



## **TWINNING REPORT BETWEEN THE COOK ISLANDS PARLIAMENT AND THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT**

**Year ended 30 June 2019**

### **1. 37<sup>th</sup> CPA Australia and Pacific Regional Conference, Rarotonga, Cook Islands, 22–24 October 2018**

The Cook Islands Parliament hosted the 37<sup>th</sup> CPA Australia and Pacific Regional Conference in October 2018. As part of the twinning relationship, the Western Australian Parliament provided staffing support leading up to the hosting of the Conference and during the delivery of the Conference program. The two Western Australian Parliament staff members assisted with the necessary preparations and acted as rapporteurs during the Conference. They also brought microphones on loan from the Western Australian Parliamentary Reporting Services Department for use during the Conference.

### **2. PAC Member Training in the Cook Islands**

In late January, the Western Australian Legislative Assembly sent a senior committee staff member to the Cook Islands to participate in a 3-day training workshop for the Cook Islands Public Accounts Committee members. The workshop was led by Mr Rob Oakeshott, a United Nations Development Programme consultant, and covered administrative processes and procedural issues, as well as a number of mock hearings.

### **3. Staff Attachment at the WA Parliament**

In March 2019, the Western Australian Parliament hosted a four-day attachment for one of the Cook Islands Parliament staff. The staff member, who is an IT Technician, was interested in learning more from the Western Australian Parliament about broadcasting, videoconferencing, internet streaming, FTR and other recording technologies. The staff member's travel costs were funded by the United Nations Development Programme Pacific Office in Fiji, while his accommodation costs were covered by the CPA (Western Australia Branch).

### **4. Provision of equipment**

In April, the Western Australian Parliament donated two FTR MX5 audio mixers and 10 AKG microphones and stems to the Cook Islands Parliament. The AV equipment will be used to record off-site public consultation meetings conducted by parliamentary select committees, various workshops for members of Parliament, and regional and commonwealth conferences hosted by the Cook Islands Parliament.

### **5. Future activities**

As reported previously, the Western Australian Parliament has been looking for some time at hosting a visit to Western Australia for the Cook Islands Women MPs, in conjunction with the United Nations Development Programme Pacific Office. A 4-day visit was planned for February 2019, which also included a study tour beforehand for the women MPs at the New Zealand Parliament. The proposed program in Western Australia would have involved the

Cook Islands' members each spending a day in the constituency or region of a Western Australian woman MLA or MLC. For the other days, the focus was to be on the Western Australian parliamentary and political system and exploring issues relating to women's interests.

Regrettably, we received advice in December 2018 that the proposed visit was postponed and would be rescheduled. We look forward to welcoming the Cook Islands Women MPs to the Western Australian Parliament at a later date.

There have also been discussions between the Cook Islands Parliament and Western Australian Parliament about the Cook Islands' Public Accounts Committee Members visiting the Western Australian Parliament sometime in the future.