

Report on the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Pacific Region – October 2025

Introduction:

This report outlines the key activities and developments that have taken place in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Pacific Region between November 2024 and October 2025. The report covers the period after the 68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) in Sydney, Australia, up until the present date.

Key Activities:

- **68th CPC – Sydney, Australia – Nov 2024** first time that the Pacific region had been represented by nine legislatures of a possible 13.
- **Tahuna a Tara Conference – Nov 2024** for all Pacific Presiding Officers and Clerks including French Polynesia and New Caledonia.
- **AI in Security Workshop – Jan 2025** CPA UK organised this workshop and one NZ MP attended.
- **ANZACATT – Jan 2025** hosted by NZ Parliament
- **APLA – Jan 2025** hosted by NZ Parliament
- **Snap Election called in Vanuatu – 16th January 2025**
- Sponsored two Tongan MPs as well as two NZ MPs to attend the **IPU Global Forum for Women Parliamentarians March 2025**
- **Vanuatu Needs Assessment visit – March 2025** by UNDP, NZ Parliament, and MFAT
- **Vanuatu MP Induction – May 2025** sent one NZ MP to assist as well as one Fijian MP
- **New Clerk appointed to Bougainville Parliament** – Peter Topura who was the former Deputy Clerk
- **NZ Parliament Scrutiny Week observation -June** - Two Solomon Islands MPs and Two Staff
- **Annual Presiding Officers and Clerks Conference – July** – supported various Pacific Parliaments to attend this event in Nauru.
- **CPA Residency Programme for Clerks – July -Wellington** – Supported Cook Islands t Parliament and Bougainville Parliament to attend.
- **Commonwealth Serjeants at Arms Professional Development Conference – July-** in London. We supported Tongan Serjeant at Arms.
- **Cook Islands celebrated 60 years of self-governance in August.**
- **Parliamentary Professional Services Network Conference- August** in Australia. We supported parliamentary staff from Cook Islands, Bougainville, Samoa, Solomon Islands, & Tuvalu.

- **Clerk study attachment and professional development programme – August**
Supported new clerk of Bougainville parliament for two-week study attachment.
- **ICT study attachment and development programme- August** – ICT staff from the Vanuatu parliament came to Wellington for study attachment.
- **Samoa General Election – August**
- **Pacific Islands Parliaments Group Conference – September in Fiji** -NZ parliament attended along with all other Pacific Islands Forum members' parliaments. Hosted by Fiji Speaker. Launched new Interparliamentary Organisation called Pacific Islands Parliamentary Association.
- **Solomon Islands hosted the 54th Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Leader's meeting and assumed Chair of the PIF – September**
- **Papua New Guinea celebrated 50 years of Independence - September**
- **Bougainville Elections - September**
- **Nauru General Election- September**

Snapshot of the Pacific Region:

The following table provides information on the general election results for various countries in the Pacific Region:

Country	General Election	Women MPs	Total MPs
Bougainville	2025	5 (results pending)	39 (+ 2 ex-officio = 41)
Cook Islands	2026	7	24
Fiji	2022	5	55
Kiribati	2024	5	44 (+1 from Banaba)
Nauru	2025	2 (results pending)	19
New Zealand	2026	56	120 (+3 overhang seats = 123)
Niue	2026	6	20
Papua New Guinea	2022	3	118
Samoa	2025	7 (results pending)	54
Solomon Islands	2024	3	50
Tonga	2025	3	26 (+ 4 ex-officio = 30)
Tuvalu	2024	0	16

Country	General Election	Women MPs	Total MPs
Vanuatu	2025	1	52
	TOTALS:	103	647

CPA NZ Branch Activity Report

Accessibility at New Zealand Parliament (CPwD)

In 2024, Parliamentary Service and the Office of the Clerk joined the Accessibility Tick programme, administered by the New Zealand Disability Employers Network, to advance accessibility and inclusion within Parliament. This initiative provides a framework covering nine key competency areas—including products and services, communications, employer support, physical environment, recruitment, suppliers, career development, ICT, and organizational commitment—to guide strategic improvements. The Senior Accessibility Advisor role, established in late 2022, has driven progress across both physical and digital accessibility, initially focusing on a new parliamentary building and quickly expanding to broader accessibility efforts. With approximately one in four New Zealanders identifying as disabled, these actions reflect Parliament’s commitment to making democracy accessible and inclusive for all.

Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP NZ)

In 2025, the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) New Zealand Group advanced a series of strategic initiatives aimed at empowering women in leadership and political roles. CWP NZ Group Co-Chairs both presented at the IPU Global Conference for Women Parliamentarians in Mexico. The group engaged with representatives from the Ministry for Women and Net Safe to address online harm and its impact on women’s empowerment, highlighting the need for holistic leadership resources tailored to both individuals and employers. Members were invited to test the Online Harm Toolkit modules and provide feedback directly to the Ministry for Women. Members also contributed to CWP/IPU/AIPA report on Sexism, harassment, and violence against women in parliaments in the Asia-Pacific region. On 5 March, the CWP co-hosted a panel discussion in the Beehive Theatre featuring current Members of Parliament, who reflected on their experiences entering and being part of Parliament, their pathways, and influences along the way, and what International Women’s Day means to them. This panel discussion provided an inside look at being a woman in leadership, and what it is like to work in the heart of New Zealand’s democracy.

The meetings this year also reflected the CWP’s dedication to inclusivity and recognition, with members agreeing to honour Lemauga Lydia Sosene MP during her recovery and acknowledge the contributions of the late Hon Nikki Kaye. Planning for the September conference included outreach to Pacific partners and a focus on Indigenous representation, as highlighted in

feedback from the IPU Global Forum for Women Parliamentarians in Mexico. The group emphasized collaboration with national organizations such as the National Council of Women and Rural Women New Zealand, aiming to build sustainable pathways for women into politics. Through these efforts, the CWP continues to champion gender equity, leadership development, and cross-cultural engagement across New Zealand and the Pacific.