

PILON Expert Exchange / Secondment Program Concept Paper

To be presented by the PILON Secretariat at the 2016 Annual Meeting

At its May 2016 meeting, the PILON Executive Committee endorsed the establishment of a Secondment Program for litigators, drafters and advisors from and to PILON member countries.¹

The purpose of this Concept Paper is to advise PILON members how the Program will be conducted and seek nominations for potential participants.

Program Objective *To strengthen law and justice outcomes in the Pacific through the secondment of litigators, drafters or advisors between PILON member countries for 2-3 months at a time*

Participation in the Program will be a significant professional development opportunity for nominated staff.

The Program will also contribute to strengthening regional law and justice networks and consolidating expertise within the region.

How will it work?

The Program will be piloted during the 2016-17 financial year, with funding provided to the PILON Secretariat by the Australian Attorney-General's Department.

PILON member countries requiring assistance with a distinct law and justice project with measurable outcomes that can reasonably be achieved within 2-3 months can forward these to the PILON Secretariat throughout the year. Following endorsement by the Executive Committee, the Secretariat will circulate nominations to PILON member countries to advertise within their own agencies for the purposes of identifying a suitable candidate. Candidates must be put forward with the endorsement of their home agency.

Once the receiving country has decided on a suitable candidate from the sending country, both parties as well as the PILON Secretariat will sign a Memorandum of Understanding outlining:

- the objectives, duration and measurable outcomes of the secondment
- the commitment by the sending country to continue to pay the wages of the seconded officer
- the commitment by the receiving country to pay any accommodation and allowance costs of the seconded officer, and
- the commitment by the PILON Secretariat to cover transport and visa costs to and from the receiving country for the seconded officer.

Upon completion of the project, the receiving country and the seconded officer will provide an outcomes report to the PILON Executive Committee for tabling at the 2017 Annual Meeting.

¹ This initiative is distinct to the Technical Legal Assistance Database currently available through the [PILON website](#) and last updated in October 2013, outlining the various providers of technical legal assistance that PILON members may wish to draw on.

This initiative is also distinct to the Expert Witness Database that has been proposed to assist PILON members with seeking short-term assistance with particular cases, i.e. expert witnesses with sexual and gender based violence, forensics, accounting, medical, or engineering expertise as well as experience in the Pacific context.