



Spotlight
Initiative



REGIONAL WORKING
GROUP ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF
FAMILY PROTECTION/
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
LEGISLATION



Pacific
Community
Communauté
du Pacifique

2021 RWG Annual Meeting

24 - 26 August, 2021

23 - 25 August 2021 (Cook Islands)

Counselling Guidelines Presentation

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS:

Speakers will include Ms Koisau Sade - Senior Policy Officer of Womens Development Division from the Solomon Islands Government Ministry for Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs, Ms Doris Puiahi and Ms Uieta Kaufusi UN Women Fiji Multi-Country Office.

OBJECTIVE OF THE PRESENTATION:

To share the process of developing and implementing the Solomon Islands Domestic Violence Counselling Guidelines:

- Consultation, development, validation
- Legislation, structure and implementation
- Coordination, collaboration and coherence
- Lessons learnt and moving forward

BACKGROUND TO THE PRESENTATION TOPIC:

Developed to ensure victims and survivors of domestic violence, particularly in the provinces and rural areas, can better access quality and effective domestic violence counselling services, the Solomon Islands Domestic Violence Counselling Guidelines are a national framework that outlines systems and processes required for counsellors to be registered domestic violence counsellors.

The Guidelines outline the structure for the Domestic Violence Counselling Register (DVCR) and explain its purpose. They contain information on the governance of the Register, the specific requirements to become a registered domestic violence counsellor, how to apply and stay registered, and details of the process for dealing with complaints. The Guidelines are, a tool, developed specifically for the Solomon Islands Government, provincial governments, SAFENET, domestic violence counselling providing organisations (DVCPO) and domestic violence counsellors interested in registering. The Guidelines also outline a comprehensive accountability mechanism that governs the practice of registered DV counsellors.

The development of the Guidelines are in accordance with Sections 54 and 55 of the Family Protection Act 2014, which requires the Solomon Island Government to set up a DVCR, call for and approve applications from qualified domestic violence counsellors and de-register a domestic violence counsellor for misconduct.

KEY MESSAGES:

- There is a need for a unified approach to GBV counselling across the Pacific region that is inclusive of (a) regulating legislation and national policies, (b) training and upskilling of GBV counsellors and (c) monitoring and evaluation of counselling training, services and
- The benefits of a unified approach to counselling are (a) the regulation of GBV counselling services across Pacific countries is the similar, (b) counsellors are trained and upskilled consistently to ensure the level of quality service across the region and (c) countries are able to better support one another in learning exchanges, review and moderation of training, and pooling of resources to address resource shortages.