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SINU Launches Postgraduate Diploma in Security Studies



Invited guests posed for a group photo during the launching event.

The Solomon Islands National University (SINU) on Friday, 8th August 2025, officially launched its new Postgraduate Diploma in Security Studies.

The programme, hosted by the Faculty of Education and Humanities (FEH) through the School of Humanities, was launched at Panatina Campus by the Minister of Police and National Security, Hon. Jimson Tanagada.

In his remarks, Hon. Tanagada congratulated SINU on this milestone, describing it as a reflection of both national leadership and international partnership. He commended the leadership of Vice-Chancellor Professor Transform Aqorau, Dr. Patricia Rodie, and Associate Professor Dr. Danielle Watson for laying the foundation for this initiative, calling it both "timely and diplomatic."

The Minister also expressed appreciation to the Government of Australia for its continued support towards human development in the Solomon Islands, noting that this speaks volumes about the strong diplomatic ties between the two countries. He described the programme as a national asset that will equip public servants, policymakers, and professionals with the knowledge and skills required to address the country's security needs. He reaffirmed the Government's commitment to supporting the programme going forward.

Speaking at the launch, the Australian High Commissioner to the Solomon Islands, His Excellency Rod Hilton, congratulated SINU for developing the programme within a short timeframe. He said the programme was designed based on the sovereign needs of the Solomon Islands security sector, and assured continued Australian support under the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) framework.

"Today's launch marks a significant achievement, making Solomon Islands the first and only country in the South West Pacific to offer a postgraduate programme in Security Studies," he said. "Eight months ago, I stood here as consultations for this programme began, and now we already have security practitioners attending classes at SINU. Australia is honoured to have supported this initiative from design and consultation through to development and delivery."

Acting Vice-Chancellor and Pro-Vice-Chancellor Academic, Dr. Eric Katovai, expressed deep gratitude to the Government of Australia for recognising the importance of security education in the Pacific and providing the funding that made the programme possible. He acknowledged the leadership of Dr. Patricia Rodie, Dean of FEH, and Dr. Ben Wate, Head of the School of Humanities, for driving the initiative forward, and paid special tribute to Associate Professor Dr. Danielle Watson for her commitment and partnership.

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Dean of the Faculty of Education and Humanities
Dr. Patricia Rodie giving the opening remarks.



SINU Acting Vice Chancellor,
Dr. Eric Katovai presents his speech



Guest of honour and Minister of
Police and National Security
Hon. Jimson Tanagada shared his
keynote address

Dr. Katovai highlighted the urgency of quality security education in the region, noting that security challenges now extend beyond borders and physical safety to include transnational crime, environmental degradation, human security, cyber threats, intelligence capacity, and public policy vulnerabilities. He said the programme aims to instil deep understanding, critical thinking, evidence-based strategies, and practical skills in students.

The Acting VC noted that the pilot Postgraduate Certificate in Security Studies, introduced in Semester Two this year, targeted professionals in law enforcement, immigration, NGOs, and the public service. The transition to a full Diploma, starting January 2026, responds directly to the growing demand for qualified security professionals in the region. He emphasised that building academic expertise in this emerging field will remain a top priority for SINU.

Dean Dr. Patricia Rodie described the programme as a direct response to the growing complexity of national and regional security challenges, as well as the need for enhanced professional competencies across the security sector. She thanked development partners for their contributions. Head of School Dr. Ben Wate explained that the programme's development took nearly ten months of planning, consultation, idea-sharing, and navigation of SINU's quality assurance and standards processes.

Associate Professor Dr. Danielle Watson, instrumental in shaping the programme, outlined its structure:

Core Units

- Foundations of Security Studies
- Human Security and Development
- Transnational Crime & Border Security
- Climate & Environmental Security

Additional Units

- International Security & Geopolitics
- Conflict Resolution & Peacebuilding
- Cyber Security & Threat Management

Electives (Choose one)

- Intelligence & Strategic Analysis
- Food, Health & Human Security

The launch marks a historic step for SINU and the region, reaffirming the University's mission to deliver relevant, contextualised, and transformative education that addresses real needs in the Solomon Islands and the wider Pacific.



Australian High
Commissioner to Solomon
Islands His Excellency Rod
Hilton presents his speech.



Associate Professor Danielle
Watson explains the new
Postgraduate Diploma in
Security Studies
programme.



First group of students who undertake the
Postgraduate Diploma in Security Studies pose
for a group photo during the launching.

SINU TAFE Apprentices Gain Valuable Experience with Complex Electrical (CE Group) at Naha Birthing and Urban Health Centre Project



SINU TAFE Apprentices; Zina Sam, Lucy Saeni, Makaro P Baiabe and Daniel A Suliua with HOS Samuel Kwaoga, Lecturer Jefferson Duna and Nicholas Burnet CE Group Solomon Islands Construction Manager

Twelve apprentices from the Solomon Islands National University's Technical and Further Education (SINU TAFE) program are currently undertaking workplace training at the Naha Birthing and Urban Health Centre, a flagship infrastructure project funded by the Australian Government.

The students, specializing in electrical trades, are engaged under the guidance of Complex Electrical (CE Group), a respected Australian company sub-contracted to carry out the electrical wiring for the state-of-the-art health facility.

The Naha Birthing and Urban Health Centre, once completed, is expected to significantly improve maternal and outpatient healthcare services in Honiara, and reduce pressure on the National Referral Hospital.

The engagement for the workplace training is a six-week arrangement, with four students at a time, two women and two men, spending six weeks on site. The approach promotes gender equality, supports economic independence for women, and inspires the next generation of female leaders in trades and engineering.

This partnership marks a significant milestone in strengthening the practical training component of SINU TAFE's programs. By working alongside CE Group professionals, the apprentices are gaining critical hands-on experience in a real-world setting that emphasizes high standards of workmanship, rigorous health and safety protocols, and efficient project management.

"The opportunity to work with CE Group on a high-profile project like the Naha Birthing and Urban Health Centre is an invaluable experience for our students," said Solomon Pita,

Director TVET, SINU TAFE. "This kind of exposure not only builds the technical skills of our students but also prepares them for future roles in a professional and safety-focused work culture."

SINU TAFE expressed deep appreciation to CE Group for opening its doors to the twelve apprentices, emphasizing that such opportunities are vital for developing a skilled and job-ready local workforce.

SINU TAFE also extend its gratitude to Reeves International, the main contractor for the project, for its ongoing support in providing placements for SINU TAFE apprentices across multiple infrastructure projects. Their consistent collaboration with the university has played a key role in shaping the careers of many emerging tradespeople in the Solomon Islands.

Director TVET, SINU TAFE thanked the Australian Government for its continued investment in Solomon Islands infrastructure. Australia's support not only enhances the country's essential services, but also provides critical learning opportunities for local students.

"The Naha Birthing and Urban Health Centre is not just a health project, it is also an education and workforce development opportunity," Mr. Pita added. "Thanks to Australia, CE Group, and Reeves International, our students are gaining the skills they need to contribute to the nation's development for years to come."

The Naha Birthing and Urban Health Centre is expected to be completed in 2026 and will serve as a cornerstone of improved community health, and maternal and neonatal care, for Honiara.

SINU Signs MoU with Wauraha Panpipers Group



Wauraha Panpipers front man John K Ta'amora (L) and SINU PVCC Dr. William Parairato (R) with the copy of the signed MoU.

The Solomon Islands National University (SINU) has taken another step in promoting and preserving the nation's rich cultural heritage by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Wauraha Panpipers Group.

The MoU, signed today (Friday, 15 August 2025) at the Pro Vice Chancellor Corporate's Office, Kukum Campus, establishes a mutual partnership for the provision of traditional musical entertainment at official SINU events.

Representing SINU, Pro Vice Chancellor Corporate (PVCC) Dr. William Parairato signed the agreement alongside Mr. John K. Ta'amora, front man of the Wauraha Panpipers Group.

Speaking during the ceremony, Mr. Ta'amora described the signing as a "*historical step*" for his group, noting it was the first-ever formal agreement they had entered into.

"We are very happy to be part of this agreement and look forward to implementing it accordingly,"

Mr. Ta'amora said. "To reach an agreement with a national institution like SINU is a huge achievement for us. We encourage other cultural groups to take similar steps to promote and preserve our traditions."

Under the MoU, Wauraha Panpipers will provide live traditional panpipe performances at SINU events upon request, including but not limited to graduation ceremonies, welcome receptions, cultural events, conferences, and other official functions.

This partnership reflects SINU's commitment to cultural preservation while enriching the University's community activities through authentic Solomon Islands traditional music.



Wauraha Panpipers perform during the Native Lens Film Festival at SINU in 2024.

Staff Profile

Name: Johnny Grenger Tasa

Province: Western Province (Marovo & Riviana)

Age: 47 years'

Workstation: Solomon Islands National University (SINU) CDFL Panatina

Department: Centre for Distance and Flexible Learning (CDFL)

Job title: Learners Support Coordinator (DFL)

Qualification: Certificate 3 – in Building Construction (APTC – POM TECH)

BA in Education, majoring in Design Technology & Mathematics (PAU)
Postgraduate Certificate in Leadership (USP),

Postgraduate Diploma in Educational Leadership for Change (SINU)

Currently MA in Educational Leadership for Change. (SINU)

How long have you been working here? I have been serving with SINU for 6 years, contributing to the growth of flexible and inclusive education across the country.

Tell us about your job: As Learners Support Coordinator, my role is to ensure that students studying through distance and flexible learning are well-supported through digital transformation. I work with coordinators, tutors, and stakeholders to provide training, resources, counselling and engagement activities that help students



succeed in their academic journey. My work also involves building strong networks with communities and leaders to strengthen access to education.

What do you like about SINU and your job?

I value SINU's vision of providing accessible, quality education to all Solomon Islanders. What I enjoy most about my role is the opportunity to empower learners, bridge gaps in education, and support students to achieve their goals despite challenges. I also appreciate the collaborative spirit within SINU, where staff and departments work together to promote excellence and inclusivity.



About us:

Solomon Islands National University (SINU) is the Prime and ONLY National University of Solomon Islands. Founded in 2013, SINU is striving to be one of the Best Education and Research Institute in the Region. Our VISION: "A quality National University, raising Standards of education and applied research in the Pacific Region."

Our Mission: "Championing the pursuit of knowledge, skills, academic inquiry and applied research to transform lives through higher education and training, inclusive of diverse communities, while providing relevant solutions for the Solomon Islands."



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