

Australian parliamentary libraries twinning program

The Association of Parliamentary Libraries of Australasia APLA decided at their Annual General Meeting in July 2008 that Australian member libraries would support libraries of the Parliaments in the Pacific nations. The CPA already has established links between the Australian state Parliaments and Pacific Parliaments and their parliamentary libraries and APLA members will maintain the same relationships.

APLA has as one of its strategic goals to 'support Pacific parliamentary libraries'.

The current twinning arrangements are:

ACT with Kiribati
NSW with Bougainville and Solomon Islands
NT with Niue
Qld with Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu
SA with Tonga
Victoria with Fiji, Nauru and Tuvalu
Tasmania with Samoa
WA with Cook Islands.

The twinning relationships ideally should provide a platform for facilitating support, information, technical assistance, exchanges and if requested, training on an on-going basis for developing and maintaining parliamentary libraries in the region. Personal relationships between key contacts can be developed which are often the most helpful.

The CPA meeting in July 2008 also agreed that the Australian and New Zealand Parliaments would provide a co-ordination role in relation to twinning.

Since the CPA meeting, various initiatives have been undertaken to progress partnerships and these have included:

- exchanges of letters between twinned parliaments to acknowledge the relationship that has been established;
- parliamentary visits;
- training programs;
- provision of procedural and administrative advice; and
- provision of resources.

APLA will build on the CPA initiatives and develop some potential strategies to offer assistance to their twinned parliamentary library.