



PACIFICCONNECT

International Centre for Democratic Partnerships

You've seen our program mention 'Second Track' often, but what actually is it?

Each *Pacific Connect* Dialogue is delivered using the 'Second Track' process – an innovative process of group collaboration focusing on positive thinking, long-term engagement and personal interest in practical results.

'Second Track' originated in international diplomacy, but unlike 'Track One' official government diplomatic protocols, 'Track Two' offers an alternative, unofficial, informal avenue for dialogue. It promotes an open-minded, consultative-style approach to problem-solving and encourages participants to explore novel, 'outside the box' solutions and potential projects to pursue together.

This 'Second Track' methodology has been adapted by ICDP in partnership with Global Access Partners (GAP) to reflect Pacific culture, and is continually revised to accommodate the experience, needs and cultural background of participants. Attendees are invited to join long-term projects after the *Pacific Connect* Dialogue to help forge stronger and more enduring personal and business relationships between Australia and the Pacific. To learn more about ICDP's 'Second Track' and *talanoa* process, [please read this article](#).

GAP 'Second Track' Process

GAP's 'Second Track' process has evolved over 20 years of high-level discussions and practical implementation. The process brings multidisciplinary groups of people together to discuss common challenges and collaborate on practical solutions.

Each member attends in a personal capacity and contributes their experience, networks, influence and expertise. Members are sourced from a wide range of stakeholders to ensure a wide-ranging discussion on the topic at hand and encourage broad support for the group's recommendations.

GAP's facilitation encourages a free-flowing, open and honest discussion which frees participants from predetermined positions, sparks innovation and builds consensus.

GAP's 'Second Track' is a two-stage process, with an initial discussion phase followed by practical pilots, commercial services and policy implementation. The 'Second Track' builds long-term relationships between participants to empower permanent change.

Discussions take place in a series of meetings minuted under the Chatham House Rule of non-attribution, with each session building towards a set of recommendations to be implemented by group members.

For more information on 'Second Track', please read an [article on the subject](#) by Peter Fritz AO.

