



Agenda item 9: Welcome to the Cook Islands – An Immigration Perspective

Proposed Recommendation

The PIDC Regular Annual Meeting is invited to **welcome** and **note** Cook Islands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration briefing on the Cook Islands from an immigration perspective.

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to provide Members with an immigration perspective of the Cook Islands.

Background

2. Cook Islands is well known in the Pacific and globally for its pristine white sandy beaches, crystal clear sea waters, sunny weather, laid back island life style and is constantly portrayed as paradise where tourists travel to escape the hustle and bustle of mega cities, cold winters and the stressful demands of life in the 21st century.

3. The free flow of this targeted information selling Cook Islands as the perfect tourist destination is the visible and often celebrated face of the Cook Islands to the world. Hidden behind the flash of these beautiful islands and the countless number of people that visit the islands are border control agencies like immigration working hard to strengthen their border control systems and processes to manage the legal movement of visitors into the country. These border control agencies form an immensely important but largely hidden side of the Cook Islands.

4. Cook Islands immigration will provide an insight into the Cook Islands providing an immigration perspective to the work they undertake to manage the movement of travellers within their resource limitation and the challenges they continue to face in an evolving migration landscape that continues to challenge immigration agencies in the Cook Islands and across the Pacific. PIDC Members will be invited to note the challenges faced, responses undertaken and use where appropriate any insights they think are appropriate to their national context.

Policy Impacts

5. The discussion outcomes for this session is expected to support and guide the organisation's work in Key Activity Area 1.2 of the PIDC Strategic Plan 2019-2021 to enhance national enforcement and investigations capacity.

Resource Implications

6. There are no specific financial implications identified at this stage.