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Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

MEDIA TALKING POINTS
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STANDARD

Topic: POLITICAL-ECONOMIC

Originating Division: PID

Subject: Falepili Mobility Pathway

Version Date: 26/5/2026

Reason for Update:

Version: 1

Expiry: 26/08/2026

Talking Points

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

If asked: Won't the allocation of 280 visas per year de-populate Tuvalu?

- Australia and Tuvalu agreed to an allocation of 280 visas per year.
- As Prime Minister Feleti has said 'this is not just about one way traffic'
    - Australia is supporting the Government of Tuvalu to deliver on its development priorities, safeguarding the future of Tuvalu.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

The Falepili Mobility Pathway has attracted significant and sustained media interest and reporting from Australian and international media outlets. Common themes have focused on what happens to a country if its entire population is displaced, and the groundbreaking nature of the Falepili Mobility Pathway.

Approval	
Consultation	Tuvalu Section, OTP; Pacific Integration Division
Author	s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cleared by	Megan Watson; AS Integration and Education Branch, PID

Distribution
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Thursday, 30 April 2026 8:14 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; Stacey Nation; Mark Tattersall; s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Subject: PM Feleti Women Deliver side program 29/4/26

Dear all

Prime Minister Feleti completed the DFAT organised elements of the side program for his visit to Women Deliver 2026 yesterday (29/4/26). Quick points on his two engagements below.

ABC interview

- PM had an approximately 30 minute interview with Johnson Raela of *The Pacific*. Questions focused on Pre-COP, the Mobility Pathway, fossil fuels and Article 4.4.
- s 22(1)(a)(ii)

  . The Pathway was not one way – the whole objective is to bring people back to Tuvalu. Brain drain was not a new issue for Tuvalu – the difference was that Falepili was designed to be migration with dignity. It was not climate migration – it was circular mobility. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

- When asked for his final message, PM stated that people should remember that Falepili was about more than migration – it was a comprehensive agreement that covered security and climate adaptation.

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Kind regards
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

_____

A/g Assistant Director | Tuvalu Section
Polynesia Branch | Office of the Pacific
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

© Brooke Rigney-Lively (2024)
We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all First Nations peoples, their cultures and to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

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05 May 2026

TUVALU FALEPILI UNION

KEY MESSAGES

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

- The Falepili visa has built-in mechanisms to facilitate the movement of Tuvaluans between our two countries, as well as measures to help them stay connected with their culture and heritage.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Prepared By:
Name:
Branch: OTP | PID | EIB | PYS
Phone:

Cleared By:
Name: Megan Watson
Position: Assistant Secretary
Branch/Division: OTP | PID | EIB
Phone:

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Friday, 16 January 2026 10:33 AM
To: s 47F(1)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] COP30 - Inquiry on the Australia–Tuvalu Falepili Union [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s 47F(1)

Apologies for the delay getting back to you on this

Please see below some additional information that I hope is of use

Cheers,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

- Does this high percentage of applications also motivate additional actions (particularly within Tuvalu) given the progressive loss of the local workforce, which could create cultural and

economic impacts for those who remain in Tuvalu while awaiting relocation to Australia—a process that may take years?

Prime Minister Feleti Teo of Tuvalu has emphasised that the Pathway is not 'one way traffic' and will enable circular mobility that will strengthen Tuvalu's resilience.

Under the Falepili Union Treaty, Australia and Tuvalu have committed to work together to help Tuvaluans to stay and thrive in their homeland. Australia has committed to an enhanced development partnership with Tuvalu, with increased support in priority areas such as healthcare, economic governance, infrastructure, and climate adaptation.

Along with our enhanced development partnership, Australia has recognised Tuvalu's ongoing sovereignty regardless of the impacts of climate change-induced sea level rise and is obliged to respond to requests for assistance in the event of a natural disaster, military aggression or public health emergency of international concern.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Director | Tuvalu Section
Polynesia Branch | Office of the Pacific
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 47F(1)
Sent: Wednesday, 14 January 2026 4:36 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] COP30 - Inquiry on the Australia–Tuvalu Falepili Union [SEC=OFFICIAL]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender.

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

I hope you're doing well.

I wanted to kindly follow up on the information regarding the Australia-Tuvalu treaty inquiry.

s 47F(1)

If you've had the chance to look into it, I would greatly appreciate any updates you can share.

Many thanks again for your support.

Best regards,
s 47F(1)

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From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, December 12, 2025 12:31:37 PM
To: s 47F(1)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] COP30 - Inquiry on the Australia–Tuvalu Falepili Union [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s 47F(1)

I just wanted to acknowledge receipt of this email

I'm just putting together some information on your questions and will hopefully be able to come back shortly

Cheers,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

_____
Director | Tuvalu Section
Polynesia Branch | Office of the Pacific
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 47F(1)
Sent: Thursday, 4 December 2025 12:01 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] COP30 - Inquiry on the Australia–Tuvalu Falepili Union

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Dear s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) whom I had the pleasure of meeting in Brazil at COP30, shared your contact and mentioned that you would be the right person to help clarify some questions about the Australia–Tuvalu Falepili Union.

s 47F(1)

I have been following the developments of the initiative through media reports and official sources such as dfat.gov.au and falepilipathway.gov.au. I saw that the registration process for the Falepili Mobility Pathway visa closed in June this year, with 8,750 applications submitted, including family members of principal applicants.

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Given this high level of interest—which, as I understand it, represents roughly 80% of Tuvalu's population—and the fact that only 280 visas are planned to be granted annually, the topic raises several questions in class that I have not been able to answer based solely on publicly available news:

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

- Does this high percentage of applications also motivate additional actions (particularly within Tuvalu) given the progressive loss of the local workforce, which could create cultural and economic impacts for those who remain in Tuvalu while awaiting relocation to Australia—a process that may take years?

Thank you very much for your time and guidance.

Best regards,
s 47F(1)

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Backpocket - Tuvalu – Australia-Tuvalu Falepili Union

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Won't the allocation of 280 visas per year de-populate Tuvalu?

- Australia and Tuvalu agreed to an allocation of 280 visas in the 2025-26 program year and have agreed to an allocation of 280 visas in the 2026-27 program year.
- The ballot provides a fair and transparent process by randomly selecting Tuvaluans to apply for the visa
  - it makes sure there is equal access for Tuvaluans of any skill level, occupation and gender.
- The Falepili Mobility Pathway provides citizens of Tuvalu the choice to travel to Australia – temporarily or permanently – to live, work, and study as permanent residents.
- The Falepili mobility pathway has in-built mechanisms to support circular migration by providing Falepili visa holders with the freedom for unlimited travel to and from Australia
  - this makes it easier for Tuvaluans to take skills and experience gained in Australia back to Tuvalu, contributing to the ongoing prosperity of Tuvalu
  - as Prime Minister Feleti Teo has said 'this isn't about one-way traffic'.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

We're moving forward with the commitments under that treaty, but it's important to know that this is not one-way traffic. Prime Minister Feleti has used those words: it's not one-way traffic. Under the Falepili Union, we're providing Tuvaluans with a choice and some options to live, work and study in Australia, and we open our doors to Tuvalu, but also we are investing in Tuvalu and Tuvaluans' choice to stay at home.

Questions on Notice

- N/A

Freedom of Information (FOI) Requests

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Recent Ministerial Comments

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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Division: OTP | PDD | PYB – Polynesia Branch	
PDR No: s 22(1)(a)(ii)	
Prepared by: s 22(1)(a)(ii) Ext: s 22(1)(a)(ii) Date: 19 May 2026	**Cleared by Branch Head:** Stacey Nation, Assistant Secretary, Pacific Branch Mark Tattersall Mob: s 22(1)(a)(ii) Date: 16 June 2026
Consultation: Pacific Integration Section | EIB Name: s 22(1)(a)(ii)	Date: 20 May 2026 Ext: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Consultation: Pacific Visas and WHM Program Management Section | Department of Home Affairs Name: s 22(1)(a)(ii)	Date: 20 May 2026 Mob: s 22(1)(a)(ii)