategy for future work in the law and justice sector which addresses the complementary roles of support to the police alongside support to legal institutions and service delivery.	Agree	For completion as part of the design for the next phase of support.	2016
11	Underpinning the strategy, include a detailed program design that articulates the Australian contribution to law and justice service delivery and to good governance through improved law and justice institutions and systems.	Agree	For completion as part of the design for the next phase of support.	2016

12	Implementation mechanisms for future programming should maximise the opportunity for effective policy engagement and for politically informed and technically feasible, approach. They should be flexible and able to operate in a responsive and timely manner in what is likely to be an on-going dynamic and complex context. An iterative approach to program assessment ought to accompany these implementation mechanisms.	Agree	For consideration as part of the design for the next phase of support, following trials undertaken of this approach over the remainder of the current phase.	2016
13	Future programs should, as far as possible, utilise Solomon Islands resources for advice and technical inputs rather than import this expertise from outside the country.	Agree	For inclusion in next design phase and the TA model/inputs planned.	2016
14	While maintaining some on-going work with central law and justice institutions, future programs should increasingly focus on service delivery in provincial and rural areas.	Undecided	For consideration as part of the design for the next phase of support, following trials undertaken of this approach over the remainder of the current phase.	2016
15	In order to increase impact, future programs should work proactively with other DFAT sectors, focusing on how law and justice issues underpinned service delivery and good governance across all areas of the Australian aid program.	Agree	For consideration as part of the design for the next phase of support.	2016
16	In cooperation with ongoing DFAT support to good (or 'good enough') governance and in line with Australian policy, future programs ought to give attention to the interaction of law and justice and corruption.	For future design	For consideration as part of the design for the next phase of support. Commencing late 2015 support to PMO and the establishment of a SIICAC.	2015 and 2016
17	Ensure a strong and active communication strategy accompanies future programming.	Agree	For development as part of the design for the next phase of support.	2016