



Agenda item 5: Results Management Suite Output 1: A centre for advice, research, information sharing and analysis on relevant immigration issues

Proposed Recommendations:

The Board is invited to **consider** recommendations proposed under each of the agenda sub-items discussed below.

Purpose

This paper seeks to provide the Board with an update regarding key activities undertaken by the Secretariat during the reporting period to advance the Results Management Suite Output 1. This output aims to establish and maintain PIDC as a centre for advice, research, information sharing and analysis on relevant immigration issues. Agenda items to be discussed include:

- a) Publication of PIDC Research Reports
- b) Development of PIDC Training Curriculum and Modules
- c) Regional Advanced Passenger Information Opportunities

Agenda Item 5 (a) Publication of PIDC Research Reports

Background

2. The Secretariat in recent years has focused on the development of immigration specific information products and resources that support and strengthen PIDC Members decision making at all levels. While the PIDC Model Legislation, Model Standard Operating Procedures and Model Code of Ethics provide 'best practice' tools that Members can adapt as required, additional support has been prioritised through the development of new information products and resources for executive staff of PIDC Members to strengthen decision making, planning and development of organisational priorities.

Update

3. Four key products that the Secretariat has finalised for release to Members include: (a) PIDC Immigration Policy Framework for Immigration Decision Makers in the Pacific; (b) PIDC Model National Immigration Strategic and Operational Framework; (c) PIDC Migration Trend Analysis in the Pacific Islands Region; and (d) PIDC Report on Strengthening Immigration Primary Line Operations in Small Pacific Island Countries and Territories.

4. While these research products are now available in Microsoft word format, discussions are still ongoing with the preferred printing company on its design and printing costs. The Secretariat is trying to negotiate with the company which is currently charging costs that are significantly higher than budgeted for. The Secretariat is also considering exploring an alternative printing and designing company that would cost significantly less if a reduced price cannot be negotiated.

5. The Secretariat proposes to launch the four research products with the wider Membership and then seek input as to possible priority work activities that can be advanced based on this work.

Proposed Recommendations

The Board is invited to **note** the progress of the completed research products.

Agenda Item 5 (b) Development of PIDC Training Curriculum and Modules

Background

6. The 2016 and 2020 Training Needs Analysis both identified members need to strengthen their national training capacities to deliver comprehensive immigration specific training programmes from induction to advanced level. Consequently, as part of its 2020/21 Annual Work Plan, the Secretariat in early March 2021 contracted an expert consultant, Dr Lesi Korovavala of CEPHAS Consultancy to develop and establish a basic induction training curriculum and a set of training modules that: (a) are specific to the PICT operating environment; (b) are aligned to international standards and best practices; and (c) can be easily accessed and adapted by all members to guide them in strengthening their national training programmes.

7. CEPHAS was awarded the consultancy after a competitive bidding process with two other highly reputable Consultancies based out of Australia and New Zealand. The quotations were assessed by the Secretariat and a representative from the Government of Samoa representing the membership.

8. At the completion of this consultancy, the Consultant is expected to provide: (a) a PIDC Regional Model Training Curriculum; and (b) a set of training module manuals based on the PIDC Regional Model Training Curriculum that Members can adapt for national circumstances. Members will consequently have access to a model set of immigration specific generic training curriculum and manuals that they can adapt for national use based on their operating environment. This work is expected to support the standardisation of regional best practices and processes amongst the PIDC Membership. The training curriculum and manuals are expected to be developed and completed by the end of May 2021.

Proposed Recommendations

The Board is invited to **note** the progress being undertaken by the Secretariat to develop a Model PIDC Training Curriculum and Modules.

Agenda Item 5 (c) Regional Advanced Passenger Information Opportunities

Background

9. This research activity seeks to enhance the PIDC collective understanding of Advanced Passenger Information (API) frameworks, systems, products and costs to determine how

Members can best access this information to strengthen national border management systems and combat potential threats including transnational criminal networks.

10. After a competitive tender process where three reputable Australian Consultancy Firms submitted bids, the Secretariat in early March 2021 hired Coordinated Border Solutions (CBS) based out of Canberra, Australia to undertake this research. The research seeks to significantly increase Members' understanding of API opportunities for PICTs both individually and collectively. The research once completed, should allow PIDC Members to make well informed decisions on potential collaborative activities for the acquisition and use of API platforms to support the organisation and its membership. In summary, the research will:

- a) Highlight the importance of API and its role in immigration coordinated border management;
- b) Develop an accurate contextual picture of API legal frameworks relevant to PICTs;
- c) Identify services, products and implementation models available in the Pacific region along with likely costs;
- d) Identify possible opportunities for cost and resource sharing amongst the PIDC membership; and
- e) Provide a set of recommendations on a possible way forward for the PIDC membership to consider.

11. The project will provide: (a) a report identifying key issues to be considered by the PIDC membership based on information from the research undertaken under the Scope of Work; and (b) a set of recommendations on a proposed way forward for PIDC Members to consider.

Proposed Recommendations

The Board is invited to **note** the progress being made to undertake research on Regional Advanced Passenger Information Opportunities.