



ICDP

International Centre for Democratic Partnerships

PACIFIC@CONNECT

COMMUNITY

ESTABLISHING MEANINGFUL CONNECTION



BACKGROUND

The International Centre for Democratic Partnerships (ICDP) is implementing Pacific Connect – a program announced by Prime Minister Turnbull at the 48th Pacific Islands Forum in Samoa on 8 September 2017. The aim of Pacific Connect is to help deliver the Australian Government’s agenda to step-up Australia’s pacific engagement by building stronger relationships between people in Australia and the Pacific. ICDP will work with local leadership to identify opportunities under a theme of ‘Australia-Pacific Connections for the Digital Future’.

PACIFIC CONNECT COMMUNITY

Through the Pacific Connect initiative, ICDP invites Australian and Pacific Island emerging leaders to participate in a series of activities designed to help cultivate relationships between individuals and organisations. Through attendance at these activities participants become a member of a network called the ‘Pacific Connect Community.’ The Community provides a valuable platform for its members to continue collaborations, and to generate projects and activities to enhance and increase the network, learn from each other and potentially create business opportunities. The Community provides an avenue for individuals to amplify their voice and impact by working together.

IT’S YOUR COMMUNITY

The Pacific Connect Community works actively to foster and strengthen a transnational network of emerging leaders in Australia and the Pacific. The purpose of the Community is to facilitate and develop lasting friendships, partnerships and opportunities across a variety of sectors, including but not limited to business, academia, government, and civil society through:

- identifying and participating in activities that support the current Pacific Connect theme – ‘Australia-Pacific Connections for the Digital Future’ and denoted future themes;
- sharing cultural, professional & personal experiences and knowledge through creating tailored events/activities for Community members to connect and collaborate on common issues;
- identifying & collaborating on proposals that benefit Pacific peoples;
- participating in unique mentorship, secondment & networking opportunities with Australian & Pacific leaders/organisations; and
- referring/recommending potential participants for future Pacific Connect events.

ICDP INVESTMENT & SUPPORT

The ICDP, through its government, business, and academic networks, will invest in and support the Community by:

- engaging with and connecting members, and supporting Community generated projects and activities;
- providing advice and coaching on the development of funding proposals;
- identifying potential investors;
- linking individuals and groups with business and mentoring opportunities;
- expanding professional and personal networks and building leadership capacity;
- sharing its Social Media and website mediums to highlight and support Community activities.

The Pacific Connect Community will operate as a 'self-managed' network/alumni group. It will have the flexibility to determine its structure e.g. 'Council' and modes of operation including developing ideas for activities and events that support and connect its members from Australia and the Pacific.



Delegates meet at the 2018 Pacific Connect Forum - Sydney



DESIGNED AND MANAGED BY ITS MEMBERS

The Community will be primarily run by its members including:

- agreeing on appropriate ways to facilitate leadership and coordination of events/activities, projects/proposals and to provide a point of communication with ICDP and other organisations e.g. 'Council';
- organising events/activities which assist in connecting members and promote Pacific Connect program objectives and activities; and
- providing regular updates on membership activities and connect with ICDP on Community opportunities, news, blogs, website and related activities.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUNDING

The Community may be eligible to receive limited funding from ICDP to support specific engagement activities and as 'seed' funding for generating proposals/projects that meet Pacific Connect objectives. Requests for funding need to go through the Community's 'Council' and will be granted at the discretion of the ICDP Board. All funding will need to be administered and acquitted through consultation between the Community's 'Council' and ICDP.

Funds are provided on a case-by-case basis and are subject to availability. Project proposals will need to be coordinated and submitted through the Community's 'Council' and in close consultation with ICDP.

Activities/events and proposals should be designed to enhance network connections and meet Pacific Connect objectives and the current theme. A funding application form will be made available by ICDP to assist with the process.

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

- **Organise an event** – members can work through the 'Council' to organise a local event to help sustain and expand the Pacific Connect network and to enable further discussions and projects on the theme 'Australia – Pacific Connections for a Digital Future'.
- **Become a mentor** – members who wish to act as mentors for other members to provide coaching and leadership support.
- **Become a 'Council' Member** – the 'Community' needs Council members in each country covered by Pacific Connect activities/events. You will be the coordination point for 'Community' activities and proposals in country and will be relied on for support on projects, events & local queries. The Council will rotate members as agreed to spread the workload and experience across the Community.
- **Attend Community Events** – members are a valuable resource and contributor to events and projects and for feedback on the Pacific Connect program to help shape it going forward. Members also contribute to extending the network and bringing new members to the Community.

COMMUNITY MEMBER BENEFITS

- Improved access and connectivity to individuals and networks in Australia and the Pacific
- Raised visibility of achievements within own country and through ongoing connections to Australia & the Pacific
- Platform to create new opportunities – career, community, business, culture
- Access to funding for engagement activities/events and for developing business opportunities
- New opportunities to build connections with Australian government, business, academia, civil society and individuals
- Increased access to specialised and tailored mentoring and capacity building
- Open access to the broader Pacific Connect / ICDP / GAP alumni community
- Flexibility to 'shape/influence' Community for mutual benefit

COMMUNICATIONS

Members of the Pacific Connect Community are encouraged to use ICDP and Pacific Connect social media channels to promote their activities and provide regular blog content. Assistance in establishing and maintaining these online networks will be provided by the ICDP Social Media Coordinator & Website Manager. ICDP will also require short reports from the 'Council' on activities/events to feed into its overall reporting for the Pacific Connect program.

When considering its social and online media presence, the Community is asked to encourage members to sign up to the:

- ICDP newsletter via the ICDP website: www.icdp.com.au
- ICDP LinkedIn - [linkedin.com/company/international-centre-for-democratic-partnerships/](https://www.linkedin.com/company/international-centre-for-democratic-partnerships/)
- Twitter account - @Pacific_Connect
- Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/InternationalCentreforDemocraticPartnerships>
- Pacific Connect Network Slack site – [Pacificconnectnetwork.slack.com](https://pacificconnectnetwork.slack.com)

OUR COMMUNITY IS GROWING

Papua New Guinea



Fiji



Samoa



Solomon Islands

