

Australia-Pacific Connections for a Digital Future

WOMEN IN BUSINESS AND DIGITAL DELIVERY

Pacific Connect Network Dialogue
17-20 February 2019 • Brisbane, Australia



***Pacific Connect* is calling for expressions of interest from ambitious, accomplished and forward-thinking individuals to join its Network Dialogue in Brisbane on 17-20 February 2019 to discuss the role of women in business and digital delivery. Deadline for submissions – 22 January 2019.**

What is 'Pacific Connect'?

Pacific Connect was launched by the Prime Minister of Australia in September 2017 to forge strong and enduring strategic relationships between Pacific and Australian leaders across the public, private and community sectors. *Pacific Connect* is delivered by the International Centre for Democratic Partnerships (ICDP) and sponsored by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

What is the 'Network Dialogue'?

The Pacific is undergoing an unprecedented technological transformation, making it an ideal time to discuss and plan our region's digital future.

Since the official announcement of *Pacific Connect* at the 48th Pacific Islands Forum, ICDP has been working with regional partners and local leaders to create a series of Network Dialogues. The inaugural Business Network Dialogue was held in March 2018 in Port Moresby; the Academic Network Dialogue convened in Suva in June, co-hosted by the University of the South Pacific; the Creative Arts Dialogue was held in Apia in July; and the Education Dialogue took place in Honiara in November. Future regional Network Dialogues are planned for Vanuatu and Tonga.

On 6 September, 80 Network members attended the inaugural Pacific Connect Forum at NSW Parliament House in Sydney, Australia.

What are we aiming for?

The *Pacific Connect* Network Dialogue in Brisbane will bring together current and emerging women leaders from the Pacific and Australia to develop a network and identify opportunities for collaboration under the theme of 'Australia-Pacific Connections for a Digital Future'.

The Dialogue will consider the role of ICT as a development tool in the context of growing connectivity and capacity in Pacific Island countries and explore opportunities for new types of partnerships between Australia and the Pacific beyond traditional 'aid and trade' approaches.

Potential projects could include establishing an annual Australia-Pacific forum for women in business and ICT, opportunities for Australian women leaders to partner with women in the Pacific, mentorship and professional development opportunities for emerging women leaders, and more. Emphasis will be on peer networking and longer-term engagement, in addition to short-term opportunities for collaboration.

The Dialogue will be co-facilitated by **Catherine Fritz-Kalish**, Director of ICDP and Co-Founder and Managing Director of Global Access Partners, and **Brenda Heather-Latu**, Special Advisor of ICDP and Consultant of the Strategic Development Group, Samoa.

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Who are we looking for?

We are looking for people with leadership skills, a positive, 'big picture' outlook, and a record of achievement in their chosen field.

Our participants will be courageous and passionate free thinkers willing to share their own networks and ideas to build a better tomorrow for all. A keen interest in digital technology is necessary, but technical skills are not.

How will you benefit?

Pacific Connect offers exciting opportunities for outstanding people in Australia and the Pacific to forge new relationships through continued engagement on common challenges.

Through a "Second Track" process which encourages fresh thinking and the development of concrete solutions, participants will be able to test their ideas, broaden their knowledge and widen their networks for future interaction.

Opportunities include:

- ▶ Mentoring and internships with Australian and Pacific organisations
- ▶ An invitation to participate in future regional Pacific Connect Dialogues and major international forums, including the Annual Pacific Connect Forum at NSW Parliament House in Sydney
- ▶ Unique networking opportunities with regional leaders
- ▶ New commercial partnerships



PROGRAMME

Sunday, 17 February 2019

- Arrival and informal meet & greet

Monday, 18 February 2019

Dialogue Venue - Premiers' Hall Parliament House of Queensland

- Introduction of *Pacific Connect*
 - Private tour of Parliament House
- Activities and Observations
- Talanoa and discussions
- Keynote presentations from invited guests
- Discussions
- Conclusions and agreement on next steps
- Networking Dinner

Tuesday, 19 February 2019

- Site visit to Innovation Hub and Brisbane Exhibition

Wednesday, 20 February 2019

- Delegates depart

How can you get involved?

Please forward your CV and a brief overview of your relevant achievements to pacific_dialogue@icdp.com.au

Deadline 22 January 2019