



Pacific Drug and Alcohol Research Network

A Report from the 2nd Regional Workshop

17 – 20 July, 2006

Lautoka, Fiji

Report date: July 27, 2006



AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DRUGS



Australian Government
AusAID

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Pacific Drug and Alcohol Research Network (PDARN) acknowledges the funding and support provided by the Australian National Council on Drugs and AusAID that enabled participants from across the region to attend this meeting. We would also like to thank the Burnet Institute's Centre for Harm Reduction for organising the meeting, for the encouragement and support provided to participants, and their ongoing involvement as the Secretariat of the PDARN. We finally wish to thank our friends from the Pacific for their contributions, warm hospitality and conviction to develop the potential of the network.

Vinaka Vakalevu



TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>OVERVIEW</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>KEY AIMS OF THE NETWORK</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>BACKGROUND</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>OUTCOMES</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>FUTURE ACTIONS</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>CONCLUDING REMARKS</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>ANNEX 1 LIST OF PARTICIPANTS</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>ANNEX 2 MEETING AGENDA</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>ANNEX 3 PRIORITY RESEARCH QUESTIONS</i>	<i>22</i>

OVERVIEW

The social, economic, health and political impact on development of both licit and illicit drug use (including alcohol) are well documented, as are the links with poverty and social deprivation. In order to develop appropriate responses and policies we need good empirical and epidemiological research data. The second meeting of the Pacific Drug and Alcohol Research Network (PDARN) brought together representatives from ministries of health, law enforcement agencies, community based organisations, regional funding bodies, research and education institutions to further explore these issues in the wider context of the Pacific, where the problems are tangible, yet the research-base is limited.

The meeting brought together delegates from across the region, to share their experiences and provide a personal perspective of the issues faced in their respective homelands. The introduction of new members (and countries) to the network contributed to a broad base of understanding from which comparisons and contrasts of regional issues could be made. Throughout the meeting, participants were able to relate the costs to health and society, and the emergence of risks such as the spread of HIV, to the growing use and abuse of drugs and alcohol. In conjunction with this, all participants agreed on the importance of understanding and incorporating traditional culture and approaches in the development of responses to local needs, and that participatory engagement with our partners and local communities was fundamental to the manner in which we act as both researchers and advocates.

Deliberations among the delegates resulted in the articulation of coherent and achievable strategies for the network to promote relevant and important applied research projects. There was confirmation of the need to encourage multi-sectoral and inter-disciplinary research collaborations, and ultimately (through applied research) improve the understanding of drug and alcohol use in the Pacific and construct effective and targeted responses at the level of both policy and practice.

In recognition of the impact of alcohol on health and society in the Pacific, it was agreed during the Fiji workshop that the network be named from henceforth as the Pacific Drug and Alcohol Research Network (PDARN).

Members were imbued with both a sense of urgency to develop a greater depth of understanding of the impact of drug and alcohol use in the region, and a commitment to pursue the aims of the network, as noted below. The members also determined that the collective views of the PDARN should be represented as resolutions, expressing the underlying philosophy of the network and our position on key emerging issues.

KEY AIMS OF THE NETWORK

1. *Create opportunities for inter-disciplinary and multi-method social science research in the Pasifika on licit and illicit drug and alcohol use and to broaden the constituency of the PDARN.*
2. *Develop research capacity in the Pasifika and create academic, civil society and professional research collaboration.*
3. *Create sustainable research partnerships between government agencies, community bodies and others interested in topics related to licit and illicit drug and alcohol use issues.*
4. *Develop substantive research proposals and seek appropriate funding.*
5. *Develop a research evidence base to inform policy and practice in the Pasifika.*
6. *Use a range of web-based and other technologies to expand and explore the potential of PDARN.*

BACKGROUND

In 2005, the Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD) commissioned a "Situational analysis of illicit drug issues and responses in Asia and the Pacific." This recently released report noted the dearth of drug-related research in the Pacific. The report focused on drug patterns and epidemiology in Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu and the country responses to drug use, including: international convention adherence, illicit drug policy, law enforcement, and treatment and services. The review found that there are limited data available to assist in understanding illicit drug use and the harms associated with its use in the Pacific.

In response to initial findings and recommendations of this report, the Pacific Drug Research Network (PDRN) was formed to bring together researchers and others interested in this field, in order to develop research ideas and proposals that would contribute to filling the identified gaps. A small grant was obtained from the Australian Research Council to hold the inaugural meeting. This took place in Melbourne in September 2005, with research and health representatives from Fiji and the Pacific, as well the ANCD, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and Australian academics.

The main points to emerge from the first PDRN meeting were:

- the need for strategic alcohol and drug research in the Pacific region
- the connection between risky sexual behaviours, drug use, and HIV
- the impact of cannabis use and on mental health
- the impact of drug and alcohol use on sexual health
- the need for harm reduction interventions
- the concern that the Pacific region may follow the trend in Asia towards methamphetamine production and use

A substantive output of the meeting was the development of a research proposal to conduct rapid assessments of drug and alcohol use and its impact, consequences and response, at three sites in Papua New Guinea. This research activity is being implemented in 2006 through a collaboration between the PNG Department of Mental Health Services, HELP Resources (a local NGO based in the province of Wewak), and the Burnet Institute's Centre for Harm Reduction. The research is supported by the AusAID funded PNG National HIV/AIDS Support Project.

The decision to hold a second meeting in Fiji was taken in order to build on the deliberations and recommendations of the first meeting, to include broader representation of researchers and others from other Pacific islands, and to develop a strategy for augmenting and improving applied research into the epidemiology and consequences of drug and alcohol use. The meeting aimed to identify substantive research questions to help address problems linked to drug use, encourage networking amongst the Pacific research community, as well as linking individuals with the broader international research community.

A number of objectives were outlined for the meeting which provided a guide to the direction of the deliberations and identified potential tangible outcomes for the workshop.

Objectives of the Workshop

1. Produce a draft research proposal or outline that reflects the current state of research in the respective country and focuses on a priority research and development issue related to the use of licit or illicit drugs.
2. Identify potential funding sources that are local, national, regional or international.
3. Develop a realistic timeline for submitting the research proposal, with milestones and objectives.
4. Identify academic, organisational, community-based and government partners to promote research, health promotion and academic activities.
5. Commit to exploring integrating existing, or creating new, country level Drug Research Networks.
6. Agree upon priorities and ways forward for the PDRN.
7. Seek local funding opportunities to sustain the PDRN and its activities.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

The first day was dedicated to presentations from the participants. These sessions allowed the group to gain an understanding of the issues faced by each country. They also allowed a sharing of information across sectors, bringing together different perspectives of the same issue (e.g. law enforcement and treatment providers). A summary of some of the main issues discussed during the workshop is included below. Annex 3 draws from these discussions, detailing the list of identified research questions which arose and consideration of the issues at hand and how they may be better understood.

Patterns of Use

- The high prevalence of alcohol and marijuana use was noted as a common theme by all participants.
- Seizure data pointed to a significant increase in the trafficking of Amphetamine Type Substances (ATS). This activity was recognised as a precursor to the growth of ATS use in the community.
- There is a disproportionate representation of youth in the statistics pertaining to drug and alcohol use.

Impacts

- International surveys are beginning to recognise the high health, legal and social costs of alcohol and drug use – there is a need to define and describe these. This could be accomplished as part of collaborative, multi-country studies.

Policy and Legislation

- There is a distinct lack of data which is inhibiting effective advocacy.
- There remains a serious void of policies and enabling legislation (for prosecution and protection). These are slowly being addressed, but need considered support from government and community organisations.
- There is a move to develop regional and global policies by the World Health Organisation.
- Free trade agreements such as the Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement (PICTA) have the potential to undermine existing local regulation of alcohol access and marketing. Ministries of Trade and Health need to be aware of the potential ramifications of such agreements and means of addressing these concerns.

Government and Donor Priorities

- Commitment to fund activities and research in the region highlights that problematic alcohol and drug use is becoming a regional concern to governments and funding agencies.
- Competing priorities within health systems coupled with limited budgets often result in limited user specific services being available.
- There is a need to develop support for allocation of funding from both governments and donors through bi-lateral or other funding mechanisms.

Cultural and Social Influences

- We all need to be aware of the importance of recognising the social and cultural determinants of behaviour.
- We need to investigate these phenomena as part of our knowledge gathering.
- It is essential that we identify traditional approaches /coping strategies and incorporate these, where appropriate, into the implementation of applied research.

Current Research

- The Papua New Guinea situational assessment of the risk factors for HIV associated with the use of drugs and alcohol is a research model that could be adopted and adapted by members of the network.
- When considering potential research activity, we need to look at the possibility of complementing current activities. (e.g. Traffic Related Injury in the Pacific project – Welcome Trust).

Funding Opportunities

- A variety of funding source need to be accessed to provide sufficient resources to both develop research activities and build local research capacity.

University of the South Pacific: internal research funds and seed money for collaborative research may be available. The development planning office may also provide a link to U.S. based funds.

Pacific Regional HIV Project: competitive grants are available for projects relevant to developing knowledge specific to HIV and STI.

U.S. funding: NIDA and CDC should be reviewed for their potential.

AusAID: Potential within the country program budgets and the Pacific Health Fund.

Health Research Council, New Zealand: Funds are allocated to Pacific Health Research, predominantly New Zealand based but also available to the Pacific countries.

Fiji School of Medicine: Institute of Pacific Health Research.

Australian Research Council: Linkage funds available to complement research activities with inputs from Australian-based academics and researchers.

Role of the Network

- A primary function is to support communication between members to facilitate the implementation of research activities and the sharing of results.
- The establishment of the PDARN provides the opportunity to present a consensus view of the members regarding issues of importance and relevance.

Membership

- Membership will be open to all interested parties.
- Inclusion of a range of representatives from the region is encouraged, particularly the inclusion of Micronesia (not yet represented).

OUTCOMES

Strategies for Research Development

1. There was a consensus on the need for an in-depth Pacific-wide mapping exercise/gaps analysis on existing research, policy and intervention around drugs, alcohol and tobacco.
2. Explore the potential for a school survey of drug and alcohol use along the lines of the European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Drugs (ESPAD).
3. Assess the option of a three or more country framework for investigating the health, legal and social costs of alcohol use (Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Solomon Islands, New Zealand).
4. A wide range of potential research questions were discussed in the meeting for individual members to pursue as the opportunities arise.

Administration

The growth of the network, accompanied by the ongoing definition of roles and functions, of its members presents the opportunity to establish the loci of drive and management with the Pacific members. This role has largely been assumed to date by the Burnet Institute Centre for Harm Reduction.

As an end goal, Pacific based ownership and management of the PDARN was agreed to by the members. However, it was also noted that the network remains in its infancy. To ensure that the network continues to flourish, the group decided that in the interim, a collective approach to management would be adopted.

It was agreed that the Burnet Institute would continue in its role as the PDARN secretariat. In support of the secretariat, a steering committee has been formed to assist with the tasks of extending the network's membership, investigating funding opportunities and organising the next annual meeting in 2007. The committee members are:

Litiana Kuridrani	Fiji School of Medicine
Betty Koka	PNG Department of Health
Shaun Liddell	Centre for Harm Reduction
Tommy Alefaio	Tuvalu Seafarer's Union
Sarah Asi Faletoese	Samoa Ministry of Health

A terms of reference for the committee will be developed in due course. A review of this approach and the composition of the committee will occur at the next annual meeting.

A Voice for the Network

The need to maintain effective communication among members and provide open access to relevant reports and documentation is pivotal to the functioning of the network and broad engagement with the international research community. Recent restructuring of the University of the South Pacific is being accompanied by a shift to greater access of internet based tuition. Given this move, it was proposed that the USP Faculty of Arts and Law may be an ideal site for hosting the networking and communication functions of the PDARN, such as an e-forum for discussion and a document clearing house. This possibility will be investigated along with an assessment of the cost of maintaining this function; a cost that will need to be factored into fund raising activities for the PDARN.

Funding

Maintenance of the function of the PDARN has largely been driven by the commitment of the members to realise its aims and to nurture the network to a fully functional state. There are, however, recognised costs that need to be covered, including the establishment of an effective and attractive communications tool and the gathering together of members at the currently agreed annual meeting. The network acknowledges the generous support of donors to date, including the Australian Research Council, the Australian National Council on Drugs and AusAID. Network members have agreed to investigate options for future funding from our current partners, in addition to other funding agencies. In time, it is hoped that the member governments will also see the benefit in contributing to the development of this network.

Resolutions

Voices and viewpoints on issues pertaining to alcohol and drug use in the Pacific are many and varied. As a collective of academics and professionals engaged in this arena, it was deemed appropriate that the network present its collectively agreed position on issues of importance. These views are represented as resolutions below. In addition, the PDARN has defined a number of governing resolutions, expressing the underlying philosophy of the network's activity.

GOVERNING RESOLUTIONS

The PDARN recognises that alcohol and other drug issues can play a significant role in undermining Pacific Island national security, governance and development. Accordingly, measuring, understanding and addressing alcohol and other drug impacts is a clear development priority for the Pacific Islands.

The PDARN promotes an integrated approach to harm minimisation (encompassing supply, demand and harm reduction) and recognises its value as a public health framework for research and intervention development.

The PDARN encourages a multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary approach to research, development and programming.

The PDARN affirms that effective policy and programming requires an evidence base, and that developing relevant evidence bases is an important investment priority.

EMERGING ISSUES RESOLUTIONS

The PDARN welcomes the Draft WHO Western Pacific Regional Alcohol Strategy developed for consideration at the 2006 Regional Committee Meeting and urges Ministers of Health to adopt this Strategy in its current form.

The Meeting participants particularly applauded the reference in the policy to evidence based strategies of taxation, and statutory restrictions on availability and marketing, and also applaud the acknowledgement in the Draft Strategy of the need to recognize the public health implications of economic and trade agreements.

The PDARN urges Ministers of Health to ensure that a resolution is passed at the World Health Assembly in May 2007 which recognizes the severe problems from alcohol in the Pacific region and empowers and supports governments in the development of public health policies free from commercial influence and in undertaking effective action to reduce rates of alcohol related harm.

The PDARN recognizes that alcohol and tobacco are commodities which cause serious health and social harm. This needs to be recognized when governments negotiate trade agreements such as PICTA. We acknowledge the concern expressed by Ministers of Health and the decision taken by the Ministers of Trade to exclude alcohol and tobacco from PICTA. We urge governments to continue this exclusion when it comes up for consideration in 2007.

The views and positions expressed above are as agreed upon by the attending members of the Pacific Drug and Alcohol Research Network (PDARN) during the course of the 4 day workshop held 17-20 July 2006, Nadi, Fiji. As such, they do not necessarily represent the views or position of the organisations represented, our supporting partners or donors.

FUTURE ACTIONS

Following from the discussions a number of actions have been identified:

- Widening of the network is essential to encompass the wide ranging issues facing the Pacific. In particular, the identification and inclusion of delegates from Micronesia is noted as a priority action. Dr Kuridrani, Dr Yeates and Sarah Fauonuku will be responsible for this action. As an initial reference group, further contact will be made with the Pacific Health Research Council.

- In-country research network networks need to be developed. The responsibility for this will lie with the individual members. Focal points for this activity are:

Papua New Guinea	Dr Betty Koka
Samoa	Sarah Fauonuku
Tonga	Dorothy
Tuvalu	Tommy Alefaio
Solomon Islands	William Same
Fiji	Litiana Kuridrani
Vanuatu	Marina Laklotal (to be confirmed)

- Discussions will be held with the University of the South Pacific Faculty of Arts and Law to determine the viability of hosting the networking and communication function of the PDARN. Dr Bruce Yeates will facilitate these discussions.

- Potential sources of funding to maintain the function of the network and conduct specific activities will be investigated by members.

New Zealand Health Research Council	Sally Casswell
NZ AID and the South Pacific Commission	Shaun Evans
AusAID	Ili Neitoga
ANCD (regional mapping / gap analysis)	Gino Vumbaca
Other	All members

- Fiji is to be the site of the next meeting to be held in 2007. Organisation of the meeting will be shared among the steering committee members as appropriate.

- The inclusion of tobacco as a point of focus in addition to drugs and alcohol will be considered by the group at the next network meeting in 2007.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Many of the problems highlighted during the course of the workshop are not new - domestic violence, teenage pregnancy, mental illness. The Pacific nations are also not immune to relatively new trends – drug injecting, amphetamine use, and the risk of HIV transmission. As researchers we are aware of the multi-dimensional nature of factors that can culminate in harmful consequences and risks associated with drug and alcohol use. To address these risks, we need not only to understand the complex individual, social, economic and environmental factors that underpin them, but also to recognise the strengths within the community that can aid a response to them.

The main aim of the Pacific Drug and Alcohol Research Network is to provide a sound evidence base and research capacity to address the problems of drug and alcohol use in the region. Furthermore, from a foundation of understanding and respect, we aim to work alongside government agencies, the private and public sector, faith and community based organisations, to enable people to strengthen their communities and respond to the challenges resulting from drug and alcohol use.

ANNEX 1 LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Mr Gino Vumbaca, ANCD Secretariat

Gino Vumbaca has extensive experience in the HIV/AIDS and drug and alcohol fields both in Australia and internationally. He is a Churchill Fellow and has completed a Social Work degree and a Masters of Business Administration at the University of Sydney. He has worked as the Manager of HIV/AIDS and related services with the NSW Department of Corrective Services, in a variety of drug and alcohol centres as a counsellor and was responsible for co-ordinating the establishment of the NSW network of needle and syringe exchange programs for the NSW Health Department. Mr Vumbaca also continues to provide advice on prisons, HIV and drug issues for international organisations such as the UN and WHO.

Ms Ili Neitoga, AusAID

Ili Neitoga is an employee of AusAID as the Program Manager for Health, HIV/AIDS. She obtained a BSc Environmental Science Degree from the University of the South Pacific and has worked as the National Climate Change Coordinator for the Department of Environment. This work involved managing a Canadian Funded Project dealing with Climate Change and Adaptation in the South Pacific. Her current position involves managing the Regional HIV/AIDS project which looks after the 14 Pacific Island Countries as well as a bilateral program (Fiji Health Sector Improvement Program) that sits with the Ministry of Health.

Prof Robert Power, Centre for Harm Reduction

Director of the Centre for Harm Reduction at the Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health in Melbourne, Australia. Robert has worked in the field of harm reduction since 1985. Until March 2005 he held the position of Reader in Social & Health Sciences Research at the Royal Free & University College Medical School, University College London. He continues involvement with research and development programs to prevent HIV transmission among injecting drug users in Central Asia, South East Asia and China and adolescent reproductive health projects in Zimbabwe.

Ms Litiana Kuridrani, Fiji School of Medicine

Litiana Kuridrani is a PhD student at Curtin University, School of Public Health, Perth WA. She has a MBA, PG Diploma in Social Policy Admin, PG Diploma in BA (HRM), PG Cert; PH, BA Management/Sociology (double major), FRNOB. Litiana is Assistant Head of School Administration, focal point for Health Services Management at the School of Public Health & Primary Care, Fiji School of Medicine. She is a community advocate for HIV prevention and control working closely with community youth groups and NGO's. She is also Chairperson of the National Community Development sub committee of the National Health Promotion Centre and Chairperson of the Traditional Women's Association for Natural Medicinal therapy.

Mr Tommy Alefaio, Tuvalu Overseas Seamen's Union

Tommy Alefaio is the General Secretary of the Tuvalu Overseas Seamen's Union (TOSU), a director on the Tuvalu Maritime Training Institute (TMTI) Board of Directors and a member of the Tuvalu National AIDS Committee (TuNAC). The TOSU is affiliated to the Tuvalu Association of NGOs (TANGO) and maintains significant involvement in national issues related to seafarers, AIDS and NGOs in Tuvalu. Mr Alefaio coordinated a Drugs and Alcohol Awareness Programme for Tuvaluan seafarers in 2002-03 with funding assistance from the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF).

Mr Shaun Evans, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

Shaun Evans, Law Enforcement Adviser, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), based in Suva, Fiji Islands. Shaun has been with the PIFS for the last 6 1/2 years and is involved with the provision of policy, the drafting of regional model legislation e.g. Illicit Drug Control, implementation support and the coordination of training in all areas of Trans-national and National Organised crime.

Ms. Sarah Asi Faletosee

Sarah Faletosee is a graduate from the University of the South Pacific in Fiji. Her background is Bachelor of Arts in History Politics and Sociology and will commence her Masters in Health Services Management, at the UNSW, Australia, in 2007. Sarah used to work with the Samoa Ministry of Internal Affairs as a Research Officer until 2001 when she started working with the Ministry of Health as the Principal Health Planner (Health Planning Section Head). Ms. Faletosee is directly involved with the Health Sector Reform Program which includes the review of the National Drugs Policy and Plan of Action for Samoa. Sarah is also the focal point for national health services planning, health sector planning and MOH corporate planning. She is one of the high chiefs in her mother's village Safotu at our other main Island, Savaii. She is actively involved with assisting students with their research. Sarah is also a member of many National Committees such as the CEDAW, CRC, National Planning, as well as a full and active member of the Samoa AIDS Foundation.

Ms Dorothy Fauonuku, Alcohol and Drug Awareness Centre, Tonga

Dorothy Fauonuku is the Team Leader at Alcohol and Drug Awareness Centre (ADAC). As such she co-ordinates the centre's activities and gives leadership to the team comprising of one other full time counsellor and a volunteer. Dorothy also carries a client caseload. She is also active on a number of committees in Tonga focussed on smoking cessation and services to the women of Tonga..

Mr Moses Ibsagi, Pacific Trans-national Crime Coordination Centre

Moses Ibsagi is a Detective Inspector of the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary. He has been a member of the constabulary for 21 years and during that time spent 12 years in Drug enforcement and 2 years as the officer in Charge of the PNG Trans-national Crime Unit. In May of 2006 he was appointed Team Leader of the Trans-national Crime Coordination Centre in Fiji.

Dr Betty Koka, Department of Mental Health Services, Papua New Guinea

Betty Koka has a Diploma in Applied Health Science, a Master of Science, and a Doctorate in Public Health. She has worked in the Health department of PNG for 21 years now, 13 of which is with Social Change and Mental Health Services, which also includes, alcohol and drug programs, and Traditional Medicine. She is also a visiting fellow with the Illawarra Institute for Mental Health, University of Wollongong. Betty is the national project coordinator for a three site social research project investigating drug and alcohol use in PNG (funded by AusAID). The project aims to inform the development of community based interventions to reduce associated harms.

Mr. William Same, Integrated Mental Health Services, Ministry of Health, Solomon Islands

William Same is the Director of Integrated Mental Health Services in Solomon Islands. He started his professional career as general nurse posted to many rural health clinics in the country. He has gained considerable experience in the community spending sixteen years

as Registered Psychiatric Nurse. He has held senior posts including Assistance Nursing Officer (Mental Health), Senior Nursing Officer (Mental Health), Principal Nursing Officer (mental Health) and Chief Nursing Officer (Mental Health). Mr Same holds a General Registered Nurse Certificate, Post Basic Psychiatric Certificate (College of Allied Health Science, PNG), Post Graduate Diploma in Nursing, Specialized in Mental Health, Queensland University of Technology, and Master Degree in Nursing, specialized in Mental Health from the Queensland University of Technology, Australia.

Mr Jeremaia Tagutu, National Substance Abuse Advisory Council (NSAAC), Fiji

Jeremaia Tagutu joined the National Substance Abuse Advisory Council in 2004 and works as a Research Officer/ Acting Health Education Officer. He has previously worked as a lecturer in Biochemistry at Fiji School of Medicine (6 years), and for the Sugar Cane Research Centre as a Scientific Officer (3years) where I was in charge of the chemistry laboratory. He graduated from the University of Auckland with a Bachelor of Science with majors in biochemistry and pharmacology. He also holds a Post Graduate Diploma in Science from the University of Auckland (Biological Sciences) and a Master of Science in Biotechnology from the University of New South Wales.

Mr. Makiva Tuni, Solomon Islands Medical Training and Research Institute (SIMTRI)

Makiva Tuni (MPH, UQ, 2003 Australia , D.A.P.E , IMR,1998 Malaysia , BSc 1996, UPNG, Papua New Guinea) is a senior Health Research Officer for the National Health Training and Research Department, Solomon Islands Medical Training and Research Institute (SIMTRI) based in Honiara. He joined in the institute in 1997. He has been actively involved in disease control, particularly as it relate to malaria in Solomon Islands, where it is a major problem. Makiva has a long term commitment to health research and approaches to improvement in Public Health particularly in Solomon Islands. Makiva has also acted as secretary for the newly established National Health research Ethics Committee and a Focal Point for the Pacific health Research Council in Solomon Islands.

Mr Robert Verebasaga, Pacific Regional HIV Project (PRHP)

Robert Verebasaga is a Project Officer with the Pacific Regional HIV Project, an Australian government, French government and New Zealand government funded project. Robert has worked in HIV/ AIDS and Lifeskills program in the Pacific in the last 13 years. He was involved in Peer education program, Community HIV programs working particularly with rural communities, prison, military and vulnerable groups such as sex workers and MSM. Robert was also involved in conducting an MSM research in the Pacific and also providing capacity building of NGOs to respond to HIV in their countries.

Prof. Robin Room, Turning Point

Robin Room grew up in Sydney and received his higher education in the U.S., with a PhD in sociology from the University of California, Berkeley. He was the Scientific Director of the Alcohol Research Group in Berkeley, a U.S. National Alcohol Research Center, from 1977 to 1991, and then the Vice-President for Research at the Addiction Research Foundation of Ontario, Canada, from 1991 to 1998. In 1999 he was appointed as a professor and the founding director of the Centre for Social Research on Alcohol and Drugs at Stockholm University. In March, 2006, he became Professor of Alcohol Policy Research at the School of Population Health of the University of Melbourne and the Director of the Centre for Alcohol Policy Research at Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre. He has worked on social, cultural and epidemiological studies of alcohol, drugs and gambling behaviour and problems, and studies of social responses to alcohol and drug problems and of the effects of policy changes. Among his awards is the Jellinek Memorial Award for Alcohol Studies.

Prof. Sally Casswell, Centre for Social and Health Outcomes Research and Evaluation (SHORE), New Zealand

Sally Casswell is Professor of Social and Health Research and the Director of the Centre for Social and Health Outcome Research and Evaluation (SHORE) at Massey University. Her research interests are in social and public health policy, particularly in relation to alcohol and other drugs. She has carried out research on the development and implementation of healthy public policy at the national and community level and in the evaluation of these initiatives. This has included work in the development and evaluation of mass media campaigns designed for health promotion purposes, and research on commercial marketing of alcohol products.

Dr. Bruce Yeates, School of Social Sciences, University of the South Pacific

Bruce Yeates is the foundation Head of School of Social Sciences, Faculty of Arts and Law, The University of the South Pacific. He has a BA, M.A, M.Div. and PhD. He was the Dean Faculty of Arts and Senior Lecturer in Social Work at the University of Papua New Guinea. Bruce is developing the Social Work programme at USP to be introduced in 2007. He has a particular interest in spirituality and social work and healing and reconciliation processes.

Mr Shaun Liddell, Centre for Harm Reduction

Shaun Liddell joined the Burnet Institute in March 2006. He is the Melbourne based contact point for Burnet Indonesia's harm reduction program activities and a number of research projects investigating the impacts of drugs and drug use at a community level. For the previous 3 years he has been providing technical and administrative support to the Papua New Guinea National HIV/AIDS Support Project (funded by AusAID) and working with implementing agencies to mainstream HIV and AIDS initiatives within law and justice and agricultural development assistance programs. Shaun is undertaking a Master of Public Health at Monash University and maintains a particular interest in the area of juvenile and restorative justice and post-release support.

ANNEX 2 MEETING AGENDA

Day 1 - Monday 17 July

8.30 am	Ms Litiana Kuridrani Fiji School of Medicine	Welcome
	Timothy Powell Centre for Harm Reduction	House Keeping
8.45 am	All	Introductions
Presentations: Workshop Overview and Background Facilitated by Robert Verebasaga		
9.15 am	Prof Robert Power Centre for Harm Reduction	Aims and objectives of the workshop
9.30 am	Ms Litiana Kuridrani Fiji School of Medicine	The role of a research network in the Pacific
9.45 am	Shaun Liddell Centre for Harm Reduction	Role of harm reduction
10 am (1/2 hr)	<i>Morning tea</i>	
Presentations: Responses in the Region Facilitated by Robin Room		
10.30 am	Ms Ili Neitoga AusAID	AusAID goals and key priorities in the Pacific
11.00 am	Mr Gino Vumbaca ANCD	ANCD and its role in the Pacific
11.30 am	Det. Inspector Moses Ibsagi Pacific Trans-national Coordination Crime Centre	Role of PTC, Illicit Drug Use in the Pacific
12.00 pm	Mr Shaun Evans Forum Secretariat	Illicit drug legislation in the Pacific <i>To be confirmed</i>
	Question and discussion time	
12.30 pm (1 hr)	<i>Lunch</i>	
Presentations: Drug Use in the Pacific – Regional Perspectives Facilitated by Betty Koka / Bruce Yeates		
1.30 pm	Ms Sarah Asi Faletoese	An Overview of Drug and Alcohol

	Ministry of Health, Samoa	Issues in Samoa
2.00 pm	Mr Makiva Tuni and Mr William Same MoH, Solomon Islands	Health Research and issues in alcohol and drug related activities in Solomon Islands
2.30 pm	Ms Litiana Kuridrani Fiji School of Medicine	Indigenous Fijian Women - Increased vulnerability and HIV/AIDS in Fiji
3.00 pm (1/2 hr)	<i>Afternoon tea</i>	
3.30 pm	Robert Verebasaga Pacific Regional HIV/AIDS Project (PRHP)	Making Connections – Supporting HIV Responses in the Pacific
4.00 pm	Mr Tommy Alefaio Tuvalu Overseas Seamen's Union	The Tuvuluan experience
4.30 pm	Ms Dorothy Fauonuku Alcohol and Drug Awareness Centre, Tonga	To be confirmed – Tonga: An Overview of Issues and Initiatives
	Question and discussion time	

Day 2 – Tuesday 18 July

9.00 am		Questions from Previous Day
Presentations: Defining Research Priorities Facilitated by Moses Ibsagi		
9.15 am	Prof. Robin Room Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre	Approaches to measuring and monitoring a society's drinking patterns and problems
9.45 am	Shaun Liddell Centre for Harm Reduction	Key points from the ANCD situational analysis
10 am (1/2 hr)	<i>Morning tea</i>	
Group Work: Defining Research Priorities Facilitated by Gino Vumbaca		
10.30 am	Brainstorm Research ideas as a large group (cross cutting themes/ country specific)	
12.30 pm (1 hr)	<i>Lunch</i>	
Group Work: Defining Research Priorities Facilitated by Robert Power		
1.30 pm	Small Group Work: Refining research questions	
2.30 pm	Group discussion and review of priorities	
3.00 pm (1/2 hr)	<i>Afternoon tea</i>	
Group Work: Research Collaborations Facilitated by Makiva Tuni		
3.30 pm	Group discussion – potential funding avenues, potential collaborations / partners	

Day 3 – Wednesday 19 July

Presentations: Developing Research Proposals		
Facilitated by William Same		
9.00 am	Prof. Robert Power Centre for Harm Reduction	Summary of Priorities / Questions from Previous Day
9.15 am	Prof. Sally Casswell Shore New Zealand	Shore and policy development in the Pacific
10 am (1/2 hr)	<i>Morning tea</i>	
Group Work: Proposal Development / Funding / Regional Mapping		
Facilitated by Robert Power		
10.30 am	Group discussion	
12.30 pm (1 hr)	<i>Lunch</i>	
Group Discussion: Partnerships in Research		
Facilitated by Dorothy Fauonuku		
1.30 pm	Mr Jeremaia Tagutu	Lessons from Fiji
2.00 pm	Dr. Bruce Yeates University of the South Pacific	The University of the South Pacific Restructure: Engaging the Pacific Drug Research Network
3.00 pm (1/2 hr)	<i>Afternoon tea</i>	
Group Discussion: Role of the Pacific Drug Research Network		
Facilitated by Litiana Kuridrani		
3.30 pm	Group discussion: Membership? What is the Role of the Pacific Drug Research Network? Identifying a home for the network secretariat How can it best meet the needs of its members? Defining key resolutions. Establishment of Pacific Islands Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) Clearinghouse?	

Day 4 – Thursday 20 July

9.00 am		Questions from Previous Day
Discussions: The Future of the Network Facilitated by Sally Casswell		
9.15 am	Dr Betty Koka Dept of Health Papua New Guinea	Disseminating and Using Research Data Update from PNG
<i>Morning tea</i>		
Discussions: The Future of the Network Facilitated by Gino Vumbaca		
10.30 am	Group discussion: Resolutions, Aims and Committee make up	
11.15 am	Prof. Robert Power, CHR	Review of previous days outcomes
12.15 pm	Mr Gino Vumbaca, ANCD Ms Ili Neitoga, AusAID	Close
12.30 pm	<i>Lunch</i>	

ANNEX 3 PRIORITY RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Category	Issues to Investigate	Themes	Research Question	Methodology
Use / Behaviour / Practice	Community baseline – population prevalence data	Use / Behaviour / Practice	What are the existing studies in this area? What contributes to increased usage of drug, alcohol in the Pacific? Who uses, in what context and circumstances? Impact on the family, individual? Cost analysis of imprisonment of drug and alcohol related offences? Conduct follow up studies to compare with existing research. What is the role of culture in drugs? Place of traditional coping mechanisms (traditional laws and practices)? Reviewing the existing intervention measures.	Quant: Longitudinal, Case Control, cohort, cross-sectional, Descriptive study. Qual: Participatory research, Case study, Focus groups, Ethnographic, Phenomenology, Grounded theory. Ethnographic, Participatory workshop
	Alcohol drinking patterns	Behaviour	Impact on the family, individual? Cost analysis of imprisonment of drug and alcohol related offences? Conduct follow up studies to compare with existing research	Quant: Longitudinal, Case Control, cohort, cross-sectional, Descriptive study. Qual: Participatory research, Case study, Focus groups, Ethnographic, Phenomenology, Grounded theory.
	Injecting drug use patterns	Use	What are the existing studies in this area? What contributes to increased usage of drug, alcohol in the Pacific? Who uses, in what context and circumstances?	As above
	Patterns of use of Betel nut	Use / Behaviour	What are the existing studies in this area? What contributes to increased usage of drug, alcohol in the Pacific? Who uses, in what context and circumstances? Impact on the family, individual? Cost analysis of imprisonment of drug and alcohol	As above

Category	Issues to Investigate	Themes	Research Question	Methodology
			related offences. Conduct follow up studies to compare with existing research	
	Introduction of Inhalant use	Use	What are the existing studies in this area? What contributes to increased usage of drug, alcohol in the Pacific? Who uses, in what context and circumstances?	As above
	Other form of drug use (cactus, datura ???)	Use	As above	As above
	Social and behavioural factors/consequences contributing to / resulting from drug /alcohol use (eg kava)	Behaviour	Impact on the family, individual? Cost analysis of imprisonment of drug and alcohol related offences. Conduct follow up studies to compare with existing research	As above
	Precursors to drug use	Use / Behaviour	What are the existing studies in this area? What contributes to increased usage of drug, alcohol in the Pacific? Who uses, in what context and circumstances? Impact on the family, individual. Cost analysis of imprisonment of drug and alcohol related offences. Conduct follow up studies to compare with existing research	As above

Category	Issues to Investigate	Themes	Research Question	Methodology
	Drug use / vulnerable groups and effect on sexual health	Use / Behaviour	As above	As above
	Mobile populations and their drug use	Use / Behaviour	As above	As above
	University students use of alcohol and drugs	Use / Behaviour	As above	As above
	Influence on drug/alcohol use from university students returning home	Use / Behaviour	As above	As above
	Sport and alcohol / drugs	Behaviour	Impact on the family, individual. Cost analysis of imprisonment of drug and alcohol related offences. Conduct follow up studies to compare with existing research	As above
	Deportees – influence on return	Behaviour	As above	As above

Category	Issues to Investigate	Themes	Research Question	Methodology
	Supply characteristics (origin, dealing networks)	Use	What are the existing studies in this area? What contributes to increased usage of drug, alcohol in the Pacific? Who uses, in what context and circumstances?	As above
	<i>Lived experience of drug users</i>	Behaviour	Impact on the family, individual. Cost analysis of imprisonment of drug and alcohol related offences. Conduct follow up studies to compare with existing research	As above
	<i>Family response to drug related death</i>	Behaviour	As above	As above
	<i>Traditional coping mechanisms</i>	Practice	What is the role of culture in drugs? Place of traditional coping mechanisms (traditional laws and practices)? Reviewing the existing intervention measures.	Ethnographic, Participatory workshop
	<i>Culture and drug use</i>	Practice	As above	As above
	<i>Traditional laws and mechanisms</i>	Practice	As above	As above
Impacts / Treatment / Services	Indigenous people's health – impact from use	Health costs of AOD use	What are the health costs? What are the law enforcement costs? What are the social/family costs?	Costs - qualitative / quantitative data collecting, economic costs
	Impact on use resulting from conflict (tribal,	<i>Not considered</i>	<i>Not considered</i>	<i>Not considered</i>

Category	Issues to Investigate	Themes	Research Question	Methodology
	national unrest) – or vice versa			
	Drug use / vulnerable groups and effect on sexual health	Drugs and Sexual Health	Does the risk of sexual behaviour increase with the use of alcohol?	Key informants - qualitative / quantitative
	Injuries and accidents (TRIP Study Welcome Trust, Fiji School of Med, Univ of Auckland)	Health costs of AOD use	What are the health costs? What are the law enforcement costs? What are the social/family costs?	Costs - qualitative / quantitative data collecting, economic costs
	Imprisonment	Legal Consequences	Qualitative study - case studies	Ethnographic case studies
	Types and effectiveness of treatment	Types of Treatment Approaches	What are the types of treatment available? What are the costs? What is the effectiveness? Do those in positions to help have the knowledge/skills for addressing drugs and alcohol issues	Evaluation methodology and key informants, evaluation of service providers (knowledge, understanding, skills confidence in dealing with drug issues)
	Marijuana's contribution to violent/criminal behaviour	Legal Consequences	Qualitative study - case studies	Ethnographic case studies
	Community based approaches to treatment	Types of Treatment Approaches	What are the types of treatment available? What are the costs? What is the effectiveness? Do those in positions to help have the knowledge/skills for addressing drugs and alcohol issues	Evaluation methodology and key informants, evaluation of service providers (knowledge, understanding, skills confidence in dealing with drug issues)

Category	Issues to Investigate	Themes	Research Question	Methodology
	Marijuana use contribution to family development (benefits economic, social?)	<i>Not considered</i>	<i>Not considered</i>	<i>Not considered</i>
	Cost/impacts of accidents / hospitalisation – alcohol and emergency rooms	Health costs of AOD use	What are the health costs? What are the law enforcement costs? What are the social/family costs?	Costs - qualitative / quantitative data collecting, economic costs
	Coping with drug use – user and associated family/networks	Types of Treatment Approaches	What are the types of treatment available? what are the costs?? What is the effectiveness?? Do those in positions to help have the knowledge/skills for addressing drugs and alcohol issues	Evaluation methodology and key informants, evaluation of service providers (knowledge, understanding, skills confidence in dealing with drug issues)
	Engagement of private sector	<i>Not considered</i>	<i>Not considered</i>	<i>Not considered</i>
Social Context	Alcohol drugs, culture and sexuality / sexual behaviours	Individual	What are the determinants that influence changes in behaviour for individuals leaving their traditional community? (when they depart/move from , when they return)? Do changes in traditional practice (youth approach to kava ceremony) drive users to experimentation?	Qualitative studies; Mapping exercises
	Community / social movements for prevention of harm / abstinence	Individual	What community movements are working in the area of prevention of harm and abstinence? How effective are they in prevention of harm and abstinence?	Qualitative studies; Mapping exercises

Category	Issues to Investigate	Themes	Research Question	Methodology
	Community Attitudes and Knowledge – limitations of communities contributing to response	Tradition/Culture/Spiritual Connectedness	Does an increase in knowledge of Individual Rights lead to changes in drug use and sexual practice? How does language play a role in the effectiveness of building community awareness and understanding	Qualitative studies
	Traditional values and modern culture clashes	Tradition/Culture/Spiritual Connectedness	What is the nature of the clash of tradition and modernity? What is the influence of information technology /internet on culture / traditions?	Qualitative studies
	Informal controls on use and knowledge (eg dialogue and leadership)	Tradition/Culture/Spiritual Connectedness	What are the values that make people respect taboos and cultures	Qualitative studies
	Mass media portrayal of drug / alcohol use	Political / Public Domain	How does mass media portray use of alcohol and drugs (promote use? What is their message?)	Mapping exercise, time period review
	Music (youth?) culture and drug use	Tradition/Culture/Spiritual Connectedness	What is the nature of the clash of tradition and modernity?	Qualitative studies
Regional Issues	Cross country / regional study – use of cannabis, alcohol, home brew (comparative study): teenagers	School study	How much is being used? Impacts of families and communities? Comparison with other countries. Schools vs out of schools (drop-outs)?	School surveys. Talk to other countries. Look at ESPAD Questionnaire and adopt what is relevant to each country. Note: Translation and back translation required
	Regulations, policies specific to alcohol and tobacco	Policies and Legislation	What are the existing policies and regulations? How well enforced are they? How does the country compare / link it to WHO FCTC? What is	Look at all relevant existing documents. Talk to key informants. Observational studies

Category	Issues to Investigate	Themes	Research Question	Methodology
			the regulation of precursors compared with other countries	
	Drug seizure data (internal and inter-country)	Illicit market data	What are the types of drugs? What are the legal uses? (who is the importer and how much does it cost? What is the structure of the market? Where are the growing areas?	Questionnaires for Customs Office. Telephone interviews. Police Records - precursors.
	Breakdown of data for police incidents (NZAID Project) – contributing factors eg drug alcohol use)	Agency response data	Evaluate its process and impacts. What data is there and what form is it recorded? Look into adapting NZ system for recoding alcohol and drug incidence.	Telephone interviews. Look at/for available data. Questionnaire filled out by Police.
	Key Political Questions	Policies and Legislation	What are the existing policies and regulations? How well enforced are they? How does the country compare / link it to WHO FCTC? What is the regulation of precursors compared with other countries	Look at all relevant existing documents. Talk to key informants. Observational studies
	National inventory of data from police, hospital and other AOD services	Agency response data	Evaluate its process and impacts. What data is there and what form is it recorded? Look into adapting NZ system for recoding alcohol and drug incidence.	Telephone interviews. Look at/for available data. Questionnaire filled out by Police.
	Precursors to drug manufacturing	Illicit market data	What are the types of drugs? What are the legal uses? (who is the importer and how much does it cost? What is the structure of the market? Where are the growing areas?	Questionnaires for Customs Office. Telephone interviews. Police Records - precursors.