VOLUME 8 Issue 1 : July 2025 - December 2025

THE REFORMER

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

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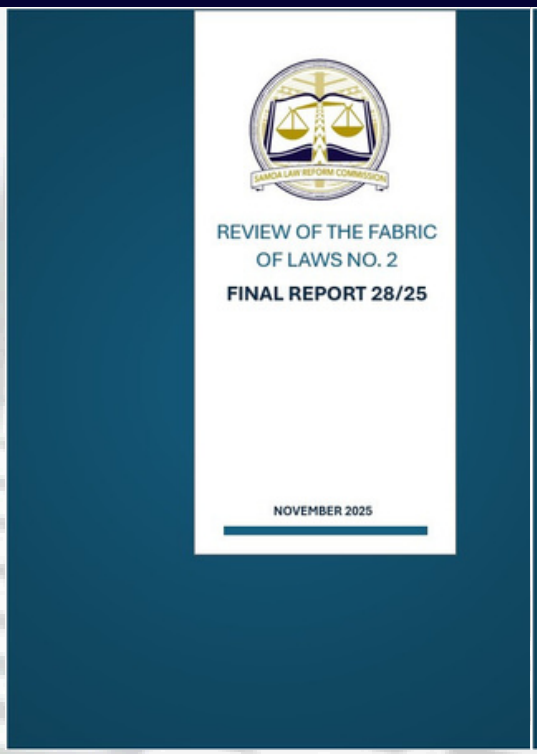

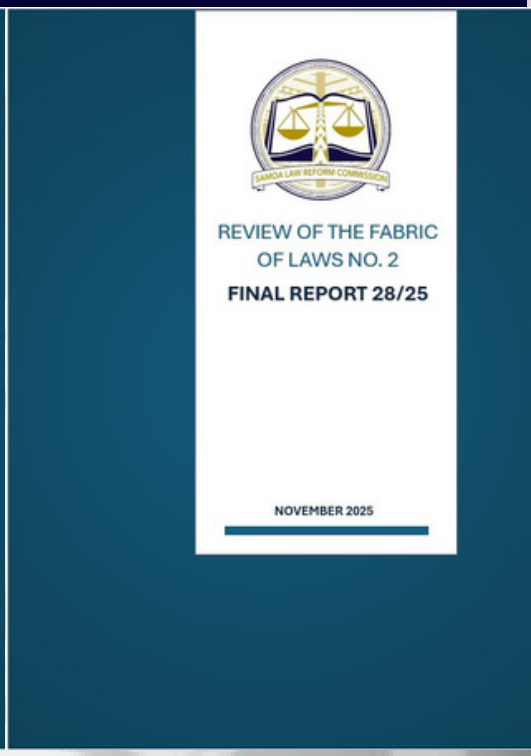

REVIEW OF THE FABRIC OF LAWS NO. 2

We are pleased to highlight that the Commission has successfully completed a significant milestone — the "Review of the Fabric of Laws No. 2." Our Final Report, inclusive of detailed recommendations, was formally submitted to Cabinet for endorsement on 14 November 2025.

On 18 December 2025, Cabinet endorsed our Final Report pursuant to FK(25)48. The translation for the Final Report is now in progress and will be submitted in March 2026 for tabling in Parliament.

Among the key recommendations contained in the Report are the following:

- 36 laws: We recommended that their administration be transferred to their correct authority;
- 6 laws: We recommended that these be repealed;
- Recommendation 59: We recommended the review and consolidation of all existing regulations;
- Recommendation 60: We recommended that newly-established Ministries be recognised and provided with a clear mandate within a legal framework, in order to clarify their roles and reduce operational uncertainty;
- Recommendation 61: We recommended the establishment of a central register to formally record the assignment of legislation to responsible Ministries or authorities; and
- Recommendation 62: We recommended reviewing and updating the categorisation of public bodies to clarify their legal status and ensure alignment with the Public Bodies (Performance and Accountability) Act 2001, including recognising the 'public mutual' category and amending the Act where necessary.

We acknowledge with sincere gratitude the exceptional support and collaboration of our valued partners across all Government Ministries and Corporations.

To the Commission's employees — malo lava le galulue, malo le pale.
Faafetai, faafetai tele for your hard work, and God bless!

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Afioga Tufuga Fagaloa Tufuga Fatu
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
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Welcome to the Law Reform Commission's Newsletter for the first six months of the Financial Year 2025/2026.

This issue highlights the Commission's key achievements, activities, and developments for the period of July to December 2025, and we are proud to share the progress made during this time.

A landmark achievement for this period is the completion of the Review of the Fabric of Laws No. 2, with the Final Report receiving Cabinet approval on 18 December 2025. This is a proud milestone for the Commission and marks the successful conclusion of one of our major projects for the 2025/2026 financial year.

We are also pleased to report that the Review of the Traffic Laws of Samoa is in its final stages and nearing completion, while the Review of the Public Trust Office has advanced to Stage 3 — the drafting of the Discussion Paper — following Cabinet's approval of the Terms of Reference on 11 December 2025.

These achievements reflect the Commission's continued commitment to progressing meaningful law reform for Samoa.

We also acknowledge that the Review of the Narcotics Act has experienced some delays pending the appointment of a lawyer within the Ministry of Health. The Commission remains committed to progressing this review and looks forward to initiating discussions with the relevant divisions of the Ministry in due course.

Further details on these projects and other activities undertaken by the Commission during this period are captured throughout this issue.

The Commission sincerely acknowledges the continued support of the public, village communities, and Government agencies. Your engagement and contributions remain essential to the success of our work and the advancement of law reform in Samoa.

Faamalo le galulue to the dedicated and hardworking staff of the Commission — your efforts and commitment are truly valued. Faamanuia tele le Atua!

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

PROJECT UPDATES

(1) REVIEW OF THE PUBLIC TRUST OFFICE 1975

The Commission received a request from the Public Trust Office (PTO) in 2024 to undertake a review of the Public Trust Office Act 1975. Following receipt o the Request, the Commission carried out preliminary research and initial consultations to inform the development of the Terms of Reference (TOR).

In progressing the review, the agreed TOR required to commence its 6-stage law reform process. To facilitate this, the matter was progressed to the Minister for PTO for submission to Cabinet. In December 2025, Cabinet via FK(25)47 approved the TOR, enabling the Commission to formally commence the review in accordance with its law reform process.

The Commission is currently drafting the Discussion Paper for this Review, which is anticipated to be completed and submitted for Cabinet approval in March 2026. Subject to approval, public consultations are expected to be undertaken before the end of FY2025/26.

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

Following from Issue 2 of the Reformer Vol. 7 (January to June 2025), the Commission, after undertaking a stock-take of the recommendations contained in the Final Report, proceeded to plan engagements with key stakeholders in relation to this Review.

The Ministry of Health (MOH) is the administrator for the Narcotics Act 1967 and we therefore hope to start discussions with them before consulting other related stakeholders. Engagement with the Ministry is currently being coordinated. The Commission shared an e-copy of its Final Report with MoH, and in efforts to expedite progressing this matter forward, the Commission suggested consultations with MoH CEO and Management to discuss the recommendations relevant to MoH. These discussions will inform the Commission's consultations with other stakeholders for this Review. The Commission is awaiting confirmation from MoH on these suggested consultations.

(3) REVIEW OF THE TRAFFIC LAWS OF SAMOA

Following The Reformer Issue 2 (Jan - June 2025), the Commission is finalizing its review by preparing the Final Report with recommendations for potential law reforms.

The penultimate draft was completed in December 2025, and the Final Report is expected to be submitted to Cabinet for endorsement in the coming months.

LEGAL REVIEW ASSISTANCE

From July 2025 to January 2026, the Commission undertook several legal and doctrinal research assignments on matters formally refereed to us (see table below). These references require the Commission to carry out thorough research, provide analysis, and deliver informed comments to requesting Ministries, SOEs, and other stakeholders. The Commission remains committed to producing high-quality, research-based advice in a timely and responsive manner to support the work of our stakeholders/partner agencies.

NAME OF REQUEST	DATE RECEIVED	DATE OF COMPLETION
Request for a brief report outlining the recommendations, thier rationale, and thier corresponding placement in the Draft Rules from the Review of the Civil Procedure Rules (2017)	29 September 2025	30 November 2025
Amendment Proposal for the Central bank of Samoa Act 2015	03 December 2025	In progress

CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS & TRAININGS

LEGAL DIVISION

Training/Course Title	Provider	Date	Location	SLRC Employee
Strengthening Legal Reform and Governance through Regional Public Sector Collaboration	Government of New Zealand	21 - 27 July 2025	Wellington, NZ	Tufuga Fagaloa Tufuga Fatu Tapuai Sheliza Tapuai Tapuala Mearold Viliamu
National Heritage Taskforce Meeting #1	MEC	24 July 2025	Smoa Arts and Culture Centre (Malifa)	Lizatalei Hakai Stanley Matuaitoga Hope Crichton
SBS-SLRC Bilateral Meeting on the Samoa National Digital Identification System (NDIDS)	SBS	5 August 2025	SBS Conference Room	Tapuai Sheliza Tapuai Leaumoana Salima Lasalo Salima Matuaitoga Hope Crichton
Training Session on the Samoa e-Tracker Reform Tool	MCIL	6 August 2025	MCIL Conference Room	Matuaitoga Hope Crichton
PILON Legislative Drafters' Conference	PILON	9-11 September 2025	Nadi, Fiji	Lizatalei Hakai Stanley
Capacity Building in International Law and Policy Formation for Cyberbullying	JICA	24 Sept - 4 Oct 2025	Japan	Tapuala Mearold Viliamu
Management Twinning Program wtih Australia Law Reform Commissions and other law offices	ALRC, VLRC & other legal professionals and institutions in Melbourne	17 - 28 November 2025	Melbourne, Australia	Tufuga Fagaloa Tufuga Fatu Florita Tupai Lizatalei Hakai Stanley Mautaitoga Hope Crichton
Consultation to develop a Gift Policy for the Government of Samoa	PSC	26-28 November 2025	Sehraton Hotel Conference Room	Tapuala Mearold Viliamu Iliafi Mavaega
Enhancing Public Consultations – Role of Civil Society Organisations, Citizens, Government Agencies and Parliamentarians on Policy Dialogue	SUNGO	12 December 2025	SUNGO Samoa	Tufuga Fagaloa Tufuga Fatu Tauva Lima

PILON Legislative Drafters' Conference, 9 - 11 September 2025, Nadi, Fiji

SUNGO Enhancing Public Consultations - Role of CSOs, Citizens, Government Agencies & Parliamentarians on Policy Dialogue

Consultation to develop a draft Gift Policy for the Government of Samoa, 26 - 28 November 2025

FAREWELLS

Tele Pinati

Executive Assistant and Receptionist

Ms. Pinati served the Commission for six months as Executive Assistant and Receptionist until her resignation on 22 August 2025.

We sincerely thank and acknowledge Ms. Pinati for her valuable to the work of the Commission. We wish her all the very best on her new calling in another Government Ministry.

Ernest Amosa

Senior IT Officer

Mr. Amosa joined the Commission on 23 April 2019 as a Senior IT Officer. After six years of dedicated service, we bid him farewell on 18 July 2025 as he embarks on a new role in another Government Ministry.

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

Leaumoana Salima Lasalo Salima

Manager Corporate Sevices Division

Afioga Salima joined the Commission in 2022 as Manager Corporate Services, bringing with him a wealth of experience and dedication that proved invaluable to the organisation. After three years of committed and outstanding service, Afioga Salima was farewelled on 8 December 2025 as he embarked on a new chapter in his career with another Government Ministry.

The Commission sincerely acknowledges his invaluable contributions and the positive impact he has had on the work of the Commission over the past three years. He leaves behind a strong foundation and a legacy of dedication that will continue to inspire those who work alongside him.

The Commission extends its warmest wishes to Afioga Salima as he takes on his new and challenging role with the MJCA, and is confident that he will continue to excel and make a meaningful contribution in his new position.

Capacity Bilding in International Law and Policy Formation for Cyberbullying, 24 Sept - 04 Oct, 2025, Japan

National Heritage Taskforce, 24 July 2025, MEC

Strengthening Legal Reform and Governance through Regional Public Sector Collaboration, Wellington NZ, 21 - 27 July 2025

Management Twinning Program with Australia and Victoria Law Commissions and other legal entities, Melbourne Australia, 17 - 28 November 2025

CORPORATE SERVICE DIVISION

Training/Course Title	Provider	Date	Location	SLRC Employee
Pacific Qualifications Recognition Project	SQA	18 July 2026	Sheraton Harbourview Coference Room	Tele Pinati
Finance One - CiA Live Access	MOF IT Division	18 Aug 2025	CBS Conference Room	Fugalaau Siaki Iliafi Mavaega
Finance One Introduction Training	MOF IT Division	24 Sept 2025	CBS Conference Room	Iliafi Mavaega
Chief Accountants Forum	MOF	30 Sept 2025	TATTE, Conference Room	Leaumoana Salima Lasalo Salima Fugalaau Siaki Iliafi Mavaega
Finance One - CiA Live Access	MOF IT Division	28 Nov 2025	SSS Conference Room	Leaumoana Salima Lasalo Salima Fugalaau Siaki Tovale Filipo

NEW RECRUITS

Iliafi Mavaega
Senior Human Resource Officer

Mr. Iliafi Mavaega joined the Commission on 12 August 2025 as our newly appointed Senior Human Resource Officer serving under the Corporate Service Division.

We warmly welcome Mr. Mavaega to the Commission and look forward to his contributions and the fresh ideas he will bring to support and enhance our work.

Tataa Maiava
Executive Assistant and Receptionist

Ms. Maiava commenced work with the Commission on 17 November 2025.

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

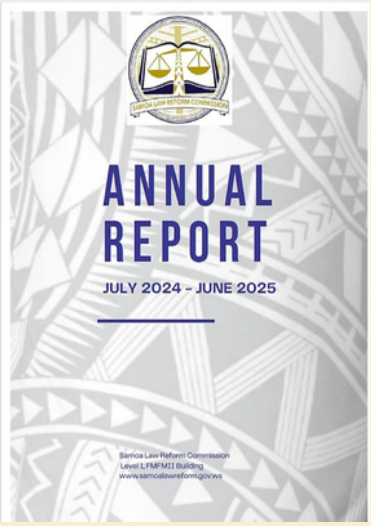
Fuatimu Semisi Uesi
Principal IT Officer

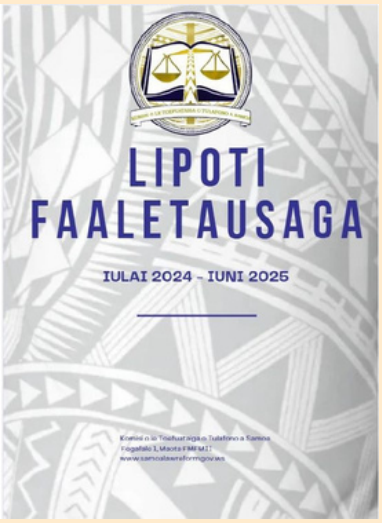
The Commission extends an equally warm welcome to Mr. Fuatimu Semisi, who joined the Commission on 1 December 2025 as the new Principal IT Officer. This position holds particular significance as it is a newly established role within the Commission, making Mr. Semisi the first person to hold this position for the Commission.

The Commission is delighted to have Mr. Semisi on board and looks forward to the fresh perspective, technical expertise, and valuable contributions he will bring to the team

OFFICE AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

ANNUAL REPORT FY 2024/2025

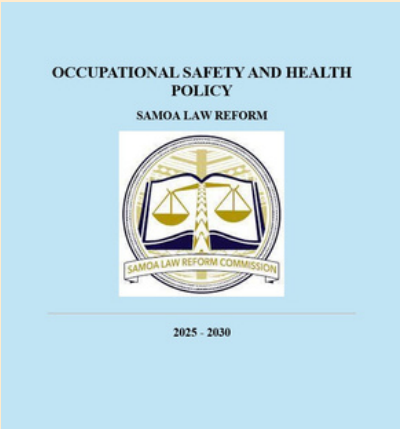


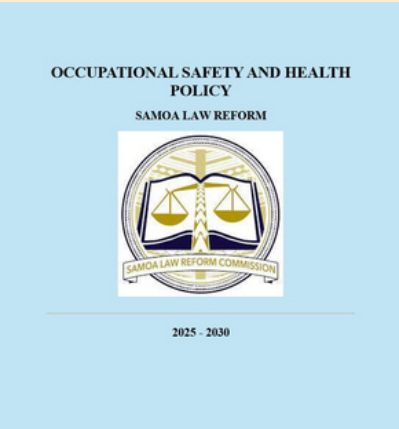


On 4 November 2025, the Commission finalised and submitted its Annual Report covering the period from July 2024 to June 2025 to Cabinet for endorsement.

The Commission is currently awaiting Cabinet's approval before proceeding with the translation into the Samoan language, printing, and binding, after which the report will be submitted to the Office of the Legislative Assembly for tabling in Parliament.

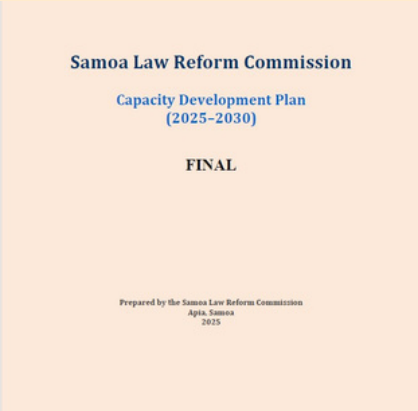
OCCUPATIONAL AND HEALTH SAFETY POLICY 2025

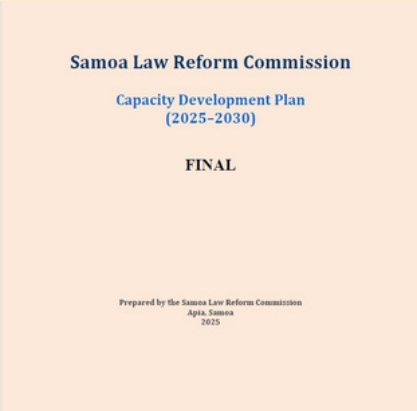




In November 2025, the Commission has advanced its commitment to creating a safe and supportive working environment through the development of our Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Policy. This policy strengthens our internal systems for identifying workplace risks, promoting staff wellbeing and ensuring compliance with national OSH laws and standards. Congratulations to the Corporate Services Division for the hard work which was instrumental in preparing this important Policy for SLRC.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2025 - 2030





In September 2025, the Commission continued to strengthen its organisational growth through the development of our Capacity Development Plan. This plan supports a coordinated approach to enhancing staff skills, improving institutional capabilities, and ensuring the Commission remains well-equipped to deliver high-quality law reform work. A warm acknowledgement goes to the Corporate Services Division in preparing this important framework for SLRC.

INVESTING IN OUR PEOPLE

A Special Acknowledgement to our Development Partners - Tautai Facility Program

The Commission extends its heartfelt gratitude and sincere appreciation to the Tautai Facility Program for their generous funding and continued support towards the professional development of the Commission's staff during this period.

Through the support of the Tautai Facility Program, channelled through the Public Service Commission (PSC), the Commission was privileged to participate in two Twinning Programs during this period — one held in New Zealand (July 2025) and another in Australia (November 2025). These programs provided our staff with invaluable exposure, knowledge, and practical experience that have greatly strengthened their professional capabilities and enriched the work of the Commission.

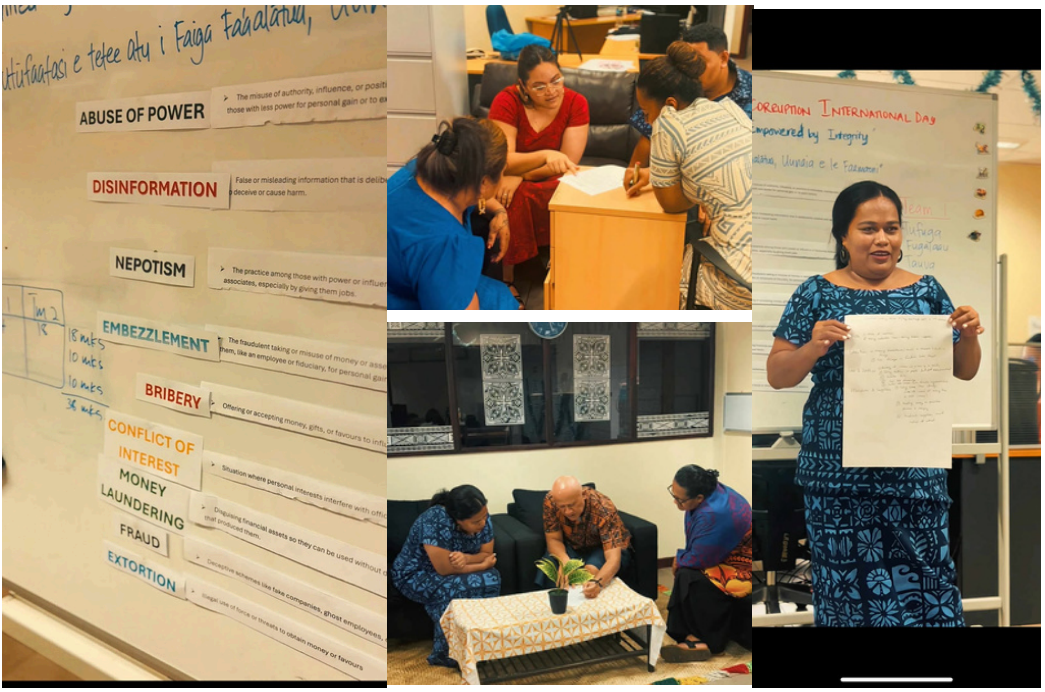
In addition, the Commission also had the opportunity to attend various professional conferences held in Fiji, which further enhances the Commission's expertise and capabilities across a number of areas including the area of legislative drafting.

These opportunities would not have been possible without the generous support of the Tautai Facility Program, and the Commission is deeply grateful for their investment in our people. We firmly believe that a well-trained and capable team is fundamental to delivering quality law reform outcomes for Samoa.

We look forward to continuing this valued partnership and remain committed to making the most of every opportunity to grow and develop our staff for the benefit of the people of Samoa.

Faafetai tele lava to our partners for believing in us!

SLRC CORNER



Anti-Corruption Activities in Celebration of International Anti-Corruption Day

Welcoming of our New Minister, Hon. Fesolai Apulu Tusiupu Tuigamala

Farewelling our Former Minister, Hon. Matamua Vasati Sili Pulufana

End of Year 2025 Function & Farewell to Afioga Leaumoana Salima Lasalo Salima

Farewell to Tele Pinati, Executive Assistant and Receptionist

Father's Day Celebration

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.

CONTACT US

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What's Next

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