



Talking Points Delivered at the Draft Design Briefing for the Australia Pacific Security College 2 August 2018

Overview of step-up strategy

- At the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' meeting in Apia on 8 September 2017, the Prime Minister announced a range of measures to strengthen Australia's engagement with the Pacific including:
 - stronger partnerships for economic growth
 - stronger partnerships for security cooperation and
 - stronger relationships between our people.
- Our step-up in the Pacific, committing us to a more ambitious and intensified engagement to support a more resilient region, is one of the highest priorities of the 2017 Foreign Policy White Paper [*launched 23 November 2017*].
- The step-up responds to the significant long-term challenges faced by our partners in the Pacific including: climate change and responding to natural disasters, sustaining economic growth and boosting education, skills and jobs for growing populations, recognising the essential role of women in achieving better development outcomes, the threat of major disease outbreak and tackling transnational crime.

Australia Pacific Security College

- At last year's Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Leaders' meeting, it was agreed to commence consultations on a new Pacific regional security declaration, currently referred to as 'Biketawa Plus', to guide future regional responses
 - the new declaration is expected to include an expanded concept of security, inclusive of climate change, natural disasters, human security, and also more traditional threats including transnational crime
 - it is expected to be adopted at the upcoming Leaders meeting in Nauru on 5 September.
- To support implementation of Biketawa Plus and to enhance regional security cooperation and strengthen the capacity of the Pacific to respond to security threats, the Australia Pacific Security College was announced as one of our key White Paper initiatives.
- This is an exciting initiative with the Government committing \$18.45 million for the program over the next three and a half years, with an option to extend for a further four years
 - as a sign of the importance the government has placed on this initiative, ongoing funding has been provided to ensure the longevity of the College.
- The College will bring together officials from across Pacific countries and agencies (police, defence, customs, immigration, intelligence community) for training and professional development



- no agency or country working alone can meet the challenges our region faces so we want to encourage regional organisations and national agencies to share information and train together.
- The core functions of the College will include:
 - delivery of senior executive and middle management strategic training
 - supporting bilateral and regional policy development (including national security strategies) and implementation across a range of security threats, including transnational crime, climate change, natural disasters, pandemics and cybercrime; and
 - establishing an active alumni network of Pacific security decision makers for Australia and like-minded partners to connect to.
- The College will also facilitate the delivery of security courses by other Australian government agencies (WOG)
 - College courses will not replace existing WOG training at the more operational, sector specific level
 - rather, College courses will bring together senior officials from across agencies to strengthen capacity at a strategic level and build interagency cooperation
- The College will also complement the work to be undertaken by another White Paper initiative, the pilot Pacific Information Sharing Network
 - this pilot program will explore ways to connect regional security and law enforcement bodies to enhance information sharing between regional agencies. The pilot is an important element to deliver stronger, more coordinated responses to transnational security threats in the Pacific.
- Once the College is established we will reach out to interested likeminded partners (New Zealand, United States, United Kingdom, France and Japan) to identify opportunities for engagement with, and contribution to, the College.
 - a key role of the College will be to facilitate technical input from these likeminded partners
- The College will be managed by a secretariat and will be governed by an Advisory Board of prominent Australian, New Zealand and Pacific nationals and chaired by an eminent Australian
 - board composition is yet to be finalised.

Consultations to date

- We have undertaken a range of consultations with Pacific Island countries, commencing in October 2017.
- Through our Embassies and High Commissions in the region we reached out to key personnel and regional agencies.
- We have consulted extensively with other Australian government agencies, including Defence, the AFP and Home Affairs



- while the College will focus on strategic training, as opposed to operational training, we are keen to ensure the College does not duplicate the work of other Australian agencies and will build on the training already provided by these agencies.
- We also held a two-day workshop in Suva, in June, following on from a PIFS-led Biketawa Plus workshop. Discussions from that workshop have helped shape the design for the College.
- At the workshop there was widespread-support for the College, with participants noting it was an exciting development to have a College that would focus on the Pacific and its specific security issues.

Register and its role

- Separate to the procurement process for the College, DFAT's Pacific Security Cooperation Section, responsible for establishing the College, is maintaining a register.
- An invitation to register has already been released on DFAT's business opportunities website and will close on the same date as the Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) [22 August].
- The register is for organisations that have an interest and expertise in delivering aspects of the APSC, but are unlikely to have the capacity to implement all aspects, to register their interest in partnering with other organisations.
- Interested organisations are required to prepare a brief statement of the services they can provide and a brief overview of their expertise.
- The register will be provided to REOI respondents shortlisted to Stage 2 of the tender process for the College
 - however, there is no obligation for shortlisted respondents to use the register or to partner with associated service providers listed on the register.