

DFAT Management Response to Australia Solomon Islands Partnership for Justice Mid-Term Review – May 2026

Relevance

Recommendation	Response	Next steps	Timeframe
1. Create one guiding document for the Australia Solomon Islands Partnership for Justice (ASIPJ).	Agree	Following the completion of the Mid-Term Review (MTR) and subject to the extension of the current program to a further phase, Post will work with ASIPJ to develop a high-level overarching document to guide program implementation and decision-making for DFAT, the managing contractor, the ASIPJ Program Team and ASIPJ partners.	2026
2. Incorporate greater rigour into the process for applying for program support.	Agree	<p>In consultation with Solomon Islands Government (SIG) stakeholders, Post will work with ASIPJ to develop and implement a culturally and contextually appropriate process to increase demonstrated rigour around decisions to support requests for program support, while maintaining program flexibility and agility.</p> <p>Consideration will need to be given to ensure that any additional processes do not serve as a barrier to stakeholders seeking ASIPJ support.</p> <p>Consideration will be given to developing and sharing criteria for program support aligned with the End of Program Outcomes, to be shared with SIG stakeholders.</p>	2026
3. Ensure that program support is strategically balanced across the justice system.	Agree in principle	ASIPJ will undertake modelling to better understand the downstream impacts on the law and justice system should SIG decide to expand the Royal Solomon Islands Police (RSIPF).	Next program phase (2026-2029)
4. Enhance civil society engagement in support of improved access to justice.	Agree	Though the program EOPOs focus on building capacity of core law and justice sector agencies, over the last 12 months ASIPJ has increased engagement with civil society organisations (CSOs) in recognition of their important contribution to the law and justice sector.	Next program phase (2026-2029)

Recommendation	Response	Next steps	Timeframe
		<p>This includes supporting the establishment of the Solomon Islands Young Legal Professionals Association, Solomon Islands Women's Lawyers Association (SIWLA) and re-establishing a productive working relationship with the Solomon Islands Bar Association.</p> <p>Over the next phase of the program, Post will continue to work with ASIPJ to develop productive relationships with CSOs and monitor new opportunities for support.</p>	
5. Support the sector to plan and prepare for emerging and pressing issues.	Agree	In planning for the next phase of the program, Post will consider other Australian aid programs in Solomon Islands with synergies to ASIPJ (for example, security, cyber) and identify opportunities to better link with law and justice activities, including assisting the sector to plan and prepare for emerging issues.	2025-26

Effectiveness

Recommendation	Response	Next steps	Timeframe
6. Expand Melanesian twinning opportunities across SIG justice sector agencies.	Agree	<p>In recognition of the success of the existing partnerships, ASIPJ will continue to identify opportunities to expand the Melanesian Twinning program throughout the next phase of the program.</p> <p>Since the commencement of the MTR, ASIPJ has supported further twinning exchanges and Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) between Correctional Services Solomon Islands and Vanuatu Correctional Services, and the Solomon Islands Law Reform Commission and Fiji Law Reform Commission.</p> <p>Expansion of opportunities will continue in consultation with SIG, the Program Reference Group (PRG) and in line with available ASIPJ program budget.</p>	Ongoing

Recommendation	Response	Next steps	Timeframe
7. Extend Melanesian twinning arrangements to non-state organisations.	Agree	<p>Post will work with ASIPJ to extend Melanesian twinning opportunities to non-state-organisations as appropriate.</p> <p>Work has commenced to establish linkages with the Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs (MJLA) and Community Legal Centres Australia. In May 2025 ASIPJ supported meetings between MJLA and the Inala Community Legal Centre and the Women in Law Queensland. SIG is currently considering the establishment of a Community Legal Centre to be run by the SIWLA for women to access justice services. Post and ASIPJ will seek to identify Melanesian twinning exchanges in support of this and future initiatives involving the NGO sector.</p> <p>Per recommendation of recommendation 7, extension of the program will be considered in consultation with SIG, the PRG and in line with available ASIPJ program budget.</p>	Ongoing
8. Measure the end user's experience of accessing justice.	Note	ASIPJ will explore options to measure the end user's experience of access to justice in the next iteration of the program's Monitoring, Evaluation, Research and Learning plan.	Next program phase (2026-2029)

Efficiency

Recommendation	Response	Next steps	Timeframe
9. Broaden input into Program Reference Group (PRG) decision-making.	Agree in principle	In consultation with SIG stakeholders, ASIPJ will explore options to broaden input into PRG decision-making, for example, through a mechanism involving agency-head level meeting in advance of the PRG meeting, to ensure that working-level views, priorities and feedback are reflected in key program documents such as the Annual Work Plan via a formal consultation process.	2025
10. Move to a single, streamlined contracting arrangement.	Note	Post will explore options to streamline process and reduce administration inefficiencies within the program management and meet DFAT quality standards.	2025-26

Recommendation	Response	Next steps	Timeframe
11. Review the case for each adviser role.	Agree	ASIPJ will implement a process to review the case for each adviser role. The review will include recommendations on continuation of adviser roles and format for engagement, including consideration of whether long-term, short-term or remote (or a variation of one of more model) best support the program's EOPOs and value for money.	2025-26

Sustainability

Recommendation	Response	Next steps	Timeframe
12. Seek to share costs with SIG.	Agree in principle	ASIPJ has identified a number of successful mechanisms for SIG to share program costs, particularly related to Melanesian Twinning exchange. These include in-kind training and mentoring support and contributions for travel costs. Post and ASIPJ will continue to identify opportunities to share costs for program activities in consultation with SIG.	Ongoing
13. Commit to further significant and sustained support for the Justice Information Management System (JIMS).	Agree	Significant and sustained support for JIMS will be included in the next phase of the program, with activities scheduled to implement technical improvements and resolve issues. ASIPJ is currently undertaking a review of JIMS in consultation with SIG stakeholders, which will seek to validate data and make recommendations to improve functionality, reliability of data, and long term sustainability.	Next program phase (2026-2029)
14. Establish a formal oversight responsibility for JIMS within SIG.	Agree in principle	Post supports the intent of the recommendation, to incorporate a formal oversight responsibility for JIMS within SIG, and will discuss this recommendation with relevant SIG stakeholders. Implementation of the recommendation would be subject to a decision by SIG.	Ongoing

The Case for Increasing ASIPJ's Budget

Recommendation	Response	Next steps	Timeframe
15. Increase ASIPJ's budget.	Note	<p>Post notes the importance of continued investment in the law and justice sector. A budget increase to the law and justice program would be subject to Posts overall Overseas Development Assistance budget position, which is allocated in consultation with SIG according to its priorities and needs.</p> <p>Post will continue to identify options to maximise support to the sector including through Whole-of-Australian-Government assistance, regional programs and pro bono partnerships.</p>	2025-26
16. Develop an infrastructure and equipment strategy for ASIPJ.	Agree in principle	<p>Post will work with ASIPJ to develop an a pipeline of small-scale infrastructure and equipment required by the sector, in order to prioritise requests.</p> <p>Large scale infrastructure and equipment requests are beyond the scope of the current program.</p>	Next program phase (2026-2029)

First Nations Participation and Engagement

Recommendation	Response	Next steps	Timeframe
17. Increase links with community legal centres in Australia.	Agree	<p>Per response in relation to recommendation 7, work has commenced to establish linkages with the Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs (MJLA) and Community Legal Centres Australia. In May 2025 ASIPJ supported meetings between MJLA and the Inala Community Legal Centre and the Women in Law Queensland. SIG is currently considering the establishment of a Community Legal Centre to be run by the SIWLA for women to access justice services. Post and ASIPJ will continue to increase links with community legal centres in Australia, with a focus on First Nations exchange, including to explore support for reciprocal in-person visits and online engagement.</p>	Ongoing