



GOVERNMENT OF SAMOA



Samoa
Law Reform Commission

Komisi o le Toefuataiga o Tulafono a Samoa



ANNUAL REPORT

July 2012 – June 2013



GOVERNMENT OF SAMOA

The Honourable Speaker

The Legislative Assembly of Samoa

In accordance with section 9 (2) of the *Law Reform Commission Act 2008*, I lay before you copies of the third Annual Report for the Samoa Law Reform Commission for the period of July 2012 to June 2013 for tabling before the Legislative Assembly of Samoa. This report documents activities implemented by the Commission within this period, in accordance with the Act.

Hon. Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi

PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF THE SAMOA LAW REFORM COMMISSION



GOVERNMENT OF SAMOA

Honourable Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi
PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR THE SAMOA LAW REFORM COMMISSION

In accordance with section 9 (2) of the *Law Reform Commission Act 2008*, I have the pleasure to present you with copies of the third Annual Report for the Samoa Law Reform Commission for the period of July 2012 - June 2013, for tabling before the Legislative Assembly of Samoa. This report documents activities implemented by the Commission within this period, in accordance with the Act.

(Leota Theresa Potoi)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SAMOA LAW REFORM COMMISSION

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FOREWORD



Hon. Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi

PRIME MINISTER and MINISTER FOR THE SAMOA LAW REFORM COMMISSION

As Minister for the Samoa Law Reform Commission, it is my pleasure to present the fourth Annual Report of activities and achievements of the Commission.

In reviewing, reforming and developing the law of Samoa, the Commission strives to improve and achieve law that is just and accessible. It carries this out in a manner that promotes Samoan customs and traditions, enhances the social, cultural, economic and commercial development of Samoa, and ensures that the law of Samoa is updated and modern to contribute to the priorities of Government and to meet the needs of the community.

The law reform process ensures that laws referred to the Commission for review are well researched and the public is consulted, providing an opportunity to the public to voice their views and concerns. The Commission promotes discussion and consultation through its Issues Papers and invites submissions from the public prior to making recommendations for law reform. I encourage the public to take an interest in the work of the Commission and attend consultations held by the Commission to voice their views.

I acknowledge the former Executive Director and the staff of the Commission for the good work and achievements in this fourth Annual Report. I am pleased to present this fourth Annual Report of the Commission.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Tuilaepa', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Hon. Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi

PRIME MINISTER/ MINISTER OF THE SAMOA LAW REFORM COMMISSION

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The period July 2012 to June 2013 was both challenging and successful for the Commission as it strives to achieve law that is just and accessible in accordance with its mandate under the *Law Reform Commission Act 2008*. The Commission has grown since its establishment in 2008 to 14 staff members in response to a continuously expanding workload. I take this opportunity to thank the Public Service Commission for approving 2 new positions in the Commission in that period.

Highlights of the period July 2012 to June 2013 include 2 Final Reports submitted to the Legislative Assembly for tabling in Parliament. These include the Final Reports on the review of the *Village Fono Act 1990* and the review of the *Commissions of Inquiry Act 1964*.

The Final Reports for 4 major projects of the Commission have been approved by Cabinet or are awaiting a Cabinet decision. These relate to a review of Media regulation; a review of the District Court Act 1969; a review of the feasibility and appropriateness of a National Heritage Board to preserve significant heritage sites; and a review of the care and protection of children in light of Samoa's international obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child.

Also during this period, two new references were received from the Attorney General. The first relates to consideration of the appropriateness of a Sex Offenders Register for Samoa, and whether such a Register is likely to result in a reduction of sex offenders' recidivism. The second is a reference on Alcohol reform, to consider and propose law reform relating to the sale and consumption of alcohol in Samoa, with the objective of reducing harm caused by alcohol abuse.

We received assistance from our overseas counterparts including the New Zealand Law Commission, the Australian Law Reform Commission, the British Columbia Law Institute, the Alberta Law Reform Institute and the Attorney General's Office in Canberra. I wish to thank our overseas counterparts for their generous assistance and time.

I also wish to thank the Chairman of the Advisory Board, and Board members for their continuous support and valuable contribution to the work of the Commission. I also acknowledge funding received for some of our projects from the Law and Justice Sector.

To the staff of the Commission, malo le galulue. Despite the many challenges faced by the Commission particularly with regards to limited resources, we have pursued our mission with enthusiasm and remain true to our mandate to review, reform and develop the laws of Samoa, promoting law that is clearer, fairer and more efficient.

Leota Theresa Potoi
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ABOUT THE COMMISSION

ESTABLISHMENT

The Samoa Law Reform Commission was established by the *Law Reform Commission Act 2008* (the Act) as an independent body corporate to undertake the review, reform and development of the laws in Samoa.

MANDATE

Pursuant to Section 4 of the Law Reform Commission Act the Commission is mandated to facilitate the review, reform and development of the laws of Samoa in order to:

- promote Samoan customs and traditions;
- enhance the social, cultural, economic and commercial development of Samoa; and
- ensure that the laws of Samoa are kept in a modern state which meets the needs of Government and the community.

FUNCTIONS

The functions of the Committee as set out in section 6 of the Act are:

- to recommend to the Attorney General suggested programs for the reform of the laws of Samoa;
- in accordance with references made to it by Prime Minister, Cabinet or the Attorney General (whether at the Commission's suggestion or otherwise), to research and analyse areas of law considered to be in need of reform and report its recommendations for reform to the Prime Minister and the Attorney General;
- to advise Government Ministries and agencies on the manner or content of reviews of the law conducted by those Ministries and agencies; and
- to consult with and advise the public (and any specific sectors of the community) about its work.

In carrying out its functions, the Commission strives to adhere to Government policies and requirements set out by the relevant Government agencies, such as the Public Service Commission, Ministry of Finance and the Audit Office, and internal policies of the Commission.

ADVISORY BOARD

The Commission is assisted by an Advisory Board that convenes at least four times a year. The Board consists of 14 members, which includes 4 members appointed by the Head of State on the advice of the Prime Minister (after consultation with the Minister responsible for community development).

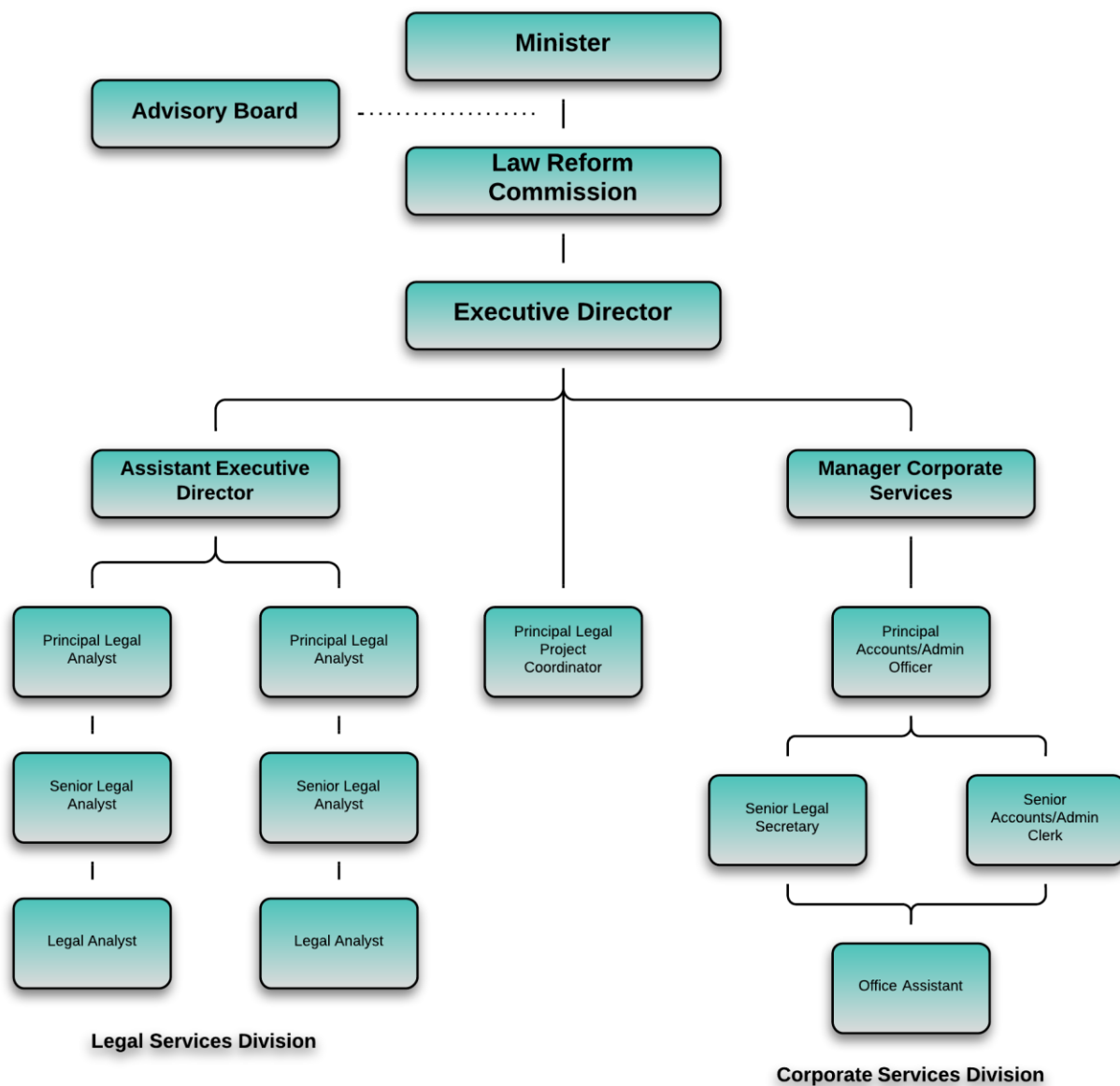
Members of the Board set out in the Act are as follows:

1. Attorney General (Chairman);
2. Chief Executive Officer of Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet;
3. Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Justice and Courts Administration;
4. Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Finance;
5. Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development;
6. Commissioner of Police Services;
7. President of the Samoa Law Society or nominee;
8. President of the Samoa Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc or nominee;
9. President of the National Council of Churches or nominee;
10. President of the Public Service Association or nominee.

Members of the Board appointed by the Head of State are as follows:

11. President of Samoa Umbrella for Non-Governmental Organisations;
12. President of the Medical Association;
13. Matai from Upolu; and
14. Matai from Savaii.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



STAFF OF THE COMMISSION

The Commission consists of the Executive Director and 13 staff. The Executive Director is the administrative head of the Commission who supervises and directs its work. The direct reports of the Executive Director are the Assistant Executive Director of the Legal Services Division, the Manager Corporate Services of the Corporate Services Unit, and the Principal Project Coordinator. The remaining staff are divided between the Legal Services Division and the Corporate Services Division.

LEGAL DIVISION

There are 7 staff in the Legal Division. They consist of the Assistant Executive Director, 2 Principal Legal Analysts, 2 Senior Legal Analysts and 2 Legal Analysts. The Legal Division is responsible for:

- carrying out research and analysis of matters referred to the Commission for review;
- providing technical legal advice to government Ministries on proposed legislation review;
- facilitating consultations between government and the community in matters of law reform; and
- drafting reports that include recommendations for reform.

As all reports must be tabled in Parliament, the Legal Division also assists in translating reports to the Samoan language and in the editing of reports. Where a Bill is developed to reflect recommendations of a report for legislative reform, the Legal Division is responsible for providing drafting instructions to the drafter, and reviewing the Bill to ensure that policy recommended is accurately reflected in the Bill.

CORPORATE SERVICES UNIT

The Corporate Services Unit (Corporate Services) provides administrative support to the Legal Division of the Commission. Corporate Services manages and handles a range of matters including the Commission's budget, human resources, information technology, library services, secretarial services, and general administration. This Unit consists of 5 staff, led by the Manager Corporate Services who is supported by a Principal Accounting and Human Resources Officer, a Senior Legal Secretary, a Senior Accounts Administrative Clerk and an Office Assistant.

Corporate Services also assists in translating reports to the Samoan language and in the editing of reports.

LAW REFORM PROCESS

REFERENCES

The Commission receives its references from the Prime Minister, Cabinet, or the Attorney General. References are accompanied by:

1. Terms of Reference issued by the Attorney General; or
2. Cabinet Directive (F.K) setting out the scope of the reform.

PRELIMINARY CONSULTATION

Upon receipt of a reference, the Commission carries out preliminary research and consultations to develop an Issues Paper

Preliminary consultations with stakeholders are carried out to scope for and ascertain key issues or problems that affect the reform and practical administration of the legislation currently under review. This is also an important opportunity to gather information and develop a more comprehensive understanding about the issues.

Often this is done by establishing a Working Group of experts (chaired by the Commission) in the relevant area under review. These groups often include representatives from relevant Government departments and external stakeholders.

The Working Group plays a pivotal role at the start of reference by scoping the issues that arise in practice. These will usually form the basis of the questions raised in an Issues Paper. Working Groups provide guidance only, and the Commission is not limited to the issues raised by the Working Group, nor is it obliged to seek approval of recommendations or reports from the Group.

ISSUES PAPER

The purpose of an Issues Paper (sometimes referred to as a Discussion Paper) is to set out background information about the reference, and to facilitate stakeholder and public consultations as to options for reform.

Consultations may take several forms and may occur at several different stages in each inquiry. At this early stage of the law reform process, consultation is often carried out by individuals (one-on-one consultations), or key stakeholders to assist in identifying key issues.

Individual consultations seek to target people who are either experts in a particular area under review or who have a direct or material interest in the project, so that they may

submit their views on a particular inquiry by the Commission. These individuals may for example be retired professionals or academics, students, *matai*, a church member, or anyone with a profound knowledge of a matter reviewed by the Commission. These consultations are often carried out face-to-face, by telephone or by email.

Consultations with key stakeholders are often by way of a Working Group (discussed above), steering committee or an advisory committee, established and chaired by the Commission. Engaging in stakeholder consultations also forms a basis for future collaboration and partnership.

The Advisory Board is also consulted for comment on the draft Issues Paper before it is finalised. When finalised, the Issues Paper is provided to the Prime Minister for approval, before Cabinet approval is sought.

PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

Upon Cabinet approval, the Issues Paper is then disseminated to the public for consultation. The public and the community are notified of a reference for consultation and calls for submissions through various means, including by advertisement in newspapers, television and talk-back shows.

Comments and input are sought from the public on the Commission's proposals concerning matters or issues affecting the public. This provides an opportunity for meaningful discussion with the public, whose opinions and views are considered by the Commission. Submissions may be either oral or in writing, and are recorded and compiled by the Commission in order to assist it in formulating recommendations to be included in the final report for Cabinet approval.

FINAL REPORTS

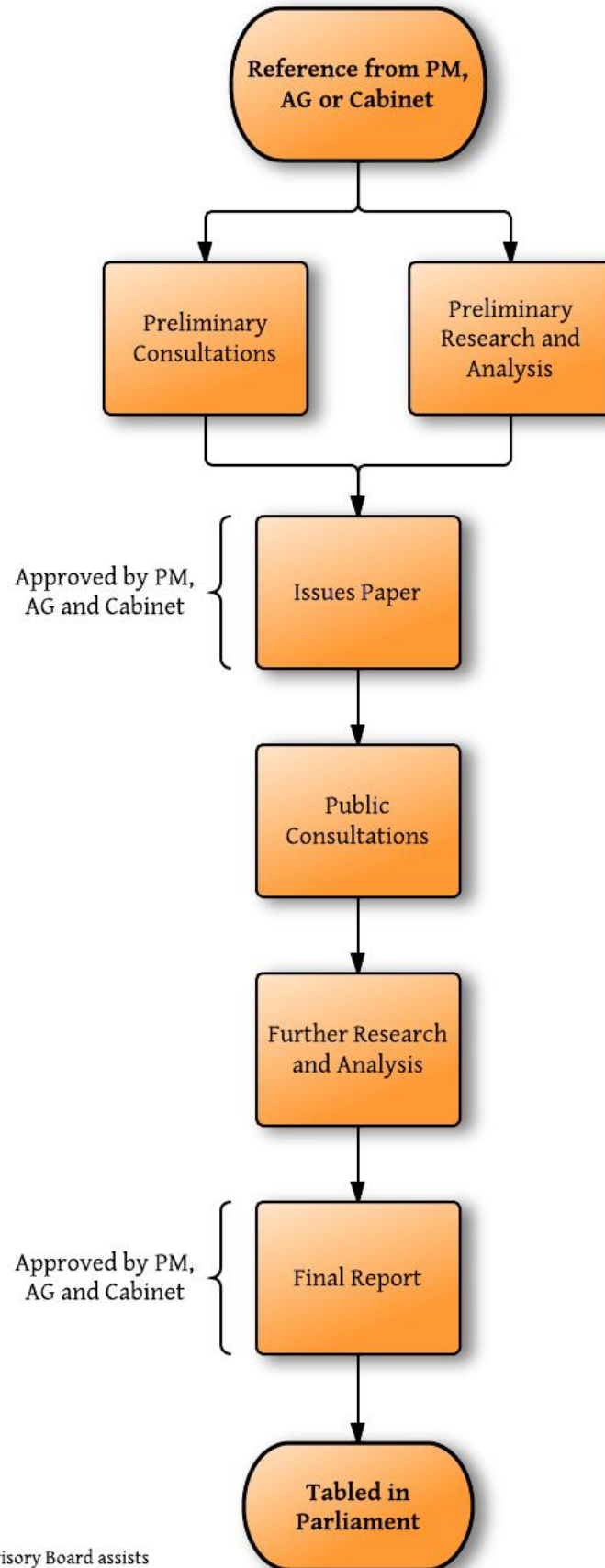
The Final Report is the final stage of the law reform process. It concentrates primarily on the Commission's analysis and recommendations as a result of independent research carried out by the Commission, consultations and submissions received (as described above).

The Advisory Board is also consulted for comment on the draft Final Report before it is finalised. The Final Paper is then provided to the Prime Minister, Attorney General and Cabinet. Whether the Government accepts or implements these recommendations is the Government's prerogative.

TABLING THE FINAL REPORTS

The Prime Minister is required to lay a copy of the Final Report before the Legislative Assembly as soon as practicable after receipt of the report.

Prior to submitting the Final Report to the Legislative Assembly to be tabled in Parliament, the Final Report is translated into the Samoan language and edited. This final part of the process is often very time consuming and may extend the time frame in which a project is completed, due to the inherent complexities of endeavouring to accurately translate nuance and meaning.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The following is a snapshot of the Commissions key achievements for the financial year July 2012 – June 2013.

FINAL REPORTS TABLED IN PARLIAMENT

REFERENCE	DETAILS	STATUS
1. Village Fono Act 1990	Cabinet referred the issue of freedom of religion to the Commission to look into ways in which legislation may be developed to promote harmony within the Village setting through the Village Fono Act 1990. This coincided with an overall review of the Village Fono Act conducted by the Commission in collaboration with the Ministry of Women Community and Social Development and other law and justice sector agencies.	Final Report sent for tabling 22/03/13
2. Commission of Inquiry Act 1964	The review of the Commissions of Inquiry 1964 aimed at improving and updating legislation governing any Commissions of Inquiry established in Samoa. It included the appointment of members of the Commission, their powers, the scope of the investigative jurisdiction, and people entitled to be heard before the Commission and the process of publicizing their findings.	Final Report sent for tabling 25/03/13

FINAL REPORTS COMPLETED

REFERENCE	DETAILS	STATUS
3. National Heritage Board	In February 2012, the Prime Minister and the Attorney General requested the Commission to examine the feasibility and appropriateness of setting up a National Heritage Board to preserve Samoa's various significant heritage sites. The terms of reference requested the Commission to research the establishment and operation of comparative overseas national heritage boards.	Final Report approved by Cabinet 01/05/13. Tabled in Parliament 04/04/14.
4. Legislation	In November 2008, the Commission was requested to review legislation relating to the care and protection of	Final Report approved by Cabinet 17/04/13.

for the care and Protection of Children 5. Media Regulation	children, in light of Samoa's obligations under the Convention on the Rights of a Child (CRC). The Report focused on the Constitution of Samoa, the Infants Ordinance 1961 and the Young Offenders Act 2007.	Next stage is tabling in Parliament.
	In November 2011, the Attorney General requested the Commission to examine the need for a regulatory body in respect of the media in Samoa, and to make recommendations for the establishment of such a body.	Final Report approved by Cabinet 25/07/12. Next stage is tabling in Parliament.

FINAL REPORTS IN PROGRESS

REFERENCE	DETAILS	STATUS
6. Review of the District Court Act 1969	In November 2008, Cabinet referred the review and reform of the District Court Act 1969 to the Commission. This review was part of the Commission's broader review and reform of legislation governing the courts of Samoa.	Public Consultations completed in September 2012. Final Report approved by Cabinet 28/08/13. Next stage is tabling in Parliament
7. Protection of Traditional Knowledge	In November 2008, the Attorney General requested that the Commission review of protection of Samoa's traditional knowledge and expressions of culture (looking also at approaches by other comparative jurisdictions), and to determine an appropriate approach for Samoa.	Public Consultations completed in December 2012. Further research will be conducted before recommendations for reform finalized.

ISSUES PAPERS

REFERENCE	DETAILS	STATUS
8. Sex Offenders Register	In February 2013, the Commission received a reference from the Attorney General to assess whether the establishment of a sex offenders' register would be appropriate for Samoa, and if it would likely result in a reduction of sex offenders' recidivism.	Approved by Cabinet in April 2013. Next stage is public consultation.
9. Supreme Court (Civil Procedure) Rules, and Magistrate Court Rules	In November 2008, the Commission received a reference from the Attorney General and Cabinet to review and reform the Supreme Court (Civil Procedure) Rules 1980 and the Magistrates' Court Rules 1971 (together, "Civil Procedure Rules"). The Civil Procedure rules have not been comprehensively reviewed since their enactment over thirty and forty years ago respectively.	Issues Paper No.1 sent for Cabinet's information 03/05/12 Issues Paper No. 2 in progress

10. Alcohol Reform	<p>In March 2013, the Attorney General requested the Commission to consider and propose law reform relating to the sale and consumption of alcohol in Samoa, with the objective of reducing harm caused by alcohol abuse. This includes considering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the adequacy of current liquor licensing and enforcement thereof; b) alcohol taxation and pricing; c) the availability of cheap liquor d) controlling alcohol content in liquor; e) advertising; f) the responsibility of parents, village councils and churches with respect to adolescent drinking; g) the introduction of age limits for the consumption of alcohol h) whether there should be a limit on alcohol content of both imported and locally manufactured liquors. 	<p>Survey Questions were sent to Stakeholders on 17/05/13. Next stage is to develop the Issues Paper.</p>
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ADVICE ON BILLS

Part of the Commission's functions under the Act is to advise Government Ministries and agencies on the manner or content of reviews of law conducted by those Ministries and agencies. Technical advice was provided by the Commission in relation to the following:

- Attorney General's Office Bill 2013;
- Acts Interpretation Bill 2012;
- Ombudsman (Komesina o Sulufaiga) Bill 2012; and
- Amendments Credit Union Ordinance 1960.

BUDGET

Approved Estimates FY 2012-2013

Outputs delivered by Ministry:

Approved Estimates FY 2012-2013

Legal Research Analysis and Recommendations

Personnel	\$364,499.00
Operating	\$43,544.00
Capital Costs	
Overheads	\$276,349.00
Total	\$684,392.00

Expenditure Spending for FY 12/13

	Period 1(Jul 12)	Period 2(Aug 12)	Period 3 (Sept 12)	Period 4 (Oct 12)	Period 5 (Nov 12)	Period 6 (Dec 12)
Legal :						
Personnel	\$ 23,393.30	\$ 23,143.30	\$ 34,339.95	\$ 23,993.30	\$ 14,887.35	\$ 24,196.52
Operating	\$ 2,446.09	\$ 5,360.00	\$ 10,928.40	\$ 2,917.00	\$ 4,710.00	\$ 4,550.00
Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

CSU:

Personnel	\$ 7,554.52	\$ 7,554.52	\$ 18,126.63	\$ 18,316.47	\$ 17,817.46	\$ 17,863.36
Operating	\$ 970.00	\$ 499.50	\$ 9,386.40	\$ 14,368.91	\$ 1,976.25	\$ 4,430.67
Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Below the Line	\$ -	\$ 1,209.86	\$ -	\$ 155,966.69	\$ -	\$ 2,043.51
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	Period 7 (Jan 13)	Period 8 (Feb 13)	Period 9 (Mar)	Period 10 (Apr 13)	Period 11 (May 13)	Period 12 (June 13)
Legal :						
Personnel	\$ 22,655.52	\$ 22,655.52	\$ 36,507.93	\$ 26,140.41	\$ 28,526.79	\$ 29,749.64
Operating	\$ 4,019.55	\$ 836.96	\$ 9,772.40	\$ 471.74	\$ 2,923.04	\$ 20,447.03
Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,298.26	\$ 3,736.53	\$ -	\$ 5,434.79

CSU:

Personnel	\$ 17,817.46	\$ 17,817.46	\$ 26,726.19	\$ 17,000.02	\$ 19,846.65	\$ 13,950.18
Operating	\$ 865.71	\$ 5,365.86	\$ 10,914.73	\$ 15,231.29	\$ 3,070.73	\$ 7,013.22
Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Below the Line	\$ -	\$ 1,446.27	\$ -	\$ 7,098.90	\$ -	\$ -
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EXTERNAL RELATIONS

The Samoa Law Reform Commission endeavors to participate in workshops, trainings, conferences and consultations to which it is invited that are relevant to its work. The Commission acknowledges the continuous support of its external partners, including Government departments, for giving the Commission opportunities to present on legal policy issues in relation to law reform projects. This helps raise the profile of the Commission and increases the understanding of the community in its work.

PRESENTATIONS

The Commission was given the opportunity to present and share its views on various topics. Following are the list of conferences, meetings and consultations at which the Commission was represented:

- Executive Director, Leilani Tuala-Warren was part of the Samoa's delegation to New York to attend the Fifty-Second Session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. She was asked to address questions in relation to Samoa's Report under Article 18 of CEDAW. This meeting was held in New York, United States of America from 17 – 23 July 2012.
- Executive Director, Leilani Tuala-Warren presented at the 19th Annual Symposium on Religion, Democracy and Civil Society", held at the Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, from 7 – 10 October, 2012.
- Executive Director, Leilani Tuala-Warren delivered a presentation on "Traditional Law versus Customary Law" at the Pacific Leadership Program Symposium in Brisbane, from 16 – 19 October 2012.
- Executive Director, Leilani Tuala-Warren delivered a presentation concerning the SLRC's project on the National Heritage Board at the Law and Culture Conference in New Zealand, from 29 – 31 August 2012
- Senior Legal Analyst, Hai-Yuean Tualima attended the Pacific Consultation Legal and Policy Barriers to Accessing HIV SERVICES for PLHV (People Living with HIV) & Key Affected Population held in Nadi, Fiji in 2012.

CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMS

The Commission was established in 2008 as part of the Attorney General's Office and became an independent organization in 2011. As a new organization within the Samoan Public Service, staff capacity development of the Commission is crucial. Capacity building programs attended by Commission staff, such as trainings, courses and secondments, include the following:

Overseas Trainings

1. Ulupale Fuimaono, Principal Legal Analyst was seconded to the New Zealand Law Commission as part of the Capacity Building Program of the Commission in Wellington from 20 – 31 August 2012. This Program was fully funded by the Law and Justice Sector.
2. Senior Legal Analyst, Hai-Yuean Tualima was seconded to the New South Wales Law Reform Institute as part of the Capacity Building Program of the Commission in New South Wales Australia, from 24 September – 5 October 2012. This Program was fully funded by the Law and Justice Sector.
3. Principal Legal Analyst, Houlton Faasau attended the Australian National University 6 Weeks Fellowship Program, in Canberra, Australia, from 17 September – 26 October 2012. This fellowship program was fully funded by the Australian National University.
4. Principal Legal Project Coordinator, Florita Tupai accompanied the Associate Minister for Justice, Hon. Taefu Lemi for the Ministerial High Level Study Visit for Public Service Reform in Singapore from 2 – 11 August 2012. This visit was partly funded by the Samoan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Government of Singapore.
5. Executive Director, Leilani Tuala-Warren and Principal Legal Analysts, Ulupale Fuimaono and Houlton Faasau attended the Australasian Law Reform Agencies Conference (ALRAC), which was held in Canberra Australia, from 12 – 14 September 2012.
6. Principal Legal Analyst, Houlton Faasau attended the Intellectual Heritage Convention and Pacific Festival of Arts held in Honiara, Solomon Islands, from 01 – 14 July 2012.
7. Executive Director, Leilani Tuala-Warren was invited by the United Nations Women to attend the Pacific Regional Workshops on Promoting and Monitoring Women Political Participation, which was held in Beijing China, from 29 – 30 January 2013.
8. Executive Director, Leilani Tuala-Warren was invited to attend the World Indigenous Lawyers Conference, which was held in Hamilton, New Zealand, from 5 – 9 September 2012.
9. Senior Legal Analyst, Kaisarina Salesa attended the Sub-Regional Consultation on Strategies on Review and Progress on Violence Against Women Legislation conducted by the Regional Rights Resource Team, which was held in Nadi, Fiji, from 10 – 13 June 2012.
10. Senior Legal Analyst, Kaisarina Salesa attended the Annual Pacific Lawyers Consultation on Human Rights Law in the Courts, which was held in Nadi, Fiji, from 29

October – 2 November, 2012. This consultation was funded and hosted by the Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT).

11. Principal Legal Analyst, Houlton Faasau attended the Pacific Regional Child Protection Meeting, which was held in Nadi, Fiji, from 3 – 6 December 2012.

Local In-Country Training

1. *Project Management Training* provided with the cooperation of the Governments of Australia, New Zealand and Samoa under the Samoa In-Country Training Program, 20 – 24 May 2013
2. *Workforce Planning Training* provided with the cooperation of the Governments of Australia, New Zealand and Samoa under the Samoa In-Country Training Program, 20 – 24 May 2013.

VOLUNTEERS and INTERNS

On occasion, overseas lawyers volunteer their time to work for the Commission. The aim of this initiative is to build the capacity of the Commission's staff in law reform work and skill development as well as to exchange experiences and knowledge of law reform with lawyers in the region. The Commission also engages interns who are students from Law Schools around the world. Their research expertise on various law reform matters has not only strengthened the capacity of the Commission but also contributed immensely to the performance of its work.

There were 2 internships with the Commission during this period.

- Su'e Tervola, a law student from Brigham Young University in Utah, USA was attached to the Commission for 6 weeks from May – June 2012. She assisted in research on the review of legislation relating to the care and protection of children.
- Alicia Lees, a law student from the University of New South Wales, Australia was attached to the Commission for 4 weeks from June- July 2012.

An Australian Youth Ambassador, Irimi Agollari, volunteered at the Commission for six months from November 2012 – April 2013. Irimi worked as a Graduate Legal Counsel at the Commonwealth Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education in Australia.

LIST OF REFERENCES UP TO JUNE 2013

FINAL REPORTS TABLED IN PARLIAMENT

1. Review of the Crimes Ordinance 1961 Final Report
2. International Date Line Final Report
3. Daylights Savings Final Report
4. Review of the Coroners Ordinance 1959 Final Report
5. Review of the Village Fono Act 1990 Final Report
6. Review of the Commissions of Inquiry Act 1964 Final Report

FINAL REPORTS COMPLETED

7. National Heritage Board Final Report
8. Care and Protection Legislation to Protect Children Final Report
9. Media Regulation Final Report
10. Review of the Law Practitioners Act 1976 Final Report
11. Review of the Judicature Ordinance 1961 Final Report
12. Review of the Criminal Procedure Act 1972 Final Report
13. Review of the Prisons Act 1967 Final Report

FINAL REPORTS IN PROGRESS

14. Review of District Court Act 1969
15. Protection of Traditional Knowledge and Expression's of Culture

ISSUES PAPERS IN PROGRESS

16. Sex Offenders' Register
17. Civil Procedure Rules (Magistrate & Supreme Court Rules)
18. Alcohol Reform

PIPELINE PROJECTS

19. Review of the Ministerial Departmental Arrangements Act 2003.
20. Adult Guardianship

21. Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women Legislative Compliance Review.
22. Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities Compliance Review