

# The Brisbane Accord Group (BAG): Partnerships for CRVS

*Since its formation in 2010, BAG partners have remained committed to improving civil registration and the accessibility, quality, and use of vital statistics in the Pacific region.*

- Improving vital statistics in the Pacific Region requires a diverse set of technical expertise that is not available in any one agency. Recognizing this, development partners came together in 2010 to form the Brisbane Accord Group (BAG).
- Coordination of efforts maximises the return on investment made, ensures consistency in the messages and advice provided to countries, and facilitates outcomes not possible through a single agency.
- Activities are guided by the **Pacific Vital Statistics Action Plan (PVSAP)**, which sits under the Ten Year Pacific Statistic Strategy (TYPSS) 2011–2020.
- BAG partners are actively working in all 15 Pacific Island Countries**, including Solomon Islands and PNG (priority countries under the Commission of Information and Accountability for Women and Children’s Health) and the three US territories.



- Australia Bureau of Statistics
- Fiji National University
- Queensland University of Technology
- Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)\*
- The Pacific Civil Registrars Network
- The Pacific Health Information Network
- UNFPA (Pacific Regional Office)
- UNICEF (Pacific Office)
- University of New South Wales, School of Population Health and Community Medicine
- University of Queensland, School of Population Health
- World Health Organization – Western Pacific Regional Office

\*Current BAG Secretariat

## Principles of Engagement

- The scope of BAG activities is limited to birth, deaths and causes-of-death.
- Technical assistance by partner agencies related to improving CRVS in the Pacific will be coordinated through BAG.
- Technical assistance to countries should be country driven, and where one exists, consistent with national CRVS improvement plans.
- A coordinated approach to technical assistance is essential to make the most out of the available resources, and assistance provided in one area should not be to the detriment of others.
- Progress with the initiative needs to be reported regularly to regional governance structures.



## History

At the initiative of the Health Information Systems Knowledge Hub (HIS Hub) at the University of Queensland and the Statistics for Development Programme of Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), a meeting of Pacific Partners was convened in December 2010 in Brisbane. The aim was to collectively understand ongoing and planned vital statistics development activities in the Pacific and to discuss strategies to improve vital statistics in Pacific countries within the Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy being implemented by SPC.

At the first meeting the BAG proposed long-term goals and priority actions for a collaborative initiative to improve vital registration practices in Pacific countries and to provide support to countries as part of the roll out of the Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy.

A follow-up meeting of the group was held in Brisbane in April 2011 to develop a more detailed collaborative plan. Participants considered strategic and activity options, identified funding and technical resources to undertake activities and set timelines for implementation.

The plan was subsequently adopted by the group, and coordination for the Plan jointly managed out of the University of Queensland’s Health Information Systems (HIS) Hub, and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). With the scaling back of funding to the UQ HIS hub in 2013, this function shifted to SPC.

## SUPPORTED BY THE BRISBANE ACCORD GROUP (BAG)



SPC  
Secretariat of the Pacific Community



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