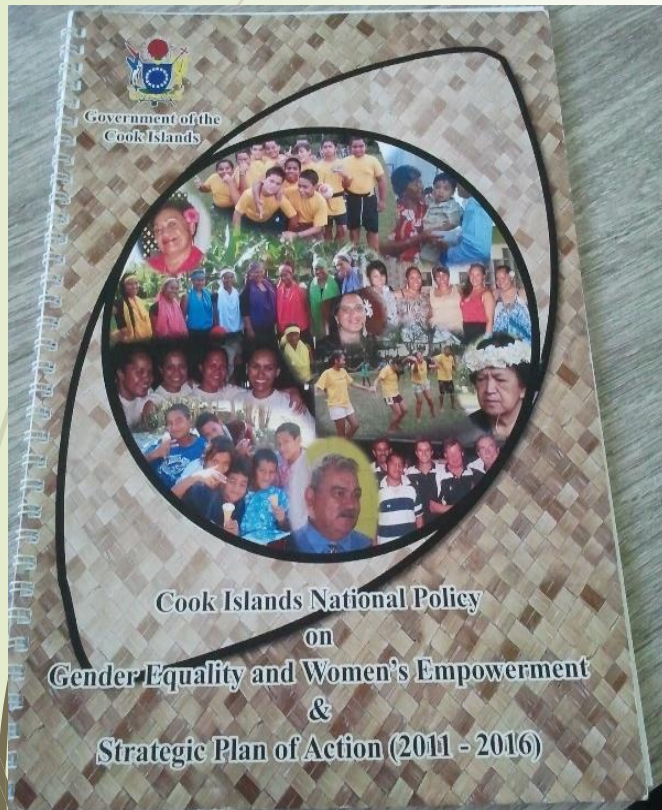


Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Project



Cook Islands GENDER EQUALITY & EMPOWERMENT Project

To promote and coordinate two components of the Cook Islands National Policy on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Plan 2011-2016, specifically:

1. Create an enabling environment for the full participation of women in economic development, and
2. Eliminate violence against women.

Expected Outcomes

Economic

1. Increased benefits from new livelihood options and economic opportunities for women
2. Increased access to productive assets for women

Anti-violence

1. Strengthened legal frameworks, law enforcement and justice systems
2. Services to victims
3. Community level mobilisation to intervene and protect victims

Funded by Australian Aid

Results Framework

Medium term outcomes

Economic benefits for women

VAW legal frameworks are strengthened

Short term outcomes

Women have increased business opportunities

CIGOV meets international reporting obligations

VAW systems/ services are improved

Communities are engaged in VAW prevention

Outputs

Business Mgmt / growth training

Business Opportunity and Needs Analysis

Economic data sex disaggregated

Taskforce Meetings

VAW data WHO aligned

VAW referral system formalised

VAW training for public servants

VAW advocacy campaigns

Stakeholder Engagement



Regular Stakeholder meetings and workshops are important to:

- Promote understanding about the importance of gender equality and addressing gender issues
- Communicate with our communities, and supplement with online reports and documents
- Inform and update stakeholders as to the progress of Gender project activities
- Receive feedback from stakeholder groups and individuals from across our different communities about our activities

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Project



The success of the Project will lie in its work with:

- **Government departments** – particularly INTAFF, Police, Justice and Health but also including other government departments none of whom have a current gender policy (relying on the PSC Code of Conduct)
- **Statistics Office** - gender reporting obligations of government related to CEDAW, and the Paris and Beijing Declarations, require an upgrade of gender statistics to match UN gender indicators
- **Private Sector businesses** –these form a major component in the development of Women in Business - to encourage women's contribution to the economic development of the Cook Islands. The Chamber is important here.
- **NGOs** – esp **PTI** which has been a major contributor in the area of VAW. The loss of the two staff members will impact greatly on the trust relationship that has been built up over the years with VAW clients. NCW, BPW and PPSEAWA will also feature.

Activities July – Dec 2014

- ▶ Stakeholder Workshops – assessment of gender environment
- ▶ Research Teams developed– design, TORs, appointments, weekly reports,
- ▶ Monthly stakeholder meetings established – feedback
- ▶ INTAFF and GADD formalising the coordinating mechanism for the Gender Policy
- ▶ National Statistics Office – Technical assistance to develop more gender-based data – focus on Police, Justice, Health and Education
- ▶ Innovative Initiative Programme – creating a training programme which offers potential entrepreneurs the opportunity to see the development of an innovation in action, enhancing the core activities of an established business run by an already experienced local business woman.
- ▶ Cook Islands women entrepreneurs – gathering bios for print publication
- ▶ Disability Community groups – liaison meetings to look at effective ways we can enhance employment opportunities for disabled women in our communities
- ▶ VAW stakeholder meetings – Justice, Police, NCW, PTI – coordinating mechanism and processes
- ▶ VAW – anger management workshop – Rotaianga & PTI

Research: Business Needs of Cook Islands Women Entrepreneurs

- ▶ Training and Capacity Building - Tricia Thompson & Donna Fox
- ▶ Financial Services – Alexis Wolfgramm & Tunoa Kaina
- ▶ Gender Policy – Lynnsay Francis-Rongokea
- ▶ Statistical data – Gender Indicators – Anonga Tisam

Innovative Initiatives Programme

CRITERIA

- ▶ Woman owner of a registered and established business
- ▶ Single innovation that will add value to core business activities - to create organisational efficiency and/profitability

PROGRAMME INVOLVEMENT

- ▶ To role model development of an innovation within their business
- ▶ To be mentored through the first months of the development of their initiative
- ▶ To be part of a business training programme involving other women in business
- ▶ To be monitored by the project with progress logged on Project Website and Facebook page
- ▶ To feedback at an evaluation session as part of the CIWIB Business Forum (June)
- ▶ To participate in a Trade Fair to be held during Business Forum Week.

Activities Jan – June 2015

- ▶ Monthly stakeholder meetings – continuing to provide updates & gathering feedback
- ▶ National Statistics Office – Continue to provide technical assistance continuing to develop more gender-based data – focus on Police, Justice, Health and Education
- ▶ Innovative Initiative Programme – helping companies to set up their innovation and monitoring these as part of the programme development
- ▶ Training (1) – organising business training and mentoring programmes for the innovation project participants
- ▶ Training (2) – organising introductory business training programmes for other women either in business or considering opening a business
- ▶ Finalise website to upload completed research and progress of participants in the innovation project
- ▶ Establish a Facebook page for up to date information about each participant in the innovation project.
- ▶ Support the work of the Disability Community with regards to integrating women with disabilities into the workforce and promoting their convention.
- ▶ VAW training – Family Law Bill, CEDAW, Beijing and Paris Declarations, as well as the findings of the MoH Family Health Survey – on Rarotonga and Pa Enea.
- ▶ VAW – coordinating mechanism established linking roles and activities of PTI, Police, Justice & Health
- ▶ NCW Women's Conference – provide funding to enable women from Pa Enea to attend
- ▶ Gender Project Business Forum & Trade Fair – to promote activities of women in business (May-June 2015)

PTI and the Gender Project's eliminating violence programme

Gender Project Goals

- ▶ **High level objective** – strengthening the legal framework
- ▶ **Short term objectives**
 - ▶ Improved coordinating mechanisms linking the Gender Division with core VAW agencies (Police, Health, Justice, PTI)
 - ▶ Training for government personnel - Gender and VAW training for Public Servants
 - ▶ Training - Improved VAW support systems and services within communities
 - ▶ VAW Advocacy Campaigns (e.g. White Ribbon Day, workshops & training)

Support for and from PTI

- ▶ Improved Office Database and Communication systems (\$15k)
- ▶ Improved coordination between PTI and other core government agencies (Police Health, Justice – through improved statistics) (\$10k)
- ▶ Legal aid support for women in DV situations who can't afford legal assistance (45k)
- ▶ Training – raising awareness within government departments and in communities of the Family Law Bill, CEDAW, etc (\$15k)