



**Australian Government**

**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

# Communication & Engagement Final Report Template

## Australian Development Research Awards Scheme

2012 Funding Round

**Purpose:** The aim of this template is to provide the Australian Government and research teams with a systematic way to collect data on the outcomes of individual ADRAS research projects. Reporting includes a mix of metrics, case studies and narrative and can be tailored to suit individual projects.

**The Communication and Engagement Final Report is a supplement to the ADRAS Final Report, coming six months after project completion, to provide any further updates in terms of knowledge outputs/outcomes and/or policy impacts. Tables should include an update on data provided in the ADRAS Final Report.**

Agreement Number	66455
Project Title Please restate the working title as specified on the Australian Aid website at: <a href="http://aid.dfat.gov.au/research/Pages/adras-awards-2012.aspx">http://aid.dfat.gov.au/research/Pages/adras-awards-2012.aspx</a>	Overcoming the barriers to women's participation in local government in Samoa
Administering Organisation	Centre for Samoan Studies, National University of Samoa
Principal Investigator	Dr Malama Meleisea
Total Australian Aid funding received during reporting year (AUD\$)	SAT\$252,768.06

**1. Please outline what has been achieved by the project in terms of influencing policy/practice/thinking in the field of study? Limit 500 words.**

The project has made significant contributions to international conversation about the low rate of women's participation in parliament in Samoa. The project contributed in the following ways:

- A senior member of the project team was interviewed by Daniela Maoate-Cox of Radio New Zealand International (RNZI) on 21 July 2015. The interview was aired on radio and the RNZI article 'Interpretations of tradition hold back Samoan women leaders' is now available via the following URL: <http://www.radionz.co.nz/international/programmes/datelinepacific/audio/201762382/interpretations-of-tradition-hold-back-samoan-women-leaders>. RNZI broadcasts in digital and analogue short wave to radio stations and individual listeners across the Pacific region. Around twenty Pacific radio stations relay RNZI material daily, and individual short-wave listeners and internet users across the world tune in directly to RNZI content.<sup>1</sup>
- The final report (Volume 1-English, Volume 1-Samoan and Volume 2-English) is accessible to the international community and academics via the Centre for Samoan Studies website: <http://samoanstudies.ws/research/samoa-local-government-research-project/> and National University of Samoa website: <http://www.nus.edu.ws/s/index.php/87-nus/news-events/301-cultural-factors-continue-to-be-a-challenge-for-samoan-women-to-become-leaders>.

The project has made significant contributions to national conversation about the low rate of women's participation in parliament in Samoa. The project contributed in the following ways:

- The research brief based on preliminary research findings was disseminated to heads of government ministries and local aid and UN agencies. The project team was able to deliver a seminar presentation to UNDP based on preliminary research findings which later informed the design of the UN Joint 'Increasing Political Participation of Women in Samoa Project [IPPWS]' (see IPPWS website: [http://www.ws.undp.org/content/samoa/en/home/operations/projects/womens\\_empowerment/increased-political-participation-of-women-in-samoa--ippws--un-j.html](http://www.ws.undp.org/content/samoa/en/home/operations/projects/womens_empowerment/increased-political-participation-of-women-in-samoa--ippws--un-j.html)).
- The Samoan version of the final report's executive summary was disseminated to all members of parliament before the parliamentary session held 18 June 2014 where the Amended Bill for the Village Council Fono Act (2015) was debated. The summary included recommendations to the Samoan government and National Council of Churches.
- The project informed other local research, including the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture's (MESC) 'Situational Analysis of Early Childhood Education (ECE)' (2014), the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development's (MWCSO) 'Women Matai Leadership Survey' (2015), and St Andrews ECOPAS-funded gender project where the Centre for Samoan Studies' is a research partner.
- The project will continue to inform future research conducted in Samoa, including the upcoming 2016 election monitoring study being organised by Australian National University's (ANU) State, Society and Governance in Melanesia (SSGM) Program research team, with the Centre for Samoan Studies as a research partner. In addition, the research continues to inform a local PhD study conducted by Ramona Boodoosingh looking at 'Policies and programmes to support victims of family or gender-based violence in Samoa and Fiji'.
- The final report (Volume 1-English, Volume 1-Samoan and Volume 2-English) is accessible to government and non-government organisations and local researchers via the Centre for Samoan Studies website: <http://samoanstudies.ws/research/samoa-local-government-research-project/> and National University of

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<sup>1</sup> See RNZI website for more information: <http://www.radionz.co.nz/international/about>

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Samoa website:

<http://www.nus.edu.ws/s/index.php/87-nus/news-events/301-cultural-factors-continue-to-be-a-challenge-for-samoan-women-to-become-leaders>.

- The Samoa Observer, a well-known local newspaper, covered the launched and subsequent dissemination activities of the project. An article based on the launch can be accessed via: <http://www.samoaoobserver.ws/home/headlines/13894-academic-rejects-pms-claims>.

The project has made significant contributions to community conversations about the low rate of women's participation in parliament. The project contributed in the following ways:

- The seminar presentation held in Salelologa, Savaii on 21 July 2015 for village mayors (*sui o nu'u*) and village women's representatives to government (*sui o tama'ita'i o nu'u*) and school principals inspired debate and different perspectives about the findings of the research. The seminar was filmed and the recording will be made available via the Centre for Samoan Studies website ([www.samoanstudies.ws](http://www.samoanstudies.ws)) in due course.
- The seminar presentation held in Sogi, Upolu on 23 July 2015 for village mayors (*sui o nu'u*) and village women's representatives to government (*sui o tama'ita'i o nu'u*) and school principals inspired debate and different perspectives about the findings of the research. The seminar was filmed and the recording will be made available via the Centre for Samoan Studies website ([www.samoanstudies.ws](http://www.samoanstudies.ws)) in due course.
- The final report (Volume 1-English, Volume 1-Samoan and Volume 2-English) is accessible to local communities and schools via the Centre for Samoan Studies website: <http://samoanstudies.ws/research/samoa-local-government-research-project/> and National University of Samoa website: <http://www.nus.edu.ws/s/index.php/87-nus/news-events/301-cultural-factors-continue-to-be-a-challenge-for-samoan-women-to-become-leaders>.
- Physical and electronic copies of the final report (Volume 1-English, Volume 1-Samoan and Volume 2-English) and its revised version are available at the National University of Samoa Library in the Pacific Collection in Upolu and the MESC-SSAB Library in Salelologa, Savaii.

The research is intended to support advocacy as well as inform policy and potential law reform in relation to the *Village Fono Act* (1990). As per the objectives of the project, research findings were made widely available with hard copies and e-copies of the final report freely distributed during project dissemination events. The revised final report is now freely accessible through the Centre for Samoan Studies and National University of Samoa websites. In the near future, research findings will be submitted in papers for publication in relevant applied research refereed journals.

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## 2. How have key stakeholders been engaged in the research?

The Centre for Samoan Studies (CSS) collaborated with two government ministries on the project. They were the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture (MESC) and the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development (MWCSD). The project has made a significant contribution towards strengthening research collaboration between NUS-CSS, MWCSD and MESC. Inter-agency engagement was formalised in the Project Steering Committee which met every 6 months, under the direction of CSS Director, Dr. Malama Meleisea. Committee members comprised of a representative each from MESC and MWCSD and 3 in-house NUS project team members.

In addition, a working group was established in December 2013 with the MWCSD and its team of researchers who were undertaking a similar but smaller research known as the 'Women Matai Leadership Survey'. Two working group sessions were conducted, with the two research teams sharing information, research planning documents, methodologies, and survey questionnaires to ensure that research efforts were not duplicated across the two projects. The final results of both studies were subsequently shared.

**Table 1: Engagement of external individual / groups / networks**

External Individuals / Groups / Networks per Theme			
External Individual / Group / Network engaged <sup>2</sup>	Duration of engagement <sup>3</sup>	What / how did engaged group contribute? <sup>4</sup>	Changes to relationships/networks <sup>5</sup>
MESC – Maimoana Petaia and Vaiao Finau	MESC engagement commenced at the start of the project, with Maimoana and Vaiao being members of the Project Steering Committee meetings;  MESC was primarily involved in the implementation of the nation-wide survey, providing support and information throughout the duration of the project, including coordination of dissemination activities.	Year 1 (2013/2014) research activities: MESC has proved to be a vital partner in the implementation of the nation-wide survey, having organised its senior review officers (i.e. district coordinators) who, in turn, identified primary school teachers (i.e. village enumerators) who were then trained and employed to conduct the survey in all 275 villages in Samoa.  Year 2 (2014/2015) research activities: MESC played a minor role in the implementation of interviews with village mayors, women's representatives to Government and women candidates. However, MESC was instrumental in coordinating the participation of select school principals in dissemination activities.	Year 1 (2013/2014) research activities: The CSS-MESC relationship was active throughout the duration of the project. MESC was a stakeholder of the project as well as a member of the Project Steering Committee.  Year 2 (2014/2015) research activities: The CSS-MESC relationship continues to exist with regard to coordination of dissemination activities.  At present, no MoU has been signed between MESC and CSS-NUS.
MWCSD – Faafetai Koria, Louisa Apelu, Tarita	MWCSD engagement commenced at the	Year 1 (2013/2014) research activities: MWCSD played a minor role in the	Year 1 (2013/2014) research activities: The CSS-MWCSD

<sup>2</sup> *Engaged*: State the name of the organisation / institution / group / network and any relevant individual or key contact personnel involved

<sup>3</sup> *Duration of engagement*: State whether the engagement is 'new' i.e. commenced during the ADRAS project or 'existing' and include the years of engagement e.g. 2009, 2010, 2011

<sup>4</sup> *Contribution of engaged group*: Classify the contribution according to which stage in your research project the engagement has occurred. For example: Design; Implementation/fieldwork; report writing; review. Consideration of findings/recommendations; Communication / dissemination

<sup>5</sup> *Change*: Outcomes in terms of changes in engagement – relationships / structures, networks including creation of new networks; formalizing relationships e.g. through MoU's;

<p>Sione and Alanna Seugamatupu</p>	<p>start of the project, with Faafetai, Louisa, Tarita and Alanna being members of the Project Steering Committee meetings;</p> <p>MWCSD was primarily involved in the implementation of the project interviews, providing support and information throughout the duration of the project, including coordination of dissemination activities.</p>	<p>implementation of the nation-wide survey. A handful of ministry resources were made available to the project (e.g. village profiles, list of village mayors &amp; female village representatives to government). These resources proved useful in clarifying specific village contexts, verifying data collected from the survey and for planning purposes. It was noted however that the Ministry's data was slightly out of date (based on research conducted back in 2011).</p> <p>Year 2 (2014/2015) research activities: MWCSD's support and assistance has been vital in securing interviews with village mayors and women's representatives under their organisational purview. Additionally, MWCSD was instrumental in coordinating the participation of select village representatives in dissemination activities.</p>	<p>relationship existed with support for project planning and coordination.</p> <p>Year 2 (2014/2015) research activities: The CSS-MWCSD relationship was active throughout the duration of the project.</p> <p>At present, no MoU has been signed between MWCSD and CSS-NUS.</p>
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[No case studies]

### 3. What knowledge outputs or research communications have resulted from the project? How have these been used to achieve the research objectives?

Please provide the Australian Government with copies of these outputs with this progress report.

**Table 2: Key knowledge Outputs**

Type of output	Title/description of output	Published Y/N?	Source	Qty
Tool A	NUS identification tag for each village enumerator to wear whilst conducting the survey	N	CSS project database (documents already submitted in a previous report)	1
Tool B	Rural and urban versions of the 2-part survey designed	N	CSS project database (documents already submitted in a previous report)	1 (1 survey with 2 parts)
Testing of Tool B	Successfully tested and modified rural version of survey	N	CSS project database (documents already submitted in a previous report)	1
Guide for using Tool B	Two reference documents (one for each part of the survey) provided to assist with survey training and guide village enumerators during survey implementation	N	CSS project database (documents already submitted in a previous report)	2 (1 set of urban reference documents and 1 set of rural reference documents)
Report on preliminary survey findings	Report based on preliminary findings of nation-wide survey	Y	CSS website (see URL: <a href="http://www.samoanstudies.ws">www.samoanstudies.ws</a> )	1
Conference paper/ presentation	Pacific Research Colloquium held 28 January-7 February 2014, State, Society & Governance in Melanesia (SSGM) Program, Australian National University (ANU), Canberra.	N	Colloquium paper (documents already submitted in a previous report)	1
Conference paper/ presentation	Pacific Island Political Studies Association (PIPSA) Conference held 3-5 June 2014, Papeete Tahiti	N	Conference paper (documents already submitted in a previous report)	1
Conference paper/ presentation	State of the Pacific Conference held 17-20 June 2014, SSGM, ANU, Canberra	N	Conference paper (documents already submitted in a previous report)	1
Conference paper/ presentation	Third Samoa Conference held 25-29 August 2014 at the National University of	Y (pending publication in forthcoming Conference proceedings)	Conference paper (documents already submitted in a previous report)	1

	Samoa (NUS)			
Conference poster	Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) held 1-4 September 2014 at the Faleata Complex	Y (in the form of a banner)	Picture and PDF of banner (documents already submitted in a previous report)	1
Conference paper/ presentation	SIT Samoa Research Seminar held 3 October 2014, Centre for Samoan Studies, National University of Samoa (NUS).	N	Seminar paper (documents already submitted in a previous report)	1
Academic paper (journal article/working paper/book chapter/monograph)	Chapter entitled 'Women and Politics in Samoa: Tradition versus Modernity' written by Penelope Schoeffel and Measina Meredith; chapter will be included in a forthcoming book to be published by ANU e-Press entitled 'Women in Politics in the Pacific Islands' edited by Nicole George (University of Queensland) and Kerryn Baker (ANU).	Y (pending review by ANU e-Press)	Book chapter (documents already submitted in a previous report)	1
Newspaper article	Newspaper article (in English) of report on preliminary survey findings published in Samoa Observer (English version – 13 July 2014)	Y	Scan of Samoa Observer article (documents already submitted in a previous report)	1
Newspaper article	Newspaper article (in Samoan) of report on preliminary survey findings published in Iniini Samoa (Samoan version – 15 October 2014)	Y	Scan of Iniini Samoa article (documents already submitted in a previous report)	1
Policy document (Policy brief/research brief /recommendations /seminar)	Research brief developed for local stakeholders (i.e. heads of local development agencies, relevant Government departments and ministries and NGOs)	N	Research brief (documents already submitted in a previous report)	1
Seminar presentation	Seminar presentation of preliminary research findings held	N	Seminar power point presentation (new - documents attached)	1

	28 April 2015 for UNDP, Multi-country office, Matautu-Tai.			
Policy document (Policy brief/research brief /recommendations /seminar)	Executive summary of final report disseminated to all MPs (Samoan version)	N	Executive summary (new - documents attached)	1
Seminar presentation	Seminar presentation of research findings held 6 June 2015 for the Women in Leadership Advocates [WinLA]), UNDP Office, Matautu-Tai.	N	Seminar power point presentation (new - documents attached)	1
Final research report with errata (Volume 1 – English, Volume 1 – Samoan, & Volume 2 – English )	Launch of final research report held 10 July 2015, NUS <i>fale</i> , National University of Samoa (NUS).	Y	CSS website (see URL: <a href="http://www.samoanstudies.ws">www.samoanstudies.ws</a> and activity report attached)	3
Radio New Zealand Phone Interview	Interview with Radio New Zealand International reporter Daniela Maoate-Cox. Interview held 21 July 2015 and based on research findings.	N	RNZI website <sup>6</sup> or contact reporter <a href="mailto:Daniela.Maoate-Cox@radionz.co.nz">Daniela.Maoate-Cox@radionz.co.nz</a>	1
Panel discussion / Seminar presentation	Panel discussion and presentation of final research report held 16 July 2015, Conference Room, Tanoa Hotel.	N	CSS website (see URL: <a href="http://www.samoanstudies.ws">www.samoanstudies.ws</a> and activity report attached)	1
Seminar presentation	Seminar presentation of final research report held 21 July 2015, Evaeva Hall, Salelologa, Savaii.	N	CSS website (see URL: <a href="http://www.samoanstudies.ws">www.samoanstudies.ws</a> and activity report attached)	1
Seminar presentation	Seminar presentation of final research report held 21 July 2015, Tooa Salamasina Hall, Sogi, Upolu.	N	CSS website (see URL: <a href="http://www.samoanstudies.ws">www.samoanstudies.ws</a> and activity report)	1
Revised final research report (Volume 1 – English rev & Volume 1 – Samoan rev)	Dissemination of revised version of final research report to Library, National University of Samoa (NUS).	N	CSS website (see URL: <a href="http://www.samoanstudies.ws">www.samoanstudies.ws</a> )	2
Website	Regular and up-to-date postings of completed research activities on ADRAS-funded CSS website	Y	CSS website (see URL: <a href="http://www.samoanstudies.ws">www.samoanstudies.ws</a> )	1

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.radionz.co.nz/international/programmes/datelinepacific/audio/201762382/interpretations-of-tradition-hold-back-samoan-women-leaders>

	No of total outputs:	29
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**Table 3: Methods of Communication**

Communication per Knowledge Output				
Target Audience	Knowledge output	Communication Method <sup>7</sup>	Audience Reached <sup>8</sup>	Response <sup>9</sup>
All village enumerators	NUS identification tag (Tool A)	Disseminated during survey training sessions	All village enumerators (277)	Request from village enumerators for identification tags; positive feedback from village enumerators
Research team	2-part survey designed (Tool B)	Team meetings	In-house research team members (4 female; 3 male)	Active participation in team meetings and engagement in survey
1 district coordinator and 4 village enumerators from 4 rural villages in the <i>Falealili</i> district	Rural version of the survey tested (Testing of Tool B)	Survey trial training	1 district coordinator (male) and 4 village enumerators (3 female; 1 male) from 4 rural villages in the <i>Falealili</i> districts	Active participation and engagement in survey trial; feedback from district coordinator and village enumerators informed future training
All district coordinators and village enumerators involved in the survey	Two reference documents developed (Guide for using Tool B)	All survey training	All district coordinators (16) and village enumerators (277) involved in the survey	Positive feedback from district coordinators and village enumerators about using these reference documents as a guide for fieldwork
ANU 2013 conference convenors and conference attendees	Presentation on rationale for the project and progress on project activities	15 minute conference presentation	ANU conference convenors and conference attendees including ANU students and researchers from around the Pacific	Positive feedback from conference organisers about presentation; expressions of interest from other academics and researchers requesting more information

<sup>7</sup> *Communication Method*: General statement of method e.g. publication, social media, seminar, meeting, conference, teaching, course etc.

<sup>8</sup> *Audience Reached*: Specify level as well as estimate proportion of intended target audience reached, where possible. Include gender breakdown

<sup>9</sup> *Response*: Qualitative assessment of response or sign of attention paid to the communication by the target audience E.g. expressions of interest; requests for more information; active participation and engagement; provision of comments or feedback. May include negative responses.

ANU 2014 colloquium organisers and attendees	Presentation on the project and implementation of the nation-wide survey	15 minute conference presentation	ANU colloquium convenors and attendees including ANU students and researchers from around the Pacific	Positive feedback from colloquium organisers about presentation; expressions of interest from other academics and researchers requesting more information
PIPSA 2014 conference convenors and conference attendees	Presentation on preliminary findings of the nation-wide survey	15 minute conference presentation	PIPSA conference convenors and conference attendees including University of French Polynesia students and researchers from around the Pacific	Positive feedback from conference organisers about presentation; expressions of interest from other academics and researchers requesting more information
ANU 2014 conference convenors and conference attendees	Presentation on preliminary findings of the nation-wide survey	15 minute conference presentation	ANU conference convenors and conference attendees including ANU students and researchers from around the Pacific	Positive feedback from conference organisers about presentation; expressions of interest from other academics and researchers requesting more information
NUS 2014 conference convenors and conference attendees	Presentation on preliminary findings of the nation-wide survey	15 minute conference presentation	NUS conference convenors and conference attendees including NUS students, locals and researchers from around the Pacific	Positive feedback from conference organisers about presentation; expressions of interest from other academics and researchers requesting more information
SIDS 2014 conference organisers and conference attendees	Banner presentation on preliminary findings of the nation-wide survey	1 hour banner presentation	SIDS 2014 conference organisers and local and international conference attendees	Positive feedback from local and international conference attendees
NUS 2014 seminar attendees (specifically SIT undergraduate students from abroad)	Presentation on project and preliminary findings of the nation-wide survey	15 minute seminar presentation	SIT students and CSS-NUS staff	Positive feedback from seminar attendees
Academic paper (book chapter)	Book chapter based on findings of the nation-wide survey	ANU e-Press	Expected audience is the ANU and Pacific scholar academic community	No feedback yet as book is pending publication in early 2015.
Academic and Pacific scholar community	Newspaper article (Samoa Observer)	Print media	Local and online newspaper readers	Positive feedback from public
Academic and Pacific	Newspaper article	Print media	Local newspaper	Positive feedback

scholar community	(Iniini Samoa)		readers	from public
Policy makers and local stakeholders	Research brief summarising the project and findings from the nation-wide survey	Print and electronic media	Heads of local development agencies, relevant Government departments and ministries and NGOs	Positive feedback from the Ombudsman and local NZ aid programme personnel; research cited in UNDP project document for 'Increasing the Political Participation of Women in Samoa' (IPPWS)
UNDP and IPPWS project staff	Seminar presentation of preliminary research findings held 28 April 2015 for UNDP, Multi-country office, Matautu-Tai.	1 hour seminar presentation and Q&A	UN Resident Representative, UN-Women Coordinator, IPPWS project staff	Positive and mixed feedback from UNDP and project staff; research cited in UNDP project document for 'Increasing the Political Participation of Women in Samoa' (IPPWS)
Members of Parliament (MPs)	Executive summary of final research report	Print media	MPs	Mixed feedback from Prime Minister as reported in local media; positive feedback from female MPs
Members of the Women in Leadership Advocates (WinLA)	Seminar presentation	1 hour seminar presentation and Q&A	Members of WinLA	Positive and mixed feedback from WinLA members
MPs, CEOs of government ministries, heads of local aid agencies, other high-level delegates/dignitaries, senior NUS staff	Final research report (Volume 1 – English, Volume 1 – Samoan, & Volume 2 – English)	Print and electronic media	MP, heads of few local aid agencies (Australia, Japan), senior staff from government ministries (Attorney General, Law Reform Commission, MWCSO, MESC etc.) & senior NUS staff & postgraduate students	Positive and mixed feedback from launch participants about presentation; lots of interest in hard copies and e-copies of the final report with ongoing dialogue and local media attention
Radio New Zealand International radio listeners - Pacific region	Radio New Zealand International Phone Interview	30 minute phone interview	RNZI radio listeners – Pacific audience	Positive feedback from RNZI and local journalists
Representatives from government ministries, prominent members of civil society, representatives from UNDP and UN-Women, local volunteers, senior NUS staff & postgraduate	Panel discussion / Seminar presentation	2 hour panel discussion presentation and Q&A	Women who have run for past election and those whom are considering running for 2016 election, senior staff of government	Positive feedback from panel discussion participants about presentation and panel members' perspectives; lots of interest in hard copies and e-copies

students			ministries (Attorney General, Law Reform Commission, Ombudsman's office, MWCSO, MESC etc.) volunteers working in Samoa, local UNDP and UN-Women staff & senior NUS staff & postgraduate student	of the final report with ongoing dialogue and local media attention
Savaii village mayors ( <i>sui o nu'u</i> ), village women's representatives to government ( <i>sui o tama'ita'i o nu'u</i> ) and MESC school principals involved in project	Seminar presentation - Savaii	2 hour seminar presentation and Q&A	Savaii village and school representatives / constituents / voters	Positive feedback from seminar participants about presentation with some village representatives sceptical about the findings and research recommendations; lots of interest in hard copies and e-copies of the final report with ongoing dialogue via MWCSO and MESC
Upolu village mayors ( <i>sui o nu'u</i> ), village women's representatives to government ( <i>sui o tama'ita'i o nu'u</i> ) and MESC school principals involved in project	Seminar presentation - Upolu	2 hour seminar presentation and Q&A	Upolu village and school representatives / constituents / voters	Positive feedback from seminar participants about presentation with some village representatives sceptical about the findings and research recommendations; lots of interest in hard copies and e-copies of the final report with ongoing dialogue via MWCSO and MESC
NUS Library users (staff & students)	Revised final research report (Volume 1 – English rev & Volume 1 – Samoan rev)	Print and electronic media	Local researchers including staff and students conducting research on Samoa	Positive feedback from NUS library, especially for inclusion of research in the library's special Pacific Collection
Wider general public including other research institutions, government agencies and NGOs	ADRAS-funded CSS website (URL: <a href="http://www.samoanstudies.ws">www.samoanstudies.ws</a> )	Website (contains revised final report, errata for original final report, photos of dissemination)	NUS staff and students, overseas internet users interested in studying in Samoa and	Positive feedback from NUS staff and students regarding the website and its content; positive feedback from

		events, films – soon to be uploaded)	research conducted in Samoa	overseas people interested in CSS research and programmes
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#### 4. Are there any future C&E activities planned or in the pipeline that will improve the reach and/or uptake and use of the research?

The following future communications and engagement activities are planned:

- The project director will meet with the parliamentary committee to explain research findings in more detail. This initiative is being coordinated by Ezra Falute of the Legislative Assembly.
- Films are being developed using footage and audio recordings of all dissemination events (launch, panel discussion, seminar presentations). In addition, a special documentary film is being developed by Misa Vicky Lepou of the NUS - Journalism Department. Films and audio recordings of all dissemination events will be archived with Tuifao Tumua of the NUS – Multimedia Unit. Furthermore, selected films will be made available via the Centre for Samoan Studies website ([www.samoanstudies.ws](http://www.samoanstudies.ws)) in due course.
- MWCSO (Faafetai Koria-ACEO and Louisa Apelu-ACEO) and MESC (Vaia Finau) are interested in future research collaboration, integrating ministry and project databases to develop more comprehensive villages profiles.

As previously mentioned, the project has informed the following ongoing and future local research:

- the St Andrews ECOPAS-funded gender project where the Centre for Samoan Studies' is a research partner
- upcoming 2016 election monitoring study being organised by Australian National University's (ANU) State, Society and Governance in Melanesia (SSGM) Program research team, with the Centre for Samoan Studies as a research partner
- ongoing local PhD study conducted by Ramona Boodoosingh looking at 'Policies and programmes to support victims of family or gender-based violence in Samoa and Fiji'.
- UN Joint 'Increasing Political Participation of Women in Samoa Project [IPPWS]' (see IPPWS website: [http://www.ws.undp.org/content/samoa/en/home/operations/projects/womens\\_empowerment/increased-political-participation-of-women-in-samoa--ippws--un-j.html](http://www.ws.undp.org/content/samoa/en/home/operations/projects/womens_empowerment/increased-political-participation-of-women-in-samoa--ippws--un-j.html)); the Centre for Samoan Studies is expected to be actively involved in IPPWS project activities.

#### 5. What can we learn from challenges/issues experienced in relation to C&E throughout the project? *Limit 500 words.*

Politics in Samoa continues to receive a lot of attention in the local media especially as upcoming 2016 elections create much interest and debate about the issue of low women's representation in parliament and the gender quota. Upon dissemination of the final report and subsequent seminar presentations to share research findings, the project team experienced both positive and mixed feedback from different audiences.

The Prime Minister, having read the executive summary of the final report (before the full report's launch), claimed the research findings were inaccurate. The PM's remarks were subsequently featured in a local newspaper (see Samoa Observer website: <http://www.samoaoobserver.ws/home/headlines/13894-academic-rejects-pms-claims>) giving the project negative attention before the actual launch of the final report. In light of the negative publicity, the director of the project, Leasiolagi Professor Malama Meleisea, responded openly to the PM's criticisms and the matter has not been reported in the media since. Subsequent dissemination events were critical to enlighten the public and straighten the record straight with regard to project findings and recommendations.

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The project experienced three delays as a result of the external factors, beyond the project team's control:

- Contrary to the timeframe outlined in the initial project proposal, the project adopted the revised timeframe as a result of delays brought about with Samoa hosting the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) held August 25 – September 5 2014 (see Table 1). In addition, the revised timeframe was better suited to project stakeholders (NUS, MWCSO and MESC) as they too were hosting several SIDS pre-conference and side events. In the future, anticipating such delays brought about by national events (and public holidays) should be taken into account during the planning stages.
- First project extension approved for 30 June 2015. The first request for extension was necessary to accommodate the departmental review / academic audit that was undertaken at the Centre for Samoan Studies at the end of May 2015. In addition, the extension accommodated periods when the project director was called to duty travel. Future research should anticipate and take into account for planning purposes, major institutional events.
- Second and final project extension approved for 31 July 2015. The second request for extension was necessary to accommodate the pending official release and review of the MWCSO research report. The MWCSO report had some findings which confirmed and complemented our own research findings. An extension was needed to review the MWCSO report in order to explain the discrepancies that were largely due to differences in research questions, methodologies and sampling. In the future, the research process should continue to be inclusive and transparent, to avoid duplication of effort and wasted resources.

The above-mentioned delays resulted in two requests for extension of the project completion date. Both extensions were granted by ADRAS, moving the project completion date to Friday 31 July 2015.

The following issue was experienced as a result of limitations to the research process, in the particular, limitations to the verification process involved in social science research such as the present study.

- During the dissemination of the final report, two research findings were amended based on the testimonies of village representatives and other information that had come to light after the launch of the final report. In particular, the villages of Fasitoo Uta and Fatuvalu (Safune) were removed from the list of 21 villages that ban women *matai*, leaving 19 villages from 14 (out of 41) parliamentary constituencies. In response, a revised version of the final report was printed and e-copies made available via the Centre for Samoan Studies (CSS) website ([www.samoanstudies.ws](http://www.samoanstudies.ws)). In addition, an errata document was developed, translated and disseminated during the Upolu seminar presentation and made available via the CSS website.
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## 9. Certification

I certify that all the details contained in this C&E Final Report are true and that all research partners and co-investigators agree that this report is an accurate representation of the projects progress so far.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. L. Smith', is written over a horizontal line.

Signed, Principal Investigator

Date: 31/07/15