



COMMONWEALTH
of LEARNING

FOCAL POINTS MEETING - PACIFIC

Nadi, Fiji | February 16-17, 2018



Australia | Fiji | Kiribati | Nauru | New Zealand |
Papua New Guinea | Samoa | Solomon Islands |
Tonga | Tuvalu | Vanuatu

The Role of the Focal Point

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The Role of the COL Focal Point

- What roles do FPs perform for COL & their country?
- What challenges do FPs face?
- What could COL do to help FPs be more effective?



COL Focal Points

Our direct link to each country

Africa & the Mediterranean



Asia



Pacific



Caribbean



Pacific Representation in COL Governance



- **Dr Linda Sissons CNZM**
Chair of COL Board of Governors
Chief Executive of the Primary Industry
Training Organisation



- **Dr Emma Kruse Vaai**
CEO, Samoa Qualifications Authority (SQA)
- Australian Aid & NZ Aid represented on Board



Pacific Influence in COL Programme

- Pacific has specific challenges in contexts not found elsewhere in Commonwealth
- COL needs up-to-date information about needs and priorities
- Aware of regional plans and frameworks and other development partner activities
- Recognise that MoE staff is small and people, and financial resources, are stretched

What are the most important roles played by the Focal Point?

- To share information on COL in country & with COL on ODL needs and priorities
- Raise awareness of possible COL assistance
- To assist in securing country contributions to COL
- Advocate for ODL
- Meet and arrange in-country visits for COL staff
- Brief Ministers regarding COL issues
- PACFOLD Advisory Board members



Key challenges experienced by Focal Points

- Not always aware of COL activities in country
- COL information not always passing through Focal Points
- Sustainability of Focal Points. Ministries of Education should keep Focal Points informed
- Delays regarding payment to COL are sometimes at the Ministry of Finance
- Officials take up many roles, some Focal Points have different roles with partners (UNESCO)
- COL works in non-formal ed & training, involves other Ministries



What could COL do to help Focal Points be more effective?

- Inform FPs on how we spend the country contribution
- Copy relevant reports to ALL officials concerned (sometimes Focal Points do not receive information)
- Ensure FPs notified of all activities in country



What does COL do for Focal Points?

- Share Country Action Plans
- Provide information on COL
- Publicise the list of FPs on COL website
- Inform FPs of COL staff activities and visits in- country
- Triennial meeting
- Provide online collaboration space





COL Focal Points

In order to make its relationship with each **Commonwealth Member State** more systematic and interactive, the Commonwealth of Learning first introduced a network of 'COL Focal Points' in 2006, which continues to strengthen in effectiveness. Each Minister of Education nominates a Focal Point (listed below) to be COL's primary contact in a particular country.

This network supports COL in its role to help countries use a range of appropriate and available approaches and technologies to foster learning at scale. COL's work covers two sectors of activity: *Education* and *Skills*. Dialogue with the Focal Points will ensure that COL initiatives match national priorities. These discussions will help COL to develop Country Action Plans for each country every three-year cycle.

The role of the COL Focal Points is to:

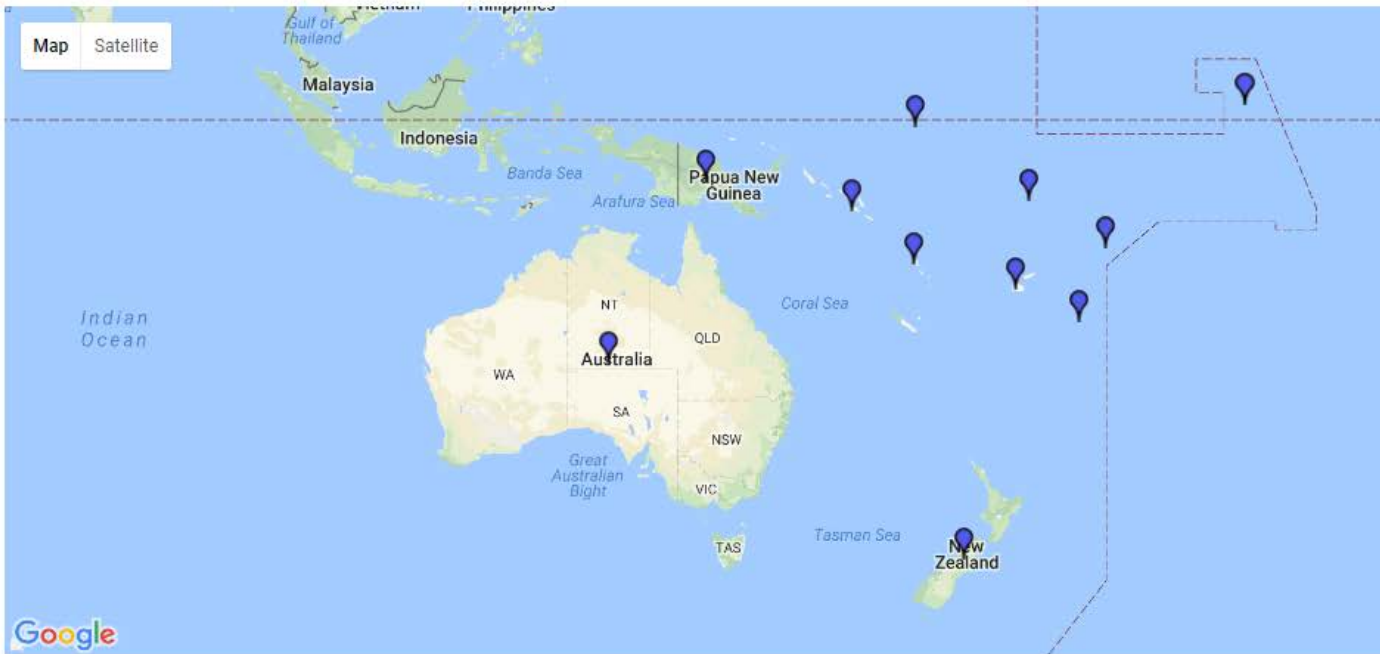
- Interact with COL on its programme, give feedback to inform ongoing interventions and to flag areas where new initiatives and interventions could be considered.
- Have a co-ordination role among different ministries and institutions in their country, where necessary.
- Receive and disseminate information about COL and its activities.
- Receive advance advice about visits of COL staff to specific countries so that well-planned and adequately prepared interactions occur on all issues of mutual interest.





Member Countries - Pacific

Pan-Commonwealth Africa Asia Caribbean & Americas Europe Pacific



Pacific

- Australia
- Fiji
- Kiribati
- Nauru
- New Zealand
- Papua New Guinea
- Samoa
- Solomon Islands
- Tonga
- Tuvalu
- Vanuatu



COL Regional Centre

- Increase COL's presence and reach in the region
- Strong partnership between COL & USP
- Regional focus
- Provide more affordable opportunities for capacity building
- **PACFOLD learn** online space



Thank You for participating

col.org

