



# PCRN

## Pacific Civil Registrars Network

December 2023

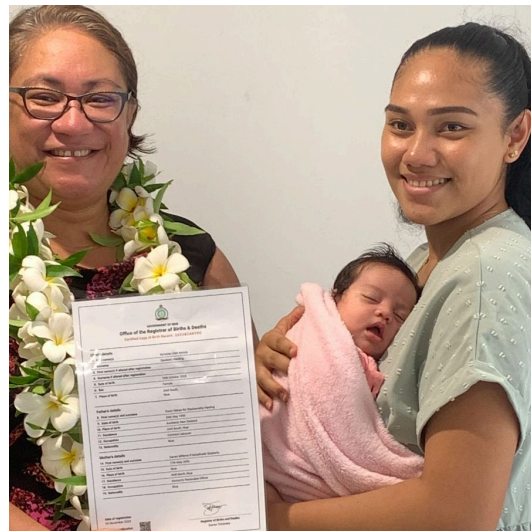


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### Warm Pacific Greetings to you

Lots happening in the Pacific as we head into the holiday season! Below you will find a request for input into the Brisbane Accord Group work programme, more about the new eCRVS system in Niue (*acting Premier pictured giving the first baby registered her certificate*), details from several countries about their CRVS improvements, and a interesting story about .... baby names!



Jeff Montgomery

CRVS Adviser and PCRN Secretariat

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### Call for Suggestions

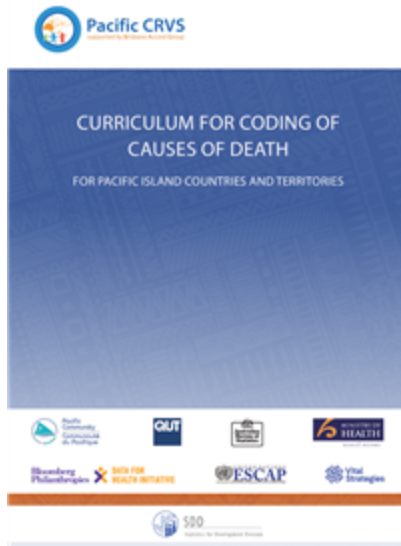
The [Brisbane Accord Group \(BAG\)](#) is a consortium of agencies which work to improve the quality and availability of birth, death, and cause of death data at both national and regional levels to support universal birth and death registration; and to improve investment outcomes through better coordination between technical partners. BAG partners work with the 15 independent countries and seven territories in

the Pacific. The work of BAG is guided by the [Action Plan for Pacific CRVS](#).

BAG is meeting in December to discuss priorities for the coming months. Country representatives – registrars, health information professionals or statisticians – are invited to suggest areas of focus by emailing [jeffm@spc.int](mailto:jeffm@spc.int)

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## Pacific Coders Meet



A new network for Pacific Clinical Coders Network has been formed - [Terms of Reference](#). A 1 hour online meeting will take place on Thursday 14 December 2023. As a collaborative activity, the meeting participants will review and agree on the Pacific Clinical Coders Network's:

- Scope of work
- Meeting schedules and frequency
- Initial plan of activities

Participants may nominate roles for each group member (Chairs, co-chair, coordinators) and identify strategies for connecting and working together.

Participants will also be able to ask questions about the *ICD-11 in the Pacific* Webinar series.

[Click here to join the meeting](#) Meeting ID: 449 343 432 187, Passcode: GBfpV5

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## Pacific workshop on CRVS interoperability

In October, eight national Registrars or Registrars-General of Births, Deaths, and Marriages from Polynesian countries, along with experts from the [Pacific Community](#) (SPC), New Zealand, [the US Affiliated Pacific Islands Health Officers Association](#) (PIHOA), and the [US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) met in Auckland to discuss data sharing. The workshop, primarily funded by the USA Embassy in New Zealand with support from the New Zealand Department of Internal Affairs, aimed to establish relationships between Civil Registrars in New Zealand, Niue, the Cook Islands, Tokelau, Samoa, Tonga, Vanuatu, and American Samoa through the exploration of technology and innovation to enhance identity security across the region. The workshop delved into the civil registration systems in each country or territory and discussed how birth and death data could be shared across borders to prevent identity fraud. More information and material from the workshop can be found on [this link](#).



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## New Action Planning Templates

Following the recent workshop in Auckland, a roadmap template and accompanying tools were developed by the Pacific Health Information Support Hub (PHISH), Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), in partnership with The Pacific Community (SPC). These have been developed for adaptation and use within the Pacific to support planning and implementation of country specific CRVS data sharing and interoperability strategies. <https://purl.org/spc/digilib/doc/7qk3o>

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## Cook Islands Business Process Mapping

Last month, the Cook Islands Ministry of Justice and the Pacific Community, supported by [Vital Strategies](#), hosted a workshop to map the current birth, death, and marriage registration processes, including paper flows with Health and Statistics, with representatives from the national CRVS committee and the wider public service. Participants identified improvement opportunities and barriers to moving to an e-CRVS system, such as processes, IT infrastructure, legislation, and institutional arrangements, and developed new "to-be" process maps. It also documented interoperability opportunities and requirements for new e-CRVS systems with a particular focus on health, statistics, immigration, passport, and the regional data systems. More information on the workshop available [here](#).



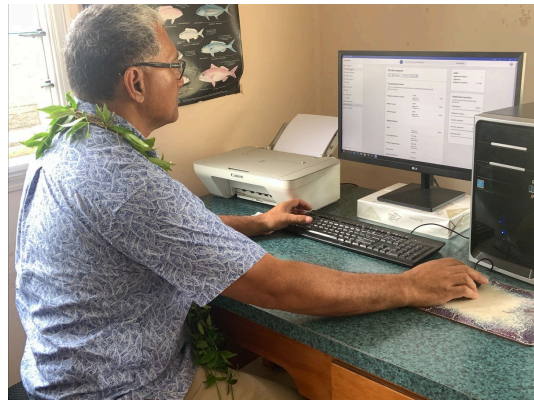
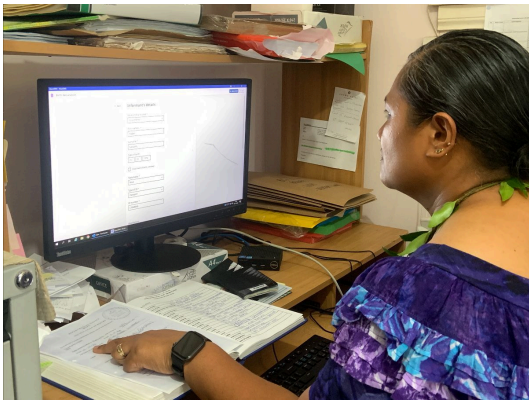
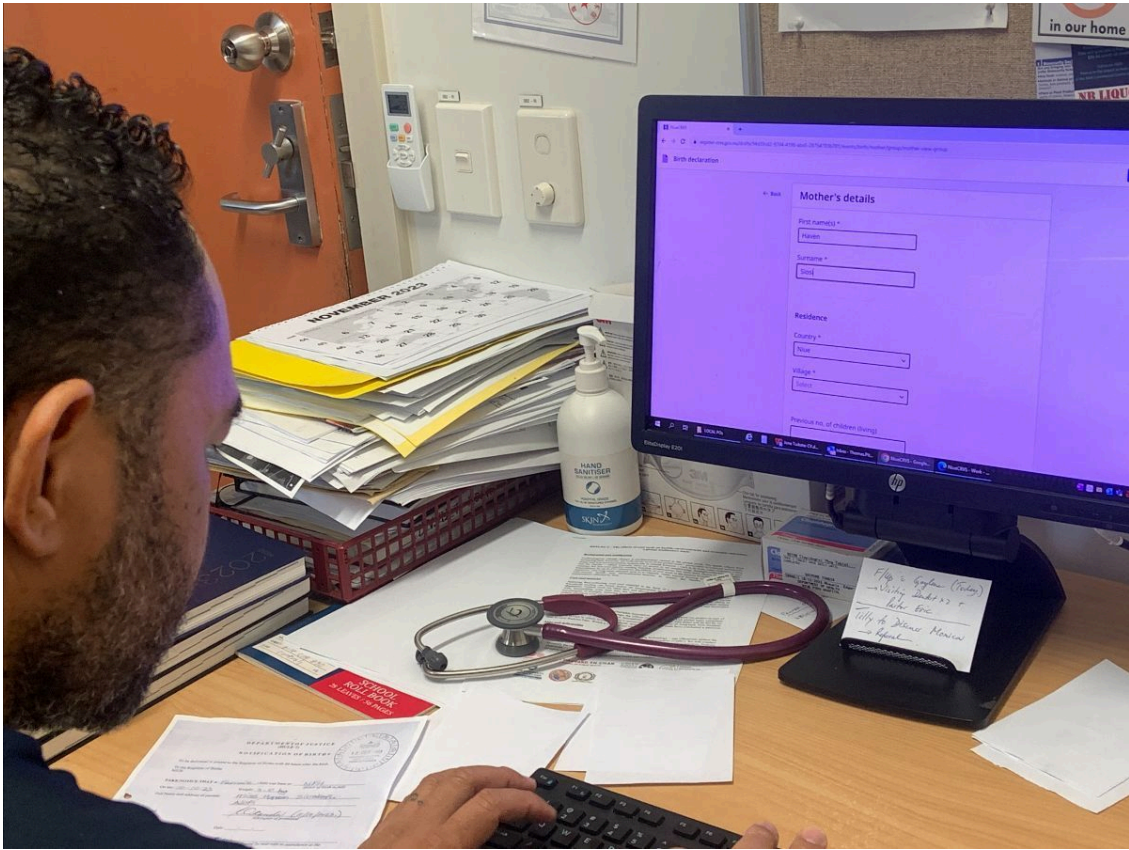
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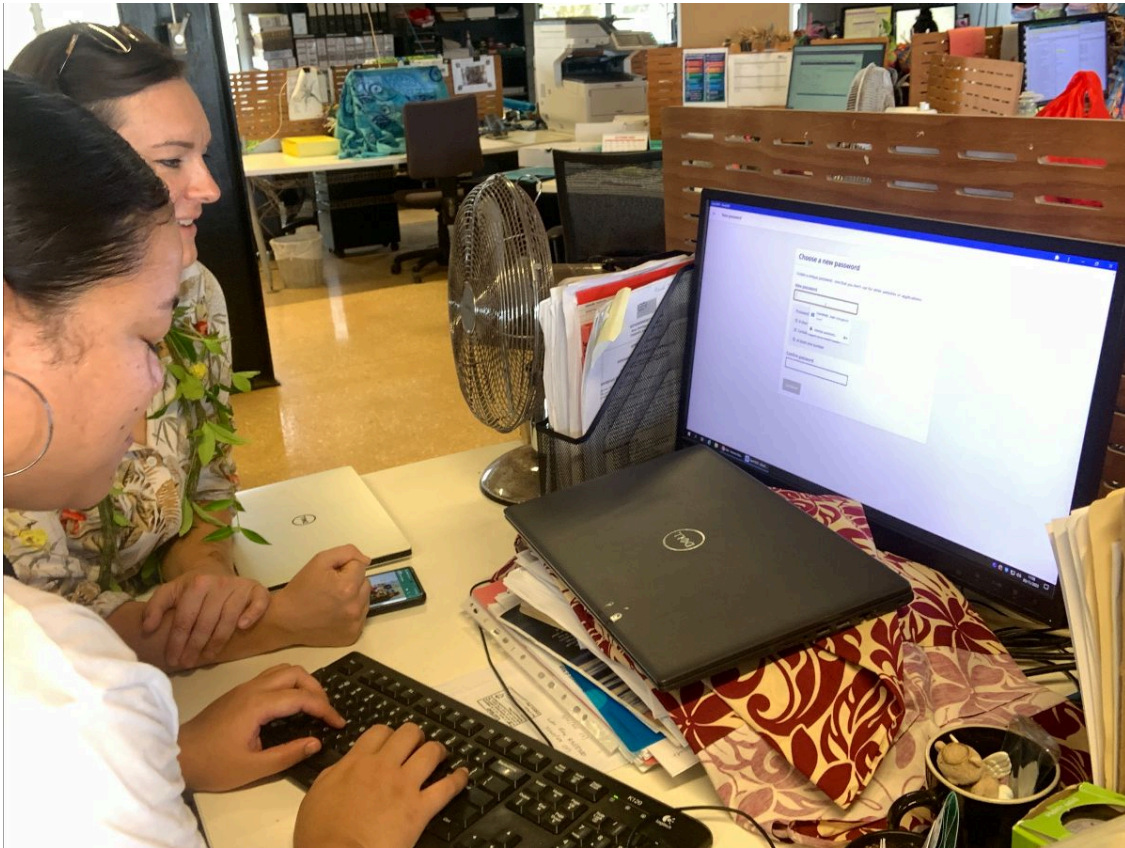
## Baby named “Methamphetamine Rules

[An Australian journalist called her baby Methamphetamine Rules](#) to see if it was possible .... and is now in the process of getting it corrected. "The registry have been really good at working through this with us, acknowledging that it shouldn't have happened, and we're going through the process of getting a correction done, so it won't follow him around forever."

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## Launch of NiueCRVS





Niue introduced a new digital CRVS system on November 9, 2023, becoming the first country globally to implement the [OpenCRVS software](#). The system simplifies birth and death registrations for Niueans and streamlines operations for various governmental departments. Above you can see midwife Thomas entering the details, before passing digitally to Toe at the Registry office for registration and to Darren for his digital signature, and then to Numa at the Statistics Office who accesses the statistical dashboard. All this happened in less than an hour from start to finish!

The initiative began in 2020, when [ESCAP](#) collaborated with Niuean officials to analyze existing processes and identify areas for enhancement. By late 2022, Niue's Cabinet approved the implementation of OpenCRVS. In under 9 months the system was tailored to suit Niue's specific requirements with support from various organizations, including [Plan International Australia](#), [Vital Strategies](#), and [the Pacific Community SPC](#).

The shift to a digital system will simplify processes for parents and those dealing with loss, enhance office efficiency, eliminate delays in obtaining birth or death certificates, and facilitate electronic information exchange among health, justice, community services, and statistics departments. Additionally, it ensures record safety during natural disasters.

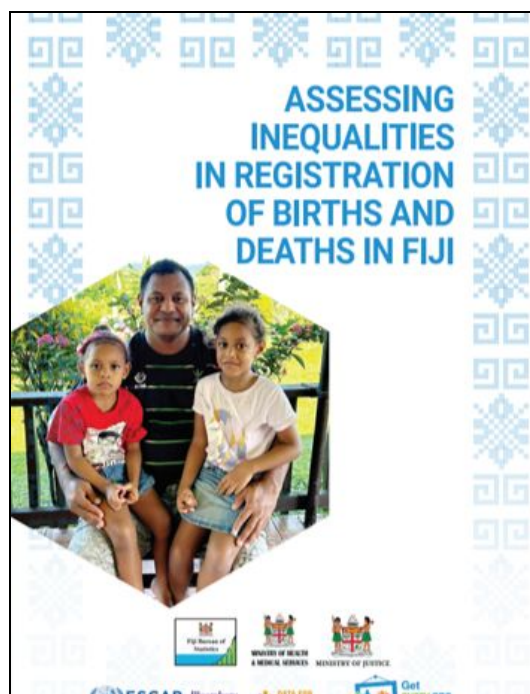
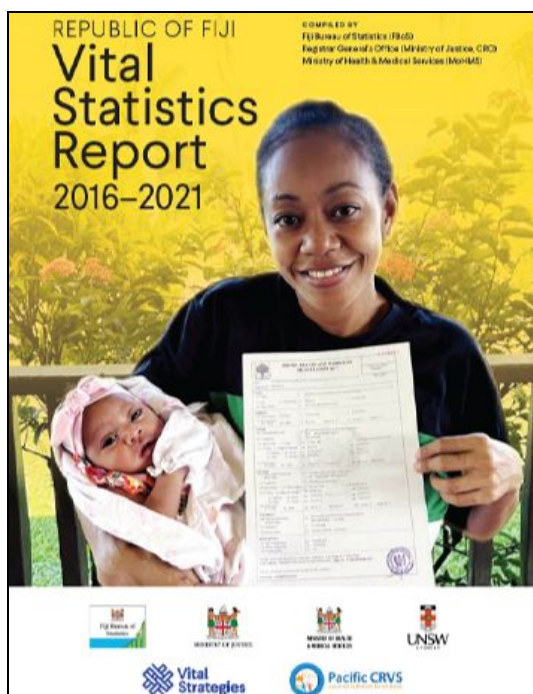
You can find more information on [SPC's website](#)

## Two new FIJI CRVS Publications

[Fiji Bureau of Statistics](#) launched two landmark CRVS Reports: The [Fiji Vital Statistics Report 2016-2021](#) and the [Report on Assessing Inequalities in Birth and Death Registration in Fiji](#).

The Fiji Vital Statistics Report 2016-2021 is the culmination of five years of meticulous data collection, analysis and collaboration which captures the vital events that have shaped Fiji's society during this period. The development of the vital statistics report was supported by Vital Strategies, University of New South Wales and partners of the Brisbane Accord Group. For a snapshot of the main findings, you may find the highlights [here](#).

Fiji is also one of the first countries to have embarked on an in-depth quantitative civil registration inequality assessment report, as part of [ESCAP's regional support for implementing CRVS inequality assessments and strengthening demographic capacity](#). The report examines differentials in birth and death registration by sex, age, ethnicity and mother's marital status. Information obtained from this assessment will be used to inform future research and policy interventions to bridge gaps in registration between different population groups in the country. One of the key policy findings from the inequality assessment is the significant and positive impact that financial incentives had on birth registration in Fiji, which are reported in an associated [policy brief](#).



## Tonga Vital Statistics Report

The national vital statistics report for Tonga is based on data from administrative records, published by Tongan Statistics Department, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Justice. It

presents key demographic measures of fertility and mortality (including causes of death) for the period 2018-2020, based on data collected by the Ministry of Health and the Births, Deaths and Marriages office.

During 2018-2020 the total fertility rate was 3.1, which means that on average a woman would be expected to give birth to 3 babies during her lifetime. More males were born (57%) than females. Average life expectancy at birth is 72 for baby girls born during 2018-2020, and 68 for baby boys.

Click here for a [four-page highlights](#) from the report and here for the full [45 page report](#).



## World Bank's CRVS Advanced Level Course

The [World Bank](#) recently released an advanced level self paced course on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics systems. It has 13 modules and is virtually guided by international experts who facilitate online discussions and assignments. More information about the course on this [link](#).




## About PCRN

PCRN is an independent network of Civil Registrars in the Pacific, established in 2014 for sharing knowledge, lessons learned and good practice in Civil Registration among practitioners. We foster peer-peer relationships and support in tackling common challenges affecting the implementation of CRVS systems in the region. We are key participant in the implementation of the [Action Plan for Pacific CRVS](#) and the Asia-Pacific Regional Action Framework on CRVS.

Before the pandemic we met annually (sometimes more often). Significant conferences were held around the topics of Disaster Planning and Response, IT Systems and Cloud Technology, Legal Identity and Security and Improving the Quality of Mortality Data. Our most recent meeting was in March 2023 - [see report](#).

More information, including a copy of our strategic plan (needing updating) is available at <https://sdd.spc.int/pacific-civil-registrars-network-pcrn>.



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