

South Pacific Chiefs of Police Conference Women's Advisory Network

During the inaugural meeting in Fiji, the South Pacific Chiefs of Police Conference Women's Advisory Network (SPCPC-WAN) formulated a business plan that was presented and endorsed at the 32nd SPCPC in Brisbane in November 2003.

The SPCPC-WAN business plan demonstrates how a women's advisory network can foster the contribution of women in policing and provide timely and effective advice to the respective Commissioners and the conference in relation to issues impacting on women in policing in our region. Network participants have taken a number of steps to meet the goals set out in the plan.

The South Pacific Chiefs of Police Conference also supported the network using the South Pacific Law Enforcement Xtra net (SPLEXNet) computer system to assist in communication among network members. AFP Data Communications and AFP Regional Desk Pacific are continuing to coordinate the connection of all network members to e-mail facilities and a Discussion Board on SPLEXNet with the long-term aim of developing a website for SPCPC-WAN.

The network has now been established in the seven countries of the delegates who attended the Fiji forum when the network was introduced as a pilot. Representatives from Fiji, Tonga, Vanuatu, Samoa, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Cook Islands have started work on establishing local networks in each police service. Meetings have been held to raise awareness about the network, its role and its business plan as well as the development of local action plans. Further, benchmarking activities have been conducted and a survey is being distributed to ascertain further information on the status of women in policing to allow for timely advice to the SPCPC in 2004. It is hoped SPCPC-WAN will be expanded in the future to encompass other Pacific Island countries.

SPCPC-WAN members recognise the importance of a collaborative approach, and the network has started exploring partnerships with other networks such as the AFP National Women's Consultative Team (NWCT). The network will participate at the 2005 Improving Policing for Women in the Asia Pacific Region conference in Darwin, which will raise the profile of the network and of the progress and developments in regional policing.

SPCPC-WAN has been invited to present a progress report on the networks activities to the SPCPC 2004 in Tonga later in the year.



Photo by Brian Hartigan

SPCPC–WAN Strategic Plan 2004-2007

Goal 1: Foster a culture of absolute integrity for all Pacific police officers

Strategy: Encourage police services to value the contribution an individual can bring to Pacific Policing.

Action: Use local networks to examine recruitment and retention issues for women in policing.

Action: Identify practices and protocols within police services that may inhibit women's contributions to policing

Result: SPCPC–WAN to provide advice in its report to the 33rd SPCPC in relation to factors impacting on the recruitment and retention of women in policing.

Goal 2: Foster and facilitate communication, cooperation and collaboration to build effective relationships between police services in the Pacific Region

Strategy: Enhance communication in the Pacific Region to build effective relationships between women police officers in the region.

Action: Establish a mutually beneficial network among women police officers in the Pacific Region.

Action: Develop reporting protocols to enable the provision of advice to the SPCPC in relation to issues impacting on women in policing.

Result: Shared information supports SPCPC Strategic Plan and builds effective relationships between Pacific Island Police Services.

Goal 3: Promote capacity building measures for Pacific police services to deliver an effective community policing service

Strategy: Assist Police Chiefs to maximise the capacity within policing to effectively serve Pacific Region communities.

Action: Use local women's networks to benchmark women-in-policing issues in the Pacific Region.

Action: SPCPC–WAN to provide advice to the SPCPC in relation to staffing and employment of women in policing.

Result: Police services improve community service and strive to achieve best practice.



Photo by Brian Hartigan

Chief Superintendent Anne Dellaca, Provincial Policing—RAMSI (left), and Federal Agent Gerry Morris, Pacific Island Liaison Officer, join members of the Royal Solomon Islands Police Women's Network at a meeting in Honaria on 26 April 2004. Two photos supplied by Federal Agent Gerry Morris were digitally merged.

