



TALANOA

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GREETINGS

As we enter 2021, the PILON Secretariat is happy to report to you on the recent work and upcoming activities undertaken by PILON.



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HOSTS INAUGURAL "SAMOA GOVERNMENT LAWYERS CONFERENCE"



The Inaugural Samoa Government Lawyers conference themed "Becoming Agents of Change" was held at the Sheraton Aggie Grey's Resort in January for all public sector lawyers over two days. The workshop was hosted and organised by the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) and the initiative was in accordance with its mandate to supervise and train legal officers pursuant to the Attorney General's Office Act 2013. The two day conference was made possible through funding received from the Australian Attorney-General's Department, with practical support from PILON.



The conference provided a platform for Government Lawyers to engage in discussions on the laws that affect their respective working environments and provided critical training on certain areas of the legal services undertaken by Government lawyers.

The Honourable Prime Minister Tuilaepa Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi of Samoa launched the conference and the opening was also attended by Australian High Commissioner, Her Excellency Sara Moriarty, several CEOs and former Attorney General Tuatagaloa Aumua Ming Leung Wai.

The conference focused on open discussions about current issues affecting the state of our laws and the role of Government Lawyers and building the capacity of Government lawyers to understand their legal mandate and issues affecting the legal landscape that they operate in. The topics discussed included: Ethical Obligations of Government Lawyers, State of Emergency and the Rule of Law and Playing by the Rules: Electoral Laws and Legal Pluralism – Samoa 60 years on.



The OAG hopes to make this conference an annual event to build capacity and foster learning, thus continuing to provide a platform for Government Lawyers to engage in active discussions on the laws effected by the Government of the day.

THE 22 ASIA PACIFIC GROUP (APG) TYPOLOGIES WORKSHOP



The 22nd Asia Pacific Group (APG) Typologies Workshop was held virtually from 2 to 5 February 2021. The workshop primarily focused on the financing and facilitation of foreign terrorist fighters and digital Know-Your-Customer processes. PILON was invited to present on any work being done in relation to money laundering, terrorist financing and predicate offences. In particular, APG was interested to hear

of the recent work that had been done by the Corruption and Cybercrime Working Groups.

The APG is an inter-governmental organisation, consisting of 41 member jurisdictions, focused on ensuring that its members effectively implement the international standards against money laundering, terrorist financing and proliferation financing related to weapons of mass destruction.

The workshop provided an opportunity for leading experts in Anti Money Laundering and Combatting the Financing of Terrorism to share knowledge and expertise on typologies, methods and emerging trends in their fields.



Holding the workshop over Zoom allowed a wide cross-section of the global community to participate. More than 325 delegates from the Asia Pacific region participated in this workshop, including law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and financial intelligence units, as well as international, non-governmental and private sector organizations.

Ms Sasae Walter, PILON Coordinator, gave an interesting presentation on the work that has been done in the money laundering and terrorist financing space over the past few years. Ms Walter's presentation provided the workshop attendees with an overview of what PILON does and our strategic priorities. The presentation also covered two resources developed by the Corruption Working Group – the [Framework for prosecuting corruption in the Pacific](#) and the [Who, What, Why of Whistleblower Protection for the Pacific](#). Ms Walter also discussed the work being done by the Cybercrime Working Group, with a particular focus on the electronic evidence workshops and the Mutual Legal Assistance Handbook on cybercrime and electronic evidence.

The workshop attendees were interested to hear about PILON's work because efforts to promote whistleblowing, prosecute corruption and ensure electronic evidence can be successfully obtained through the mutual assistance process all contribute to preventing money laundering and terrorist financing.

PACIFIC RESILIENCE PARTNERSHIP (PRP)



In 2016, the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders endorsed the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP). Through this framework the Pacific seeks to reduce their exposure to climate and disaster risk, support low carbon development and improve disaster response and reconstruction.

The Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP) was established to support and facilitate the effective implementation of the FRDP. The PRP coordinates guidance and advice that empowers the successful delivery of resilient development across the Pacific region. It consists of five technical working groups - Human Mobility, Information, Knowledge and Management, Disaster Risk Finance and Risk Governance & Localization. The PILON Secretariat has contributed to the Risk Governance and localization groups, working closely with the PRP and other members to provide advice and support.

The localization working group seeks to progress the localization agenda by bringing together a range of local, regional, and international actors whose work is complementary during any humanitarian emergency. Most recently, the PILON Secretariat participated in and contributed to the mapping activities which were enhanced by a series of webinars aimed at focussing on risk considerations on sustainable development. If you wish to view past webinar recordings, summaries and upcoming events, please visit the [PRP website](#).

INSIG2 AND ZYBER GLOBAL 'FUNDAMENTALS OF DIGITAL FORENSICS FOR LAWYERS AND JUDGES' PILOT SCHOLARSHIP COURSE



Fifteen lawyers from the PILON family were nominated through the Cybercrime Working Group to participate in a pilot scholarship online course run by Insig2 and Zyber Global on 'Fundamentals of Digital Forensics for Lawyers and Judges'. The course commenced on 31 March 2021 and will run over approximately ten weeks. It is intended to assist lawyers, judges and public prosecutors to better understand basics of digital forensic investigations and related challenges.

The course covers digital forensics, digital crime and types of crimes that are considered to be a part of digital forensic investigation, digital evidence, the legal aspects of the evidence seizure, in-lab processing, data extraction, and presenting digital evidence in court. The course brings four professional legal development skills points (CPD - Continuing Professional Development, CPE - Continuing Professional Education or CLE - Continuing Legal Education) and participants will be issued with an e-certificate upon the successful completion of the course.

The cohort of participants will further consolidate their online learning through fortnightly discussion-groups facilitated by the Australian Attorney-General's Department. Each fortnight, content from the modules will be discussed in further detail by subject matter expert guest speakers, providing practical insight and the opportunity for participants to ask questions and share their thoughts about the course content.

The course will ensure that participants have up to date knowledge about novel cyber-enabled crimes and methodologies for capturing evidence to prosecute them, coupled with a unique opportunity to network and share knowledge with other legal officers representing 11 Pacific Island countries. It is envisaged that, beyond the course, participants can continue to share their knowledge about lessons learned and pass on their newly gained knowledge to colleagues in their workplaces, contributing to improved capacity regionally to combat cybercrime.

We congratulate the cohort on their nominations and look forward to hearing about their progression throughout the course.

EXCITING FUNDING REIMBURSEMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEGAL TRAINING AND BOOKS

The Australian Attorney-General's Department (AGD) is pleased to advise that it is offering reimbursement for costs associated with Pacific Island law and justice agencies providing government lawyers or paralegals with legal online and/or face-to-face training. AGD is also able to fund the purchase of legal books during the course of 2021.

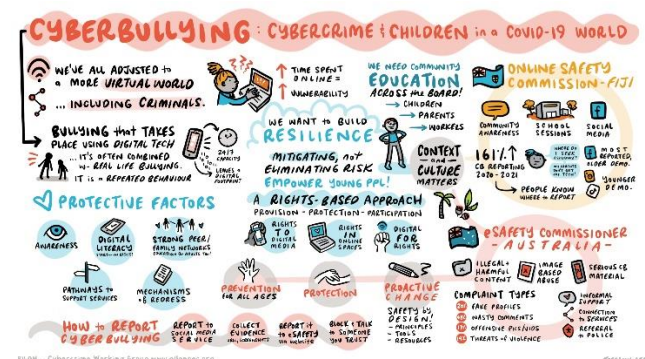
The training will need to meet the following requirements:

- Agencies must take responsibility for organising any proposed legal training themselves – it cannot be entirely outsourced to commercial training providers
- Funding will be provided on a reimbursement basis so agencies will need to pay all expenses before receiving reimbursement from AGD
- Applications must include a fully itemised quote (in local currency)
- Agencies will need to enter into an exchange of letters with AGD prior to the training
- After the event, agencies must provide receipts and evidence that the training took place. In the case of a book/s purchase, agencies must provide receipts
- AGD can only accept applications from PILON member agencies from countries which are eligible to receive Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) funding

Should your Department/agency be interested and meet these requirements, please email pacific@ag.gov.au for a copy of the application form. While applications received by 30 April 2021 will be prioritised, AGD will continue to accept applications on a rolling basis throughout the year.

WEBINAR RELEASES

Cyberbullying – Cybercrime and Children in a Covid-19 World



On Thursday 18 March 2021, the Cybercrime Working Group held the first of the PILON webinars for the year with their webinar on '[Cyberbullying: Cybercrime and Children in a Covid-19 World](#)'. Covid-19 has changed the world as we know it. While we have been forced to physically distance, we have become more connected through the internet, adapting to remote work, learning and video calls. Cybercriminals have adjusted to our increased online engagement, rendering children more vulnerable than ever in this new criminal landscape.

Increased use of the internet, social media and online platforms generally comes with many risks. The webinar explored one of those risks, cyberbullying, which has grown in prevalence in relation to children, with increased access to technology and more daily interactions being carried out in the online space. While these practices take place online and enable perpetrators to carry out harmful activities with a level of anonymity, they translate to very real world harms.

Chaired by Director of Public Prosecutions in the Kingdom of Tonga, Mr James Lutui, the webinar explored the current state of cyberbullying in the Pacific and identified opportunities to improve our means of protecting children from cyberbullying in the region. Professor Amanda Third discussed children's technology practices based on her recent work in Kiribati, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. This included discussion of protective factors including awareness, digital literacy, strong peer and family networks, pathways to support services and mechanisms of redress. Professor Third stressed the importance of a rights-based approach to children's use of the internet, focused on provision, protection and participation.

Ms Anne Dunn-Baleilevuka, Commissioner of the Fiji Online Safety Commission, discussed Fiji's experience in working to

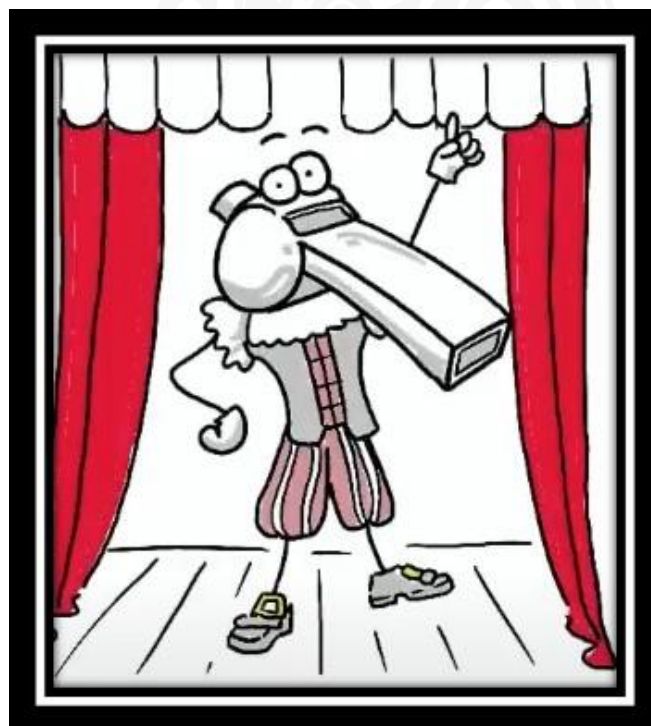
protect children from harmful online practices. Ms Dunn-Balieilevuka presented statistics about the concerning increase in cyberbullying reporting from 13% in 2019 to 28% in 2020. She noted that in 2021, there was a 161% increase in reported online abuse, including online bullying. Additionally, she discussed how the Online Safety Commission was engaging with schools and working together with Fiji Police to ensure a more online safety conscious Fiji.

Ms Ella Serry and Ms Kelly Tallon from the Australian eSafety Commission provided an overview of the eSafety Commission based on Australia's experience of being the first country in the world to develop and implement a cyberbullying complaints scheme, as well as an overview of the legislation underpinning the eSafety Commission and its powers in relation to cyberbullying. The speakers explained the importance of protection, prevention and proactive & systemic change. They noted that cyberbullying is often an extension of what happens at school and stressed that the power of eSafety's intervention lies with their ability to do something that complainants are often not able to do themselves. Ms Serry and Ms Tallon also explained the key features of Australia's Enhancing Online Safety Act 2015 and Online Safety Bill 2021.

A recording of the webinar is now available on the PILON website for your viewing, as is the wonderful poster live-scribed by graphic artist Ms Jessamy Gee. Participants were very engaged and asked thoughtful questions which were enthusiastically answered by our speakers.

The Cybercrime Working Group thanks you for your continued interest in its work and looks forward to your engagement with its forthcoming webinars. Stay tuned for Part 2 of the 'Cybercrime and Children in a Covid-19 World' series, to be held in the next couple of months.

Developing comprehensive whistleblower protections: An overview



Earlier this year, the PILON Corruption Working Group endorsed an exciting new 2021 work plan, which includes a three-part webinar series on whistleblower protections.

On 31 March 2021, the first webinar in the series was launched on the topic: Developing comprehensive whistleblower protections: An overview. It was developed in close partnership with the United Nations Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption (UN-PRAC) Project, and presented by Dr Ashley Savage, an UN-PRAC consultant who specialises in good governance with a particular focus on whistleblowing as a tool to combat corruption. Dr Savage holds a PhD on unauthorised disclosures and whistleblowing, and is the author of several publications on this topic. The webinar also features fun visual graphics by Mr Martin Ackerly, who had previously done the graphics for the Corruption Working Group's widely-popular webinars on prosecuting corruption in the Pacific.

The webinar is on the [PILON website Members Zone](#) and can be accessed by members at any time. The second and third webinars in the series will be released in April and May.

COMING SOON!

Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV)

Call for sharing experiences

The SGBV working group met on 26 March 2021 and agreed to develop a series of videos over the coming months that will capture success stories from around the Pacific on what has worked in supporting vulnerable witnesses.

It is hoped that capturing positive experiences and good practices in the implementation of victim-oriented policies, will be an important mechanism in supporting reform, and will help us to enhance our understanding of the issues surrounding this sensitive field.

If any SGBV member country is interested in sharing anecdotes from the region on what has worked in supporting vulnerable witnesses, please contact the PILON Secretariat at pilon@pilonsec.org by 29th April 2021.

Cybercrime



JUNE

Webinar – ‘Cybercrime and Children in a Covid-19 World: Part 2 – *Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM)*’

Coming in June 2021



AUGUST

Webinar – ‘Revenge porn and sexploitation’

Forthcoming for August 2021

Corruption

Title: ‘Legal and policy protections for whistleblowers’

Mode of delivery: Webinar

About: This is the second webinar in the corruption working group’s series on whistleblower protections. The series has been developed in partnership with the United Nations Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Project. This webinar will cover various elements that should be included in a good

whistleblower protection law, the role of organisations in creating strong internal whistleblower policies and some gender specific issues to keep in mind when thinking about reporting mechanisms and retaliation.

When: To be released on the PILON members zone in the final week of April.

Title: ‘Implementation of a whistleblower protection framework’

Mode of delivery: Webinar

About: This is the third and final webinar in our series on whistleblower protections. In this webinar, Dr Ashley Savage will bring together all of the ideas and theories from the previous two webinars and talk about practical ways to implement a whistleblower framework.

When: Coming at the end of May.

Title: ‘Framework for prosecuting corruption in the Pacific’

Mode of delivery: Publication

About: This popular publication was first released by the corruption working group in 2019, and we have been working hard to produce an updated version to reflect each country’s current legislative frameworks.

When: The updated publication will be finalised over the coming months and placed on the PILON website.

Title: ‘Forum: Whistleblower protection webinars and policies from various countries’

Mode of delivery: Live roundtable discussion via zoom

About: The working group will be hosting a roundtable discussion via zoom to provide a forum for attendees to talk about the whistleblower protection webinars and share their thoughts and experiences on whistleblower policies from various countries.

When: Likely June/July 2021.