



## **Pacific Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives – PARBICA**

### **DECLARATION ON RECORDKEEPING FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE**

On the occasion of PARBICA's 11<sup>th</sup> General Conference, from 19 to 23 September 2005, archivists and records managers from throughout the Pacific meeting in Nadi, Fiji, under the auspices of the ICA, resolve as follows:

- 1 Recognising the extreme importance of well managed recordkeeping systems as a fundamental pillar for good governance
- 2 Recalling that the creation and management of records as evidence of decisions and actions is essential to accountability, transparency and efficiency
- 3 Concerned at the condition of recordkeeping systems in some Pacific countries as a result of administrative change, electronic technologies and cultural factors
- 4 Emphasising the role to be played by national, state and territory archives and records authorities in leading and supporting the development of effective recordkeeping systems across their respective governments

#### *GOOD GOVERNANCE AND THE PACIFIC PLAN*

- 5 Urge that recordkeeping be recognised as a core component of good governance in intergovernmental strategic plans, policies and standards for the Pacific region, including the Pacific Islands Forum's Pacific Plan
- 6 Call on Pacific governments to establish national recordkeeping strategies in support of transparent, accountable and efficient governance, and to include recordkeeping in national policies and legislation on governance and access to information
- 7 Call on intergovernmental organisations and aid agencies to include records management in the terms of reference for governance projects and to ensure that consultants involved have the necessary competence in records management
- 8 Call on the Pacific Islands Forum to ensure that requirements for records are considered in the development of information and communication technologies (ICT) initiatives pursued under the auspices of the Pacific Plan

#### *ASSESSING RECORDS MANAGEMENT CAPACITY*

- 9 Call for strong cooperation between archives authorities and audit offices to assess capacity for recordkeeping in Pacific governments and to reinforce the critical importance of recordkeeping as an essential enabler of accountability



#### *ADVOCACY FOR RECORDKEEPING*

- 10 Call on archives authorities in the Pacific to raise awareness at government and public level of the importance of recordkeeping for good governance and of the role to be played by archives authorities in supporting improvements to records management systems

#### *RECORDS MANAGEMENT TRAINING*

- 11 Emphasise the fundamental importance of training in records management for the public service, and call on Pacific governments to work with archives authorities and appropriate training providers to deliver practical training in good recordkeeping to government officials

#### *EMERGENCY PLANNING AND RESPONSE*

- 12 Call on governments in the Pacific to include provisions for the protection and recovery of vital records of governance in disaster plans for their respective countries, states and territories

APPROVED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT AT PARBICA 11:

AUSTRALIA: *Ross Gibbs*, National Archives of Australia

*Cassie Findlay*, State Records New South Wales

*Danielle Wickman*, Australian Society of Archivists

COOK ISLANDS: *George Paniani*, National Archives

FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA: *Cheryl Stanborough*, Yap State Archives

FIJI ISLANDS: *Setareki Tale*, National Archives of Fiji

KIRIBATI: *Kunei Etekiera*, Kiribati National Library and Archives

NEW CALEDONIA: *Nicolas Dubuisson*, Services des Archives de la Nouvelle-Calédonie

NEW ZEALAND: *Dianne Macaskill*, Archives New Zealand

NIUE: *Joan Talagi*, Niue Community Archives

PALAU: *Naomi Ngirakamerang*, Palau National Archives

PAPUA NEW GUINEA: *Robert Gwamue*, PNG National Archives and Records Service

SAMOA: *Ulrike Hertel Akuino*, Samoa Museum and Archives

SOLOMON ISLANDS: *George Vari*, Solomon Islands National Archives

TONGA: *Albert Vaea*, Tonga Traditions Committee

ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE PARBICA BUREAU:

President: *Jacob Hevelawa*, PNG

Vice President: *Albert Vaea*, Tonga

Secretary General: *Salesia Ikaniwai*, Fiji

Treasurer: *Adrian Cunningham*, Australia

Editor: *John C. Wright*, Hawaii

Nadi, 23 September 2005