



THE REFORMER

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

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REVIEW OF THE PUBLIC TRUST OFFICE ACT 1975

Following on from our last issue (The Reformer, Vol 8, Issue 1), the Commission is pleased to report further progress on this review. The Discussion Paper, which was under development at the time of our previous newsletter, received Cabinet approval in April 2026. With this approval secured, the Commission proceeded to carry out 15 public consultations throughout May 2026, engaging communities across both Upolu and Savaii — 10 sessions in Upolu and 5 in Savaii. Details of these consultations, including dates, participating districts, and venues, are set out in the table below.

Following the completion of these consultations, the Commission is now compiling and collating all public submissions received, and has progressed to Stage 5 of the law reform process, which is Further Research and Analysis. This stage will allow the Commission to carefully consider the views and feedback gathered from the public as well as to research new issues identified during these public consultations.

Date	Districts	Date	Districts
13 May 2026 (2 Sessions)	Vaimauga 1 - 4 & Faleata 1 - 4 Aana Alofi 1 - 4 & Sagaga 1 - 4	21 May 2026	Faasaleleaga 1 - 5
14 May 2026	Lefaga ma Faleaseela	22 May 2026	Palauli 2 & 3 ma Satupaitea
15 May 2026	Aiga i le Tai, Falelatai ma Samatau	25 May 2026	Safata 1 & 2 ma Siumu
18 May 2026	Salega 1 & 2 ma Palauli 1	26 May 2026	Anoamaa 1 & 2
19 May 2026	Vaisigano 1 & 2, Falealupo ma Alataua i Sisifo	27 Me 2026 (2 sessions)	Lepa & Lotofaga Aleipata Itupa
20 May 2026	Gagaifomauga 1 - 3 Gagaaemauga 1 & 2	28 May 2026	Vaa o Fonoti
		29 May 2026	Falealili 1 & 2

The Commission would like to acknowledge all participating villages and districts for their turnout and valuable input during this consultation phase, and will continue to keep the public informed as the review progresses through the remaining stages of the law reform process. Faafetai faafetai tele lava!



Afioga Tufuga Fagaloa Tufuga Fatu
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Welcome to the Law Reform Commission's Newsletter, the Reformer Volume 8, Issue 2 - covering the second half of the Financial Year 2025/2026, January - June 2026.

This issue showcases the Commission's progress, undertakings, and milestones for the period of January to June 2026, and we are delighted to share what has been accomplished during this time.

A major highlight for this period is the finalisation of public consultations under the Review of the Public Trust Office Act 1975, carried out after Cabinet's endorsement of the Discussion Paper in April 2026. In total, 15 consultations were held across the country in May 2026 — 5 in Savaii and 10 in Upolu — a testament to the strong participation and interest shown by our communities on this review.

Another significant development is the submission of the Final Report on the Review of the Fabric of Laws of Samoa to Parliament for tabling on 25 June 2026, bringing this major undertaking a step closer to completion.

These milestones demonstrate the Commission's ongoing dedication to advancing law reform initiatives that matter to Samoa.

More information on these projects, along with other work carried out by the Commission in this period, can be found throughout this issue.

The Commission extends its heartfelt thanks to the public, village communities, and Government agencies for their continued support. Your participation and input remain vital to the success of our mandate and the progress of law reform in Samoa.

Faafetai tele to our committed and hardworking staff at the Commission — your dedication and hard work do not go unnoticed. Faamanuia tele le Atua!

We trust you will enjoy this issue. Faafetai tele lava!

PROJECT UPDATES

(1) REVIEW OF PRIVACY LAWS IN SAMOA (NEW TOR!)

On 5 February 2026, the Commission received the Terms of Reference (TOR) from the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) for the Review and Development of Privacy Law in Samoa.

The Commission has since commenced Stage 1 of the Law Reform Process, engaging in discussions with the OAG to finalise and confirm the TOR.

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

As reported in our previous issue of the Reformer Vol. 8, Issue 1, Cabinet approved the Final Report on 14 November 2025 and subsequently the Commission engaged a Consultant to translate the Report into the Samoan language.

With the translation complete, the Report then went through the stages of formatting, editing, printing, and binding, culminating in its submission to Parliament for tabling on 25 June 2026.

The Final Report is yet to be tabled in Parliament.

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

Following from the previous newsletter, the Commission continues its efforts to engage with the Ministry of Health as the administrator of the Act and is seeking the Ministry's input to progress this Review. In the meantime, the Commission is preparing to consult with other relevant stakeholders, including OAG, MPPCS, MCR and MJCA. These consultations will assist the Commission in revisiting the Review and draft Bill developed in 2018 to ensure the proposed reforms remain appropriate and responsive to current drug-related challenges.

(4) 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 January to June 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
Amendment Proposal for the Central Bank of Samoa Act 2015	3 December 2025	9 March 2026
Draft Nationality Investment Bill 2026 (Draft Bill)	4 June 2026	In progress
Ministry of Public Enterprise - Public Trust Office Reclassification	22 April 2026	TBC
NMIRF Committee - Working Group for UPR4	February 2026	April 2026

CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS & TRAININGS

FAREWELLS

LEGAL DIVISION

Training/Course Title	Provider	Date	Location	SLRC Employee
Consultation on the Pacific Youth Development	MWCSD	21 Jan 2026	Tanoa Hotel Conference Room	Tauva Lima, Senior Legal Analyst
Stakeholder Validation Consultation	SBS	17 Feb 2026	Tanoa Hotel Conference Room	Tufuga Fagaloa Tufuga Fatu, Executive Director
Gender in Disaster Risk Management Policy	MNREM	17 Feb 2026	Lava Hotel	Tauva Lima, Senior Legal Analyst
Child Protection Training for the Law and Justice Sector	Law & Justice Sector	23 - 25 Feb 2026	Lava Hotel	Lizatalei Hakai-Stanley, Executive Legal Officer Tauva Lima, Senior Legal Analyst
Induction Training	PSC	19-23 Jun 2026	Elisa Hotel Conference Room	Tauva Lima, Senior Legal Analyst



Tapuala Mearold Viliamu
Executive Legal Officer

On 23 January 2026, we bid farewell to one of the longest serving members of SLRC, Tapuala Mearold Viliamu, who has dedicated more than 9 years to the Commission as an Executive Legal Officer.

While we deeply miss having Tapuala in our office, we are excited for him as he embarks on a new chapter with another Government Ministry.

Faafetai tele to Tapuala for his outstanding service and for being such an important part of our team. We wish him every success and blessing in his new calling.

CORPORATE SERVICE DIVISION

Training/Course Title	Provider	Date	Location	SLRC Employee
Public Sector Policy, Research Development and Analysis	Ethos CRS	16-20 Feb 2026	Samoa Shipping Corporation	Fugalaau Siaki, Principal Accounts & Administration Officer
Monitoring and Evaluation	Ethors CRS	9-13 Feb 2026	Samoa Shipping Corporation	Fugalaau Siaki, Principal Accounts & Administration Officer
ICT Infrastructure & System Audit Sensemaking Servey & Exploration Workshops	SBS	11 Feb 2026	--	Leota Fuatimu Semisi, Principal IT Officer
Introduction to the Incident Response Standard, Information Security Policy 2024	MCIT	12 Feb 2026	TATTE Conference Centre	Leota Fuatimu Semisi, Principal IT Officer
Legal Elites Seminar for BRI Countries	Ministry of Commerce, People's Republic of China	11 - 24 Mar 2026	Beijing, China	Florita Tupai, Principal Project Coordinator
Recruitment & Selection Process and Performance Management System	PSC	24-27 Mar 2026	Samoa Shipping Corporation	Iliafi Mavaega, Senior Human Resource Officer
Introduction Information Security Policy 2024 Audit Plan & Sam CERT Standard Operating Procedures	MCIT	30 Apr 2026	TATTE Conference Center Level 1	Leota Fuatimu Semisi, Principal IT Officer
Indcution Training	PSC	18 Jun 2026	Elisa Hotel, Conference Room	Miracle Sio, Transport Officer



Mohasidana M. Burgess
Part Time Researcher

On 27 February 2026, we said goodbye to one of our Part Time Researcher who was with the Commission for 1 and half months.

Ms. Burgess is going back to continue with her Bachelor of Laws Degree at the University of the South Pacific. The Commission acknowledges her contribution to our work and wish her well with the rest of her studies.

NEW RECRUITS



Uta'ile'uo Peleuila Itula
Senior Legal Analyst

Mr. Itula joined the Commission on 27 April 2026 as our newly appointed Senior Legal Analyst serving under the Legal Division.

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



Legal Elites Seminar for BRI Countries, China (March 2026)

COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS ON THE REVIEW OF THE PUBLIC TRUST OFFICE ACT 1975





SLRC CORNER



Celebrating Public Service Day 2026

Vaiaso o le Gagana Samoa

HAVE YOUR SAY

Q -

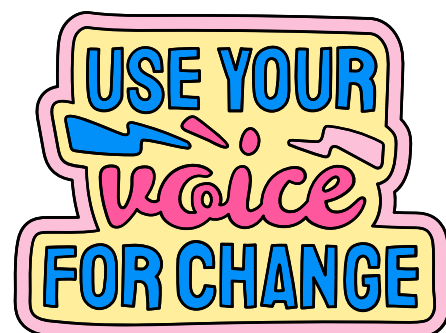
How to give the Commission my Feedback?

A -

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



Farewelling Tapuala Mearold Viliamu



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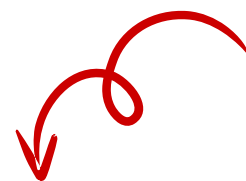


Mother's Day Celebration



Farewelling Mohasidana Molimaufou Burgess (Part-Timer)

What's Next



Find out any latest news about the Commission on our Facebook page and website :)