

# FINANCIAL EDUCATION



## Pacific Connect Network Dialogue 11-13 November 2019, Brisbane

***Pacific Connect* is calling for expressions of interest from ambitious, accomplished and forward-thinking people to join its Network Dialogue in Brisbane on 11-13 November 2019 to discuss financial education for women in business. Apply by Friday, 18 October.**

### 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'?

Since the announcement of *Pacific Connect* in 2017, ICDP has been working with regional partners to create a series of Network Dialogues for emerging leaders and entrepreneurs from the Pacific and Australia.

The *Pacific Connect* Network Dialogue, delivered using the unofficial, informal, consultative style of the 'Second Track' process, enables participants to work on specific issues and their possible ICT solutions, as well as practical projects that can be taken further.

Last year, ICDP held inaugural Dialogues in Port Moresby, Suva, Apia and Honiara, and the first annual *Pacific Connect* Forum in Sydney. In 2019, it convened two *Pacific Women in Business* Dialogues in Brisbane (February and June), *Digital Trade and Labour Mobility* in Port Vila (March), *Disruptive Technology in Agriculture* in Port Moresby (April), *Creative Industries* in Apia (May), *Digital Opportunities in Freight and Logistics* in Honiara (June), *Digital Marketplace* in Port Vila and *Technology Enabling Inclusiveness* in Suva (July).

On 18-19 September 2019, over 60 *Pacific Connect* Community members attended the Annual Ideas Exchange at NSW Parliament House in Sydney.

### What are we aiming for?

The Pacific region has a high rate of financial exclusion, with 70% of Pacific Islanders having no regular access to financial services.

A significant percentage have never had a bank account. Women and people in rural and remote areas are particularly disadvantaged. Lack of financial literacy remains one of the major barriers to formal economic participation and the development of new businesses.

The November Dialogue will bring together current and emerging leaders and entrepreneurs from the Pacific and Australia to discuss financial education as a vital step in empowering Pacific women to participate in business and formal economic activities and take control of their financial future. The event will build on the success of the first two *Pacific Women in Business* Dialogues held in Brisbane in February and June.

Through facilitated, results-driven discussions, the Dialogue will explore collaborative opportunities and innovative business models enabled by improved digital connectivity in the Pacific, and ways to encourage more women to transition into business and entrepreneurship. Participants will workshop financial scenarios with experts in the field to increase their knowledge and capacity to manage finances and apply for funding, as well as enabling valuable networking and information-sharing.

The Dialogue will be co-facilitated by **Catherine Fritz-Kalish**, Director of ICDP, and **Pauline Benson**, Founder of *Pacific Finds* - Fiji.

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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 international forums, including an Ideas Exchange at NSW Parliament House in Sydney
- ▶ Unique networking opportunities with regional leaders
- ▶ New commercial partnerships

For a full description of opportunities available for Community members, see the ***Pacific Connect* Participant Lifecycle Diagram** in [attachment](#).

**PACIFICCONNECT**  
International Centre for Democratic Partnerships

### PROGRAMME

#### Sunday, 10 November 2019

- Arrival and informal meet & greet

#### Monday, 11 November 2019

##### Venue - QLD Parliamentary Annexe

- Overview of *Pacific Connect*
- Talanoa and discussions
- Keynote presentations from invited guests
- Financial management workshop & small group brainstorming
- Summary & close
- Welcome dinner

#### Tuesday, 12 November 2019

- Grant-writing workshop
- Visit to local Innovation Hub

#### Wednesday, 13 November 2019

- Departures

### How can you get involved?

Please forward your career history, a brief overview of your relevant achievements, an outline of any community work or a recent CV to [pacific\\_dialogue@icdp.com.au](mailto:pacific_dialogue@icdp.com.au)

**Enquiries** [info@icdp.com.au](mailto:info@icdp.com.au)

**Deadline** 18 October 2019