



"Responding to change through reformed laws"

THE REFORMER

The Official Six-Monthly Newsletter of the Samoa Law Reform Commission

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REVIEW OF THE ARMS ORDINANCE 1960

The Commission is delighted to announce the successful completion of one of its major projects, "the Review of the Arms Ordinance 1960." Our Final Report completed with detailed recommendations, was submitted to Cabinet for endorsement on 30 June 2025.

We acknowledge with sincere gratitude the exceptional support and collaboration of our valued partners in both the public and private sectors, including the Ministry of Police, Prisons and Correctional Services, the Ministry for Customs and Revenue, as well as the Samoa Shooting Federation and licensed firearms dealers. We particularly wish to thank the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development for their crucial role in facilitating our communication with village representatives across Samoa.

Our deepest gratitude and faafetai tele goes to the people of Samoa. Your feedback, active participation and valuable insights have essential in shaping practical and meaningful recommendations for modernizing our arms legislation.

Faafetai, faafetai tele for your continued support and engagement and God bless!



Afioga Tufuga Fagaloa Tufuga Fatu
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Welcome to your Law Reform Commission
Newsletter for the last six months of the Financial
Year 2024/2025.

This issue highlights the Commission’s key activities
and developments from January to June 2025.

We are pleased to announce the completion of the
Review of the Arms Ordinance 1960, with the Final
Report submitted to Cabinet for endorsement on
30 June 2025. This marks a significant milestone for
the Commission and concludes one of our major
projects for this financial year 2024/2025.

The Review of the Traffic Laws of Samoa remains
in its Final Report Stage, nearing completion, and
the Review of the Fabric of Laws No.2 has also
progressed to this final stage of the law reform
process.

- In addition, one new project has commenced and is
currently in its initial review stage:
- Follow-up Review of the Narcotics Act 1967
(initiated by the Commission)

Following the last issue, the Commission’s review of
the Public Trust Office Act 1975 still in its initial
stage due to ongoing discussions surrounding the
Terms of Reference (TOR). While approval of the
TOR should formally come from the Attorney
General’s Office, we engaged our Minister and the
administering Ministry to facilitate the submission
of a request to Cabinet for formal approval. Once
this is resolved, work on the review will be able to
proceed.

Further updates on the progress of these projects
and other activities by the Commission are detailed
in this issue.

We sincerely acknowledge the ongoing support of
the public, village communities, and Government
agencies—your contributions are essential to the
success of our work.

Faamalo le galulue to the dedicated staff of the
Commission. Faamanuia tele le Atua!

We hope you enjoy reading this issue.
Faafetai tele lava!

(1) FOLLOW-UP REVIEW OF THE NARCOTICS ACT 1967

In April 2025, the Commission initiated a follow-up on its Review of the Narcotics Act 1967 completed in 2017. To commence this follow-up review, the Commission undertook a stock-take of the recommendations made and the extent to which these recommendations have been implemented by relevant agencies.

The next steps of this follow-up project and any further correspondences and engagement with key stakeholders will be guided by this findings of the Commission’s stock-take exercise.

(2) REVIEW OF THE FABRIC OF LAWS OF SAMOA No.2

Following from Issue 1 (July–December 2024), the Commission continued its preliminary research and stakeholder engagement for this project. In February 2025, the stakeholders were invited to one-on-one consultations with the Commission. As of June 2025, 22 out of 25 consultations with government offices were completed successfully.

The Commission is actively following up with the remaining three ministries to confirm meeting times. Preparations of the Final Report are now in progress, with completion expected by September 2025.

(3) REVIEW OF THE TRAFFIC LAWS OF SAMOA

Following The Reformer Issue 1 (July–Dec 2024), the Commission is finalizing its review by preparing the Final Report with recommendations for potential law reforms.

The penultimate draft was completed in December 2024, and the Final Report is expected to be submitted to Cabinet for endorsement in the coming months.

LEGAL REVIEW ASSISTANCE

From January to June 2025, the Commission has responded to a number of legal review assistance matters referred (in table below). These references usually require that the Commission carries out legal and doctrinal research, make analysis and provide input and comments to requesting Ministries/SOEs and others. The Commission continues to strive to provide high-quality research-based responses in a timely manner to assist the requesting Government agencies.

NAME OF REQUEST	DATE RECEIVED	DATE OF COMPLETION
Samoa Land Transport Review Roles and Requirements Position Report	6 February 2025	19 February 2025
Draft Moneylenders Bill and Microfinance Bill	14 February 2025	20 May 2025
UNCAC Review to reform the Crimes Act 2013	17 February 2025	8 April 2025
Samoa National Anti-Corruption Policy Implementing Agencies	16 April 2025	1 May 2025

LEGAL DIVISION

Training/Course Title	Provider	Date	Location	SLRC Employee
Consultation on the Review of the National ICT Policy 2012-2017	MCIT	18 Feb 2025	Tanoa Hotel Conference Room	Tapuai Sheliza Tapuai
Mid-Term Review of the Samoa National Child Care and Protection Policy 2020-2030	MWCSD	14 Mar 2025	MWCSD Conference Room	Tapuala Mearold Viliamu
Validation Workshop - CEDAW Legislative Compliance Review	MWCSD	18-19 Mar 2025	Taumeasina Island Resort Conference Room	Matuaitoga Hope Crichton
Validation Workshop on the Ratification of the Agreement under the UN Convention on the Laws of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biology Diversity Beyond	MFAT	17-18 Mar 2025	Taumeasina Island Resort Conference Room	Matuaitoga Hope Crichton Tovale Filipo
Stakeholder Consultations on EPC's multi-year tariff proposal	OOTR	18 Mar 2025	Elisa Hotel Conference Room	Florita Tupai Aunua Uele
National Workshop on enhancing Legal and Policy Capacity for the Implementation of Environmental Law in Samoa	SPREP	19-21 Mar 2025	Taumeasina Island Resort Conference Room	Lizatalei Hakai-Stanley Matuaitoga Hope Crichton
Review of the Samoa Law and Justice Sector Plan 2021-2025	SLJS	26 Mar 2025	MUCA Conference Room	Tufuga Fagaloa Tufuga Fatu Tapuai Sheliza Tapuai Leaumoana Salima Lasalo Salima
Ratification Workshop - Legislative Specialist Support for the Land Transport Sub-Sector Legislative Review and Revenue Generation Opportunities Project under the Samoa Climate Resilient Transport Project (SC RTP)	MWTI	25-26 Mar 2025	MWTI Conference Room	Tapuai Sheliza Tapuai
Validation Workshop - Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) Legislative Compliance Review (LCR)	MWCSD	27 Mar 2025	Tooa Salamasina Hall	Matuaitoga Hope Crichton
Consultation on the Review of the Crimes Act 2004, based on the UNCAC Recommendations	PSC & Samoa Police and Project Consultant Krista Lee-Jones of UNODC	8 April 2025	SLRC Conference Room (via Zoom)	Tufuga Fagaloa Tufuga Fatu Tapuai Sheliza Tapuai Tapuala Mearold Viliamu Matuaitoga Hope Crichton Aunua Uele
National E-Commerce Legislative Gap Analysis Validation Workshop	MCIL	22 May 2025	Lava Hotel	Liza Talei Hakai Stanley Matuaitoga Hope Crichton
Distributed Energy Resources Policy	OOTR	20 June 2025	DBS Conference Room	Tapuala Mearold Viliamu
Chinese Language and Culture	PSC	18 June - 8 July 2025	Beijing China	Matuaitoga Hope Crichton



Tovale Filipo
Senior Human Resource Officer

Ms. Filipo served the Commission for over six years as Executive Assistant, and was later promoted to Senior Human Resource Officer, a role she held until her resignation on 23 May 2025.

We sincerely thank and acknowledge Ms. Filipo for her valuable contributions over seven years of dedicated service to the Commission. We wish her all the very best in her next chapter and future endeavours.



Aunua Uele
Senior Legal Analyst

Ms. Uele joined the Commission on 24 July 2023 as a Senior Legal Analyst. After two years of dedicated service, we bid her farewell as she embarks on a new role in another Ministry.

The Commission sincerely acknowledges her invaluable contributions to our work and extends our best wishes as she takes on this new chapter in her career.



China-Samoa Bilateral Training Program on Chinese Language and Culture, 18 June - 8 July 2025

NEW RECRUITS



Tauva Lima
Senior Legal Analyst

Ms. Tauva Lima joined the Commission on 9 January 2025 as our newly appointed Senior Legal Analyst, serving under the Legal Division.

We warmly welcome Ms. Lima to the Commission and look forward to her contributions and the fresh ideas she will bring to support and enhance our work.



Enhancing National Legal & Policy Capacity for the Implementation of Environmental Law, 19 - 21 March 2025



National Workshop on the Ratification and Implementation of the BBNJ Agreement for Samoa, 17-18 March 2025

CORPORATE SERVICE DIVISION

Training/Course Title	Provider	Date	Location	SLRC Employee
Awareness on the Foreign Qualifications Recognition Services Guidelines 2024	SQA	19 Feb 2025	Lava Hotel Conference Room	Tovale Filipo
Faalauloaina o Suiga o tau fou mo Auaunaga i Malaevaalele Faavaomalo, Faleolo/Fagalii	SAA	19 Feb 2025	Tooa Salamasina Hall	Fugalaau Siaki
Train the Trainer	PSC	24-26 Feb 2025	Millenia Conference Room	Leaumoana Salima Lasalo Salima Fugalaau Siaki Tovale Filipo
National Records Taskforce Meeting	MEC	27 Feb 2025	Samoa Culture and Arts Centre	Tele Pinati
Human Resource Coordinators Forum	PSC	28 Feb 2025	SSS Conference Room	Leaumoana Salima Lasalo Salima Fugalaau Siaki Tovale Filipo
Polokalame Faaleaoga mo le Faafaeina o Taavale Eletise	MWTI	14 Mar 2025	MWTI Conference Room	Leaumoana Salima Lasalo Salima
Cabinet Liaison Officers Forum	MPMC	17 Mar 2025	MEC Conference Room	Fugalaau Siaki
Validation Workshop for Samoa's National Action Plan for Health Security	MOH	18 - 19 Mar 2025	Taumeasina Island Resort Conference Room	Tovale Filipo
Recordkeeping Mapping Training	MEC	26-28 Mar 2025	Culture & Art Centre	Tele Pinati
New Public Administration Sector Plan 2025/26 - 2030/31	PSC	15 May 2025	Tanoa Tusitala Conference Room	Leaumoana Salima Lasalo Salima
International Human Resource (HR) Day Symposium	PSC	20 May 2025	Tanoa Tusitala Conference Room	Fugalaau Siaki
Recruitment and Selection System & Performance Management System	PSC	3-6 June 2025	Sheraton Hotel	Tele Pinati

NEW RECRUITS CONT'D



Tele Pinati

Executive Assistant and Receptionist

Ms. Tele Pinati commenced work with the Commission on 3 February 2025. She is the first to hold our newly established position of Executive Assistant and Receptionist.

We are pleased to welcome Ms. Pinati to the team and look forward to the valuable support she will bring to the daily operations of the Commission.



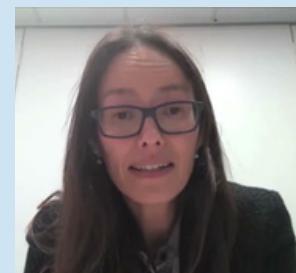
Miracle Sio

Driver

The same warm welcome is extended to Mr. Miracle Sio, who joined the Commission on 17 March 2025 as our new Driver.

We are delighted to have Mr. Sio on board and look forward to his support in ensuring the smooth delivery of the Commission's logistical and operational needs.

Virtual Meeting with the New Zealand Law Commission President, Dr. Amokura Kawharu



On 3 April 2025, we had the privilege of meeting virtually with Dr. Amokura Kawharu, President of the New Zealand Law Commission. During this insightful exchange, Dr. Kawharu shared her perspectives on the NZ Commission's current priorities, the processes it follows in developing law reform projects, and the importance of maintaining independent and well-resourced law reform bodies.

We also discussed opportunities for fostering stronger regional cooperation amongst law reform agencies across the Pacific. In particular we explored the potential for future collaboration between the NZ Law Commission and the Samoa Law Reform Commission.

The meeting was highly constructive, and we look forward to building on this initial dialogue to develop practical partnerships and knowledge-sharing opportunities in the near future.

OFFICE AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

CORPORATE PLAN 2025 - 2030

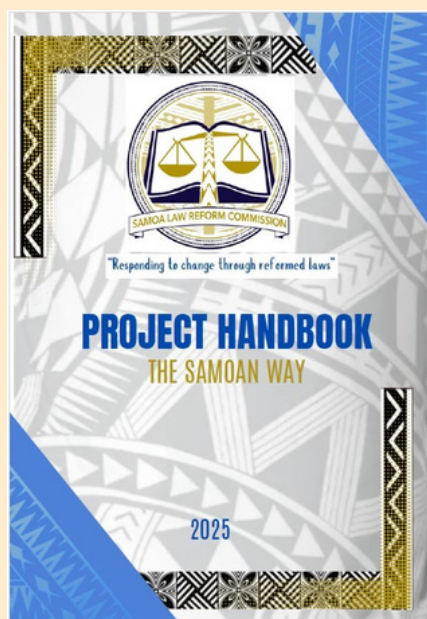
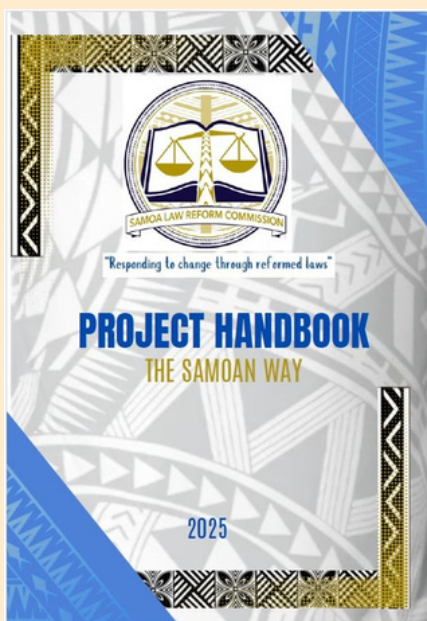


On 30 May 2025, the Commission held a dedicated planning day away from the office to focus on the finalisation of its new Corporate Plan for the period July 2025 – June 2030. This internal session provided an opportunity for staff to collaboratively reflect on key outcomes and formulate strategic priorities that align with the Law and Justice Sector Plan and other national high-level strategic frameworks. The day was highly productive, with full team engagement through interactive discussions and planning exercises.

In June 2025, the finalised Corporate Plan 2025–2030 was printed, bound, and formally submitted to the Honourable Minister for the Samoa Law Reform Commission, Afioga Matamua Seumanu Vasati Sili Pulufana, for her endorsement.



PROJECT HANDBOOK 2025



On 24 June 2025, the Commission successfully completed its Project Handbook. This important resource is designed to guide legal staff in effectively managing law reform projects, ensuring consistency and quality across all stages of project implementation.

The development of the handbook involved meaningful collaboration and discussion among Commission staff, aimed at identifying best practices and strengthening internal processes. This marks another key milestone in the Commission's ongoing efforts to enhance its institutional capacity and project management approach.



The Samoa Law Reform Commission is proud to share that one of our Executive Legal Officers, Tapuala Mearold Viliamu has successfully completed his Master's Degree from the University of Melbourne, Australia. He undertook his studies during a year-long study leave under the prestigious Australia Awards Scholarship Program.

His graduation is scheduled for December 2025, and we warmly congratulate him on this significant academic achievement. We look forward to him bringing a fresh perspective and a wealth of new ideas to strengthen our work and contribute meaningfully to law reform efforts that support the Government of Samoa.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the Australian Government for its continued support through the Australia Awards Program, which plays a vital role in building capacity and fostering professional development across the region.



SLRC CORNER



Challenge Winner, Tovale Filipo



Easter Team Challenge, Tapuai and Miracle



Vaiao o le Gagana Samoa



Mothers Day Celebration



Former Executive Director, Teleiai Dr. Lalotoa Multalo visits



Hikeathon at Mr. Vaea



HAVE YOUR SAY

Q -

How to give the Commission my Feedback?

A -

Send us through letter, email, facebook message or join us at our public consultations in Upolu or Savaii.



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What's Next

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