



Royal Solomon Islands Police Force

Media Release

23rd July 2024

RAPPP Facilitate RSIPF Drug and Exhibit Capacity Development Program in Australia

The Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) have strengthened their efforts to combat illicit drug shipments by participating in a weeklong capacity development program in Australia.

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) Policing Partnership Program (RAPPP) facilitated the weeklong capacity development program from 24 to 28 June 2024.

Four RSIPF officers visited facilities of the AFP and Australian Government to observe processes and procedures relating to drug related crime investigations.

During their engagement, the RSIPF officers witnessed airport detection canines in action, toured forensic facilities, explored emerging technologies, and met with investigators. They also visited airport facilities, exhibit storage facilities, and analytical laboratories.

RAPPP Forensic Advisor Merrilyn Hurst said, "The initiative aimed to enhance the drug investigation capabilities of the RSIPF to address emerging threats of transnational drug shipments in the region."

Advisor Hurst said, "No single organisation, or country, can address illicit drug shipments alone. Relationships developed during this week will benefit the RSIPF and the AFP in our collaborative approach to minimise drug related harm. By sharing our experiences we learn from each other, recognising common challenges and identifying ways to work together."

Officer In-Charge (OIC) RSIPF Forensics, Inspector Garnette Kwanairara Jnr said, "The Australian capability tour was indeed an eye opener for aspiring future leaders of the RSIPF. The insights shared about operations and partnerships were valuable and enlightening."

OIC Kwanairara said, “We have indeed learned a lot from the demonstration of different capabilities tailored to combating illicit drug related crimes in Australia. This is an area we Pacific Island countries must strive to achieve, with or without the support of our external partners.”

The AFP remains focused on working with partners, including international law enforcement, to stay ahead of illicit drug crime in Australia and abroad. The support and cooperation of areas visited during the tour was greatly appreciated by all participants, underscoring the importance of collaboration in tackling transnational drug shipment investigations.

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<p>Media inquiries</p> <p>RSIPF Media Unit: 24016 or 23800 Ext 239</p> <p>Email: rsipf.media@rsipf.gov.sb</p>	<p>The Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) was established in 1954. Its mission is ‘To provide a safe and peaceful Solomon Islands by strengthening relationships with the community’. The RSIPF strive to provide efficient and effective policing services for the Solomon Islands and expect RSIPF officers to adhere to the RSIPF values.</p> <p>For ongoing news and information, please go to www.rsipf.gov.sb</p> <p>Follow us on Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/rsipf</p>
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