



International Centre for Democratic Partnerships (ICDP)

ICDP is an independent, non-profit, non-political organisation that encourages and facilitates dialogue, discussions and better relationships between current and emerging Pacific and Australian leaders in government, civil society and the private sector on common challenges.

A stable and prosperous Pacific is essential to Australia's security and foreign policy. However, the complexity of regional challenges demands fresh and innovative approaches. ICDP aims to forge genuine and enduring strategic relationships between Pacific and Australian individuals and organisations to progress 'Second Track' dialogue, policy discussions and leadership development. It will support and strengthen the existing connections and help build new networks and coalitions for business, public sector, academia and community leaders in Australia and the Pacific.

ICDP was established by the institute for active policy Global Access Partners (GAP) in July 2017. Through its 'Second Track' process, GAP generates links in all sectors to increase stakeholder participation in implementation of government policy and promotes innovative, cross-disciplinary approaches to problem-solving. Supported by GAP's alumni network of over 3,500 people in a broad range of fields, ICDP draws on the very best of Australian expertise and utilises the GAP model to expand and improve strategic discussions, policy processes and networks between Australia and the Pacific.

The Centre's objectives are to:

- ▶ **Expand and strengthen Australian-Pacific connections** by developing new networks through facilitating 'Second Track' dialogue on issues of mutual interest and leveraging existing forums
- ▶ **Increase Australia's regional influence** by cultivating meaningful long-term relationships between Australia and Pacific individuals and organisations
- ▶ **Contribute to economic development and good governance in the Pacific** by creating the opportunity to work on common issues and develop long-term relationships through shared experiences

ICDP is implementing *Pacific Connect* – a two-year pilot program announced by Prime Minister Turnbull at the 48th Pacific Islands Forum in Samoa on 8 September 2017. *Pacific Connect* will work with local leadership to identify opportunities, individuals and coalitions for engagement under a theme of 'Australia-Pacific Connections for the Digital Future'.

To support this theme, ICDP will undertake a range of activities developed in consultation with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, GAP and *Pacific Connect*'s implementation partner, Strategic Development Group – a prominent development consulting firm with strong networks in the Pacific. Activities will include peer-to-peer engagement through the 'Second Track' process, in-country contacts and participation in key policy and business forums, structured short-term visits, research dissemination, experience sharing and online collaboration among *Pacific Connect* alumni.

Contact Chief Executive, Simone Pensko, on +61 409 810 190 for more information.