

# Continuous Efforts to end family violence in Tonga

Tonga

SHARE

March 19, 2018



Participants with the facilitators in the FFOV Planning Workshop. PC: Laisenia Raloka, Pacific Women Support Unit.

Over 20 participants gathered at the Tanoa International Hotel in Nukualofa in the past week, in efforts to discuss how each can contribute to ending family violence in Tonga. The two day inception workshop, hosted by Australia's Families Free of Violence program on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of January, was attended by representatives from relevant government ministries, non-government and faith-based organisations.

The Families Free of Violence (FFOV) is a three-year program funded by Australia's Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development (Pacific Women) program, supported by the Australian bilateral aid program in Tonga and implemented in cooperation with the Government of Tonga. The program is managed by the Australian Federal Police who have considerable experience in provision of integrated services for survivors of violence.



FFOV Program Coordinator, Ms. Sue Anderson introducing the program to the participants. PC: Laisenia Raloka, Pacific Women Support Unit.

The purpose of this workshop was to inform all stakeholders of the FFOV program, and its proposed annual work plan, and the monitoring and evaluating tools it proposes to use. This provided an opportunity for the participants to learn more about the program, to share lessons learnt from previous and similar activities, and to provide feedback on planned programs going forward. This exercise was to ensure that there was no duplication in any other activities being implemented by partners, with the hopes to sustaining these programs.

“The FFOV team consisted of Ms Sue Anderson – Program Coordinator, Ms ‘Eleni Mone – Program Manager, and the FFOV’s Monitoring and Evaluation Adviser, Ms Bernadette Whitelum, who said that they were very pleased with the turnout from partners.

The FFOV program is planning to work across multiple sectors and agencies in Tonga. Participants present at the workshop were from the Women Affairs Division of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Health, Tonga Police, Ministry of Justice, Civil Society Forum of Tonga, Tonga National Centre for Women and Children, Tonga’s Women and Children’s Crisis Centre, Ma’a Fafine moe Famili, Talitha Project, Salvation Army, Tonga Family Health Association, with advisers from the Pacific Women program.