



**Australian Government**

## **PARTNERSHIP MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**Between**

**The Government of Australia**

**And**

**The Solomon Islands National University**

This Partnership Memorandum of Understanding ("MoU") is made at Honiara this 15<sup>th</sup> day of March 2024;

**Between:**

The Solomon Islands National University (hereinafter referred to as "SINU") of P.O.BOX R113, Kukum Campus, Honiara, Solomon Islands, Represented by the Vice Chancellor Professor Transform Aqorau.

**And:**

The Australia Government (hereinafter referred to as "DFAT") of P.O.BOX 589, Honiara, Solomon Islands, Represented by the Australia High Commissioner to Solomon Islands His Excellency Rod Hilton.

Both of whom are herein referred to as the "**Parties**".

Now the Parties agree as follows:

**1. Background**

1.1 This Partnership Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) builds on ten years of engagement between the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the Solomon Islands National University (**SINU**) (each a "**Partner**", collectively the "**Partners**"). This MoU seeks to formalise the partnership and strengthen engagement for long-term cooperation between the Partners (**Partnership**).

**2. Purpose of this document**

- 2.1 This MoU will guide long-term collaboration between DFAT and SINU. It expresses the enduring shared interests that are the foundation of the Partnership, and the objectives the Partnership seeks to achieve under this MoU.

### 3. Rationale

- 3.1 The Partnership will facilitate greater linkages between education systems. The Partnership will enable and help achieve better outcomes and new pathways for education.
- 3.2 The Partnership expresses a commitment to bring together the capabilities of the Partners to support the growth and development of SINU.
- 3.3 The Partnership reflects the shared interest of both Partners in laying the foundations for long-term cooperation that will support each other's strategy and direction.

### 4. Objectives of the Partnership

- 4.1 The purpose of this Partnership is to support long-term cooperation between DFAT and SINU on key areas of mutual interest including academic excellence, skills development and training, climate change, inclusivity, governance, and genuine partnership.
- 4.2 In satisfying the objectives of the Partnership, any sharing of in-kind services, in-kind goods, or monetary amounts will be subject to separate written arrangement between the Partners and available funds.
- 4.3 The Partnership will support collaboration on the following three Objectives.
- 4.4 **Objective 1: develop sustainable and mutually beneficial linkages between SINU and Australian universities** to strengthen university governance and academic quality, encourage civil society engagement, and support SINU to become an internationally recognised institution. Collaboration under this Objective 1 may include:
- a) Hosting public speaking events for senior Australian representatives at SINU.
  - b) Hosting public speaking events for SINU leadership at Australian universities.
  - c) Supporting the proposed Solomon Update to be hosted by SINU and/or the Australian National University.
  - d) Special visits programs for SINU staff to Australia.



- e) Supporting SINU to bolster teaching and research skills, and strengthen curriculums and systems, including through twinning arrangements.
- f) Facilitating targeted mentoring through university exchange, technical assistance, and volunteers.

**4.5 Objective 2: foster linkages between SINU and Australia's security and development cooperation efforts in Solomon Islands.** Collaboration under this Objective 2 may include:

- a) Supporting the establishment of a course or faculty within SINU, focussed on security (including maritime).
- b) Supporting SINU's Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and skills development.
- c) Collaboration on training Solomon Islanders to participate in the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (**PALM**) scheme.
- d) Supporting SINU to enhance the quality of training for pre/in-service teachers.
- e) Engagements with the Australia Education Mission (**Roadshow**), Australia Awards, and the Solomon Islands Australia Alumni Association.

**4.6 Objective 3: collaboration to create an inclusive, sustainable and accountable SINU, to ensure all students can participate equally, while minimising SINU's climate impacts.** Collaboration under this Objective 3 may include:

- a) Supporting SINU with efforts to support all students to fulfil their potential, regardless of gender or ability (this may include accessible water, sanitation and hygiene facilities).
- b) Supporting SINU with research and advice, and connections with Australian universities, for planning and implementation of sustainable practices, including mitigation and adaption measures, across their campuses.
- c) Contributing to climate resilient infrastructure for SINU.
- d) Supporting SINU's transparency, governance and systems. This may include risk management, audit, information communication technology, and integration of systems.

## **5. Governance**

### **5.1 Partnership meetings**

- a) The strategic relationship between partners is open and mature and facilitates productive advancement of the mutually determined areas of collaboration.
- b) The Partners, represented by the SINU Vice-Chancellor and the Australian High Commissioner to Solomon Islands, will meet at least biannually to discuss and decide the high-level strategic direction of the Partnership and support the achievement of partnership objectives.
- c) The Partners will nominate representatives to form, on an as needs basis, a joint secretariat to support partnership meetings and track partnership activities.
- d) Representatives of the Partners responsible for other aspects of the MoU will maintain ongoing collaboration throughout the duration of the MoU.
- e) The Partners are committed to ongoing communication to build and maintain a relationship characterised by respect, trust and goodwill.

## **6. Legal Status of Partnership Memorandum of Understanding**

- 6.1 The MoU represents the mutual understanding reached between the Partners and does not create any legally binding rights or obligations under domestic or international law. This MoU does not represent any commitment regarding funding on the part of the Partners.
- 6.2 The Partners specifically acknowledge that this MoU is not an obligation to provide funding or create any legally binding commitments by any Partner or in, or by, any third party.
- 6.3 Any funding arrangements will be set out in separate grant arrangements.
- 6.4 The cooperation between the Partners as outlined in this MoU is not to be construed as a partnership with legal personality.

## **7. Amendments**

- 7.1 This MoU may be amended at any time in writing by the mutual written consent of the Partners, with revisions enacted via an exchange of letters between the Partners.

## **8. Termination**



8.1 This MoU may be terminated by either Partner giving at least six (6) months' written notice to the other Partner. The Partner will consult to determine how any outstanding matters should be dealt with.

## 9. Disputes

9.1 Any disputes about the interpretation or application of the MoU will be resolved by consultations between the Partners, and will not be referred to any national or international tribunal or third Party for settlement.

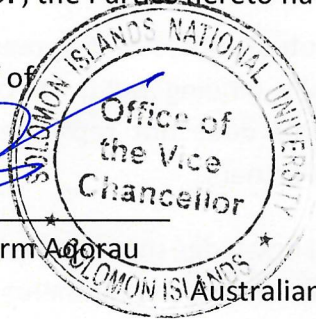
## 10. Duration

10.1 The MoU will take effect on the signature of both Partners and will remain in effect for five (5) years from the date of last signature (**End Date**). The MoU can be extended for another five (5) years past the End Date not less than 30 days prior to the expiry date of this MOU by written consent from both Partners.

11. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have affixed their signatures:

SIGNED on behalf of  
SINU by

\_\_\_\_\_  
Professor Transform Agorau  
Vice Chancellor  
SINU



SIGNED on behalf of  
DFAT by

\_\_\_\_\_  
H.E. Rod Hilton  
Australian High Commissioner to Solomon Islands  
DFAT

Date: 15/3/2024.

Date: 15/3/24

Witnessed by:

Witnessed by:

Signed:

Name: Shantel Fritzel  
Title: PVCC

Date: 15/03/2024

Signed:

Name: Shantel Fritzel  
Title: First Secretary

Date: 15/3/2024.