



Office of the Council for the  
Ongoing Government of Tokelau  
*Tokelau National Statistics Office*

# **Tokelau National Statistics Office Statement of Intent, 2017/18**

[as at 27 July 2017]

## Table of Contents

Purpose .....	3
Acronyms used and their meaning .....	4
<b>Executive Summary.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>What the Tokelau National Statistics Office does .....</b>	<b>6</b>
The importance of official statistics.....	6
Our role and purpose .....	6
Our operating environment .....	6
<b>Our TNSO framework .....</b>	<b>7</b>
The role of the National Statistician.....	7
Statistics Rules 2013 .....	8
Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics .....	8
National Strategy for the Development of Statistics in Tokelau.....	8
<b>Our work in the past financial year 2016/17 .....</b>	<b>9</b>
2016 Census of Population and Dwellings .....	9
Economic indicators.....	9
2015/16 Household Income and Expenditure Survey.....	10
Consumer Price Index.....	10
Imports into Tokelau from Samoa in 2014 .....	10
International Merchandise Trade Statistics .....	11
Gross Domestic Product.....	11
Civil Registration and Vital Statistics .....	11
Website and other IT-related work .....	11
Our cooperation across government.....	12
TSNO staffing.....	12
Publications .....	12
<b>Plans for our work in the 2017/18 financial year .....</b>	<b>13</b>
2016 Tokelau Census of Population and Dwellings .....	13
Household Income and Expenditure Survey .....	13
Consumer Price Index.....	13
International Merchandise Trade Statistics .....	13
Gross Domestic Product.....	14
Civil Registration and Vital Statistics .....	14
Communications, Website development and IT assistance .....	14
Partnering with regional and international statistical agencies .....	14
Capacity building and future proofing.....	15
National Strategy for the Development of Statistics .....	15
Our operating budget .....	15
<b>TNSO Publications 2016/17 – website <a href="http://TokelauNSO.tk">http://TokelauNSO.tk</a>.....</b>	<b>16</b>

## Purpose

This document sets out what the Tokelau National Statistics Office (TNSO) aims to achieve over the 2017/18 financial year, for the Office of the Council for the Ongoing Government of Tokelau (OCOG), and for the people in the villages Atafu, Nukunonu and Fakaofu.

The document also explains the statistics work undertaken since 2012 when the TNSO was formally established. Strong relationships with its regional partners are identified.

This Statement of Intent is designed to:

- include the priorities of the *Tokelau National Statistics Office Strategic Plan 2009-2013* (TNSO *Strategic Plan*) as well as the Roadmap<sup>1</sup> for the *National Strategy for the Development of Statistics* (NSDS) that is being developed with support from the Paris 21 organisation
- reflect the Tokelau National Strategic Plan 2016-2020 (TNSP) and the OCOG Statement of Intent 2016-2020 including its Annual Work Plan for 2016/17<sup>2</sup>. In it, “Statistics” features under “Policy Outcome 4: Be a high performance service provider”, has the Indicator: “Level of methodological sound population and economic statistics available”; and sets as Targets the 2016 Census, Quarterly CPI, and completion of HIES.
- provide an outline of how the TNSO will continue to develop alongside Tokelau.

This document details how these and additional targets have been met, and sets new targets for 2017/18 in the context of the TNSO framework.

## Contact information:

For further information contact the Tokelau National Statistics Office: [stats@tokelau.org.nz](mailto:stats@tokelau.org.nz), phone +685 20822, website <http://TokelauNSO.tk>

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.tokelau.org.nz/site/tokelau/files/TokelauNSO/Tokelau%20NSDS%20Roadmap.pdf> (November 2015)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.tokelau.org.nz/site/tokelau/files/2017Docs/OCOG%20Statement%20of%20Intent%202016-2020.pdf> (March 2017)

**Acronyms used and their meaning**

BAG	Brisbane Accord Group
COICOP	Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose
COS	Certificate of Official Statistics
CRVS	Civil Registration and Vital Statistics
DIA	Department of Internal Affairs (New Zealand)
DoH	Department of Health (Tokelau)
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HS	Harmonised System
HIES	Household Income and Expenditure Survey
IMF	International Monetary Fund
NSDS	National Strategy for the Development of Statistics
NSS	National Statistics System
OCO	Office of the Council for the Ongoing Government of Tokelau
OS	Official Statistics
PIFTAC	Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre
SBS	Samoa Bureau of Statistics
SOI	Statement of Intent
SPC	(Secretariat of the) Pacific Community
STEPS	STEPwise approach to Surveillance (WHO)
TNSO	Tokelau National Statistics Office
TNSP	Tokelau National Strategic Plan
TSS	Department of Transport and Support Services
WHO	World Health Organisation

## Executive Summary

Statements of Intent (SOI) for the Tokelau National Statistics Office (TNSO) have been released in the middle of each calendar year since 2013. They focused on two areas:

- building and strengthening local statistical capacity
- central provision of statistical services and advice for local decision-making.

These underlying aims of the TNSO remain unchanged. The TNSO is reviewing its National Statistics Development Strategy (NSDS) with a particular emphasis on building and strengthening a National Statistics System (NSS) for Tokelau. The TNSO is leading the review of the NSDS with assistance from development partners and local stakeholders.

The following were achieved during the July 2016 – June 2017 period:

1. publishing and utilising the results of the 2015/16 Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES)
2. conducting, analysing and publicising results of the 2016 Census of Population and Dwellings of 18 October 2016, in co-operation with Statistics New Zealand (StatsNZ)
3. publishing four quarterly consumer price index (CPI) calculations
4. reviewing the basket of goods and services and rebasing the CPI, in co-operation with Pacific Community (SPC)
5. completing the analysis of the atoll stores' import data in 2014 with quality of life implications
6. planning for an International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) in co-operation with SPC
7. calculating our first Gross Domestic Product, in co-operation with PFTAC/IMF
8. progressing the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) project, with BAG & NZ-DIA
9. maintenance of the tokelau.org.nz website with special emphasis on news and Statistics
10. meeting the capacity building objective by employing and training a Statistics Officer-Trainee

The period June 2017 – June 2018 is likely to be one of consolidation than of starting new projects. The following activities have been identified as priorities:

- continued calculation, refinement and reporting of the quarterly CPI
- encourage data utilisation of HIES and Census data jointly and comparatively
- write and distribute analyses of selected Census results, particularly the Quality of Life data
- developing a system for IMTS and analysing imports from 2014 onwards (with StatsNZ)
- clarifying secondment, capacity building and other staffing issues all over again.

Other than IMTS development, no specific joint projects are planned for the 2017/18 financial year. The TNSO aims to continue to work with other departments, notably: Economic Development, Natural Resources and Environment; Finance; Health; and Transport and Support Services. Our staff will continue to support the work of other staff in OCOG as the need arises; and as suitable resources, knowledge, and experience are available.

Unfortunately the National Statistician took ill on 1 October 2016 and remained on sick leave for the remainder of the financial year. His leave started the very day the Statistics Adviser's secondment from StatsNZ changed into a 3-year contract with OCOG (but no duties were formally delegated). A Statistics Officer was appointed on 14 September and duly trained, but departed on 1 June 2017.

The year was also characterised by political turmoil surrounding the purchase of helicopters and Samoa land by Tokelau, affecting the availability of management, staff and stakeholders. Nevertheless 2016/17 was a productive year for the Tokelau National Statistics Office, laying the foundation for much good and necessary work in 2017/18.

Dr J. A. ('iapi') Jasperse, **Statistics Adviser, on behalf of the National Statistician**, June 2017  
Website: <http://TokelauNSO.tk>

## What the Tokelau National Statistics Office does

### The importance of official statistics

Official Statistics (OS) are produced by all areas of government. They include surveys, administrative data, and registration records that are available and can be published. It is essential that Tokelau values and uses official statistics.

Building Tokelau's collection and use of official statistics will help the Council for the Ongoing Government of Tokelau, as well as the Taupulega (village councils) of Atafu, Nukunonu and Fakaofu to make good-quality, evidence-based decisions on behalf of the people of Tokelau.

Indeed the OCOG Statement of Intent 2016-2020, including its Annual Work Plan for 2016/17, lets "Statistics" feature under "Policy Outcome 4: Be a high performance service provider"; whose indicator is: "Level of methodological sound population and economic statistics available" (and sets as targets: the 2016 Census, Quarterly CPI, and completion of HIES, see below).

### Our role and purpose

The role of the statistics office was originally set out in the TNSO *Strategic Plan (2009-2013)*. This states that the "main focus of the TNSO... is becoming the key statistics provider by strengthening the roles of the office through centralisation of core statistical functions and capacity building". The National Strategy for the Development of Statistics that is under development will echo similar objectives.

The TNSO aims to provide high-quality, reliable, and consistent data for policy development, for decision-makers, for the people to Tokelau, and for the international community.

The values of the TNSO are:

- honesty and fairness
- respect for all cultures, beliefs, and the diversity of people
- provision of relevant, high-quality, and timely information
- confidentiality
- professionalism
- transparency
- respect for survey respondents and users.

### Our operating environment

Good-quality, relevant statistics across the Tokelau government are critical. Departments are beginning to develop the collections they need for monitoring purposes, and international organisations are helping develop best practice collections in health and social statistics.

There is a formal, legislated environment in which the TNSO operates: the Statistics Rules 2013.

The TNSO *Strategic Plan 2009* expired at the end of the 2013/14 calendar year. It is currently in the process of being replaced by a comprehensive, and widely consulted National Strategy for the Development of Statistics. A first review has taken place and a Roadmap been drafted. Completing the NSDS remains a priority for 2017/18 so TNSO can become an organisation that meets the statistical needs of Tokelau's developing government and international commitments.

The TNSO has control of its own budget; transparent budget management processes will continue to be developed to ensure that the TNSO operates as a reliable and trustworthy government agency. The annual funding appropriation available to the TNSO is insufficient to meet all of the TNSO's objectives. Therefore additional funding needs to be sourced from regional support partners if it is to meet its national and international objectives, and Tokelau villagers' needs.

The Tokelau atolls are very remote from the Apia office and TNSO's transport requirements must be actively managed. The ferry *Mataliki* schedule provides mostly fortnightly opportunities to travel to and from Tokelau only, and the logistics of any consultation rounds must be carefully managed.

The TNSO is the smallest of the Pacific national statistics offices. At the time of writing it comprised only 1 full-time equivalent operational staff member, although three permanent positions have been established: that of National Statistician, Statistics Adviser, and Statistics Officer. TNSO remains heavily dependent on international technical assistance, and on cooperation with other government departments to develop and maintain its statistical outputs.

The TNSO's Statistics Adviser position resulted from a secondment agreement with Statistics New Zealand. Two successive secondments of 2.5 years were replaced by a contract position of 3 years with the incumbent. A Tokelau-born Statistics Officer (Trainee) was employed for 8 months but she decided to leave for her family in New Zealand. The TNSO continues to seek a suitable candidate, preferably again a Tokelauan with a background in statistics; the long-term view being one of self-sufficiency. Further secondment options with Statistics NZ are being reviewed and explored.

## **Our TNSO framework**

This section outlines the institutional framework the Tokelau National Statistics Office operates under. Its tight operating policies, best practice principles and a solid legal framework are vital to the success of a statistics system for Tokelau.

### **The role of the National Statistician**

The National Statistician's responsibilities are to:

- drive the overall performance of statistical activities undertaken by the Government of Tokelau
- coordinate statistical activities across government departments. This includes setting statistical standards; reviewing and commenting on the validity of statistics; monitoring progress and performance; and ensuring that action is taken if results are not achieved
- provide statistical direction to other government departments, build shared ownership of data collection and analysis activities, minimise duplication, and maximise reuse of data
- define and agree on the outputs that departments will work on together
- advise the government on policies, priorities, and the costs / benefits of statistical activities
- manage TNSO staff and budget.

The statutory independence of the National Statistician is a key component of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and the Tokelau Statistics Rules 2013. Unfortunately the incumbent was on sick leave for 9 months of the financial year, without formal delegation of authority. This left TNSO staff and consultants operating in a vacuum – nevertheless good results can be reported.

## Statistics Rules 2013

The Statistics Rules 2013 provide the TNSO the legal mandate to:

- undertake collection
- require compliance
- ensure privacy and confidentiality for respondents
- provide security for data
- ensure the robust, efficient, and quality collection of the information required by Tokelau across all government departments.

The Statistics Rules 2013 also provide:

- legal protection for respondents when they give their information
- a legal mandate to the TNSO to work across departments
- a mandated system of redress, should there be a breach of confidentiality, privacy, security, or trust of the statistics produced by any department in the Government of Tokelau.

## Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

The Principles are a set of governing values developed by the United Nations to ensure robust and independent statistics from the world's national statistics offices.

The TNSO has adopted and harmonised the 10 Fundamental Principles to Tokelau's unique situation, and will employ them as fundamental policy to the TNSO's statistical activities.

The 10 Principles are:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Relevance, impartiality, and equal access | 6. Confidentiality                         |
| 2. Professionalism                           | 7. Legislation                             |
| 3. Accountability                            | 8. National co-ordination                  |
| 4. Prevention of misuse                      | 9. International co-ordination             |
| 5. Cost-effectiveness                        | 10. International statistical co-operation |

## National Strategy for the Development of Statistics in Tokelau

If the TNSO is to be an organisation that can meet the statistical needs of Tokelau's developing government, then a comprehensive, and widely consulted long-term development plan is required. An assessment of the current state of the TNSO and the wider government has been done in 2015; a Roadmap for meeting users' needs has been drafted by a consultant and approved by the Paris 21 organisation. It is expected that another consultant will assist in completing the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS). Work on such a comprehensive strategy has been recommended to wait until the full complement of three statistics staff are operational.

As government in Tokelau develops, so does the need for independent, timely, and good-quality statistics across government departments. Several departments are beginning to develop the collections they need for monitoring purposes; and international organisations are helping develop best-practice collections in health and social statistics.

New demands are made for data both nationally and internationally. These will put an already very stretched statistical system under considerable strain, and so strategic planning is crucial to ensure that the government's statistical activities are matched to the government's priorities; and that they are managed as efficiently and effectively as possible.

## **Our work in the past financial year 2016/17**

The 2016/17 Annual Work Plan for the Council for the Ongoing Government of Tokelau, included in the OCOG Statement of Intent 2016-2020, features “Statistics” under “Policy Outcome 4: Be a high performance service provider”. The indicator thereof is: “Level of methodological sound population and economic statistics available”, and the set targets are the 2016 Census, Quarterly CPI, and completion of HIES. These and additional achievements in 2016/17 feature below.

### **2016 Census of Population and Dwellings**

The census is the official count of how many people and dwellings there are in Tokelau, with a number of characteristics ranging from building structure to education levels and income. Census information is used to plan vital public services such as education, health, housing, and transport. It is also used to understand how society changes over time.

By law (Statistics Rules 2013), the census is held in 2016 and once every five years thereafter; it took place again on Tuesday 18 October 2016. This was a very large project that needs to meet the most stringent standards of timeliness in conducting (all households need to be interviewed on the same day) and output quality (very high reliability, and comparability with previous censuses).

As was the case in 2006 and 2011, project management, data collection, analysis and presentation of results had been contracted out to the Census team of Statistics NZ, with the TNSO providing logistical support ‘on the ground’ in Tokelau as well as in Apia. Local interviewers from Tokelau were trained to apply the questionnaires on the day and ensure highest possible compliance.

Prior consultation with the villages and OCOG had led to new questions on Quality of Life aspects to be included. The use of tablet computers rather than forms proved very effective – Tokelau was the first Pacific nation to have Census data collected electronically.

Council had accepted our proposal that the 2016 Census results be used for the formal Population Count, required before Elections in 2017: thus saving considerable resources in carrying out two counts in succession. Indeed the analysis of Census data was so speedy that, within a month, the official population counts of the three nuku could be announced at General Fono (GF) in Fakaofu in November 2016. This could then be used to determine nuku representation in the GF.

Announcing the final population counts on 11 November 2016 was followed by publication on the website [tinyurl.com/TokelauCensus](http://tinyurl.com/TokelauCensus), of 7 sets of final data tables on 1 February 2017, 3 atoll profiles on 13 March, and the full analytical report on 2 May. This was followed by a week-long team trip to conduct data utilisation workshops with all three Tokelau Taupulega and a range of community groups. The presentations were published on the website on 24 May. A “Lessons learnt” document prepared in June completes the set of documentation created under the contract with StatsNZ.

### **Economic indicators**

A major objective of establishing economic data procedures is to determine the level of development compared to other Pacific Island Countries and Territories. Such indicators are required for a range of commitments under international agreements and expectations. Tokelau now has good data from its Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES), Consumer Price Index (CPI), and Gross Domestic Product (GDP) calculations also.

## **2015/16 Household Income and Expenditure Survey**

Household income and expenditure surveys (HIES) had been carried out in most Pacific Island Countries and Territories except Tokelau, until 2015/16. The survey provides detailed information on people's living conditions and income/expenditure patterns. The overall goal of a HIES is to acquire high-quality data on income, expenditure, and related topics to inform economic and social decision-making. The information is used for rebasing a country's consumer price index, and in the preparation of national accounts. The ultimate goal is to analyse poverty and hardship in communities, in line with the government's objective of improving living conditions for all.

The HIES was carried out with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) playing a key role. Analysis of the results was completed and a final report produced in August 2016. It was brought to the attention of General Fono in Fakaofu in November 2016, upon which a complete translation into Tokelauan was demanded before the report could be released to the public. For a variety of reasons this translation was not completed until July 2017. Meanwhile the unpublished results had already been applied to revise CPI, calculate GDP, and inform an SPC research project into food mineral and vitamin consumption in Pacific Islands and Territories (ongoing).

## **Consumer Price Index**

With the assistance of Statistics New Zealand, the TNSO successfully launched Tokelau's first Consumer Price Index (CPI) in September 2012. Quarterly CPI reports have been published ever since, usually within the month following the reference period as intended.

The CPI is an important economic indicator that can be used to measure inflation: that is, how the value of money decreases locally over time. It is thus an indicator of how many goods and services money will buy, and also how the effective value of monetary aid can change.

Recently a simplified spreadsheet for calculating CPI time series was developed by Rens Hendriks, economist at the Pacific Community (SPC) and ran in parallel with the "old" (StatsNZ) method in the last two quarters of 2016. This confirmed that the different methods produced identical results.

The 2015/16 HIES has provided a more accurate picture of the goods and services purchased by Tokelauans on the atolls. This in turn has informed adjustment of the current basket of goods and services that are used to calculate CPI (both item selection and weightings to assign relative importance). Prices for the new items were collected from the first quarter of 2017 onwards, and the new, rebased CPI calculation was to be carried out from 2017's second quarter onwards.

## **Imports into Tokelau from Samoa in 2014**

The analysis of imports by the Tokelau Cooperative and bulk stores in 2014 was continued and its second phase completed by September 2016. This comprised reconciling the stores' invoices that were analysed in part 1, with the shipping manifests for the same period. Not only could the calculations be confirmed and refined, further work was also done to calculate sugar intake per capita. The results were made available in a consultation round with Taupulega and community groups in August 2017, followed by publication of the reports on the Tokelau website. The results helped inform a summit on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) held in Nukunonu mid May 2017. The study also provided a valuable comparison with results from the 2015/16 HIES, and informed both the IMTS consultancy by SPC in January 2017, and the GDP calculation in March 2017.

## **International Merchandise Trade Statistics**

The TNSO has continued to investigate options for implementation of International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) for Tokelau, with the Department of Transport and Support Services which has sole responsibility for managing the transfer of goods between Tokelau and other countries.

IMTS are economic statistics whose major uses are to inform economic policy; trade policy, negotiations, and monitoring; infrastructure planning; and input into other economic measures such as balance of payments, and national accounts.

Advice was sought from the IMT group in Statistics NZ that currently operates in Christchurch, and is promoting in Pacific Island countries the use of the computer package PCTrade. If and until PCTrade is implemented, Excel spreadsheets will be best able to meet our needs in the interim.

## **Gross Domestic Product**

Preliminary visits by representatives from the PFTAC indicated that Tokelau's GDP might be able to be calculated in a 2-week sponsored consultancy. TNSO was fortunate that PFTAC could obtain the services from Mr David Hughes, a British consultant to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington DC. As a result of his visit, the Tokelau GDP was published for "the first time this century". It was determined to be NZ\$14 million per annum, that is US\$6,275 per capita, providing a valuable means for comparing the standard of living in Tokelau with that of other countries.

## **Civil Registration and Vital Statistics**

Birth registration assigns legal status to an individual: a basic human right. Birth and death data also provide critical statistical information for planning and policy decisions by the Government. The Tokelau National Statistics Office, Department of Health (DoH), Transport and Support Services (TSS), and Legal Services are trying to work together to ensure that Tokelau will have a functioning, reliable, and quality vital statistics system that can be used for current and future policy decisions. Representatives of DoH,

TSS, DoH and TNSO delegates attended a workshop in Auckland in February 2017, to progress CRVS. Tokelau continues to have a very poor level of birth and death registrations (e.g. only 7 of 17 births were formally registered in 2016). The initial part of the registration process is entirely within the hands of DoH and TSS and no input from TNSO appears to be desired. This impasse is unfortunate as the New Zealand Department of Internal Affairs is quite willing to supply birth and death records for Tokelauans whose key event took place in New Zealand. Such data would be very valuable in being able to calculate the yet-unknown life expectancy in Tokelau.

## **Website and other IT-related work**

As in previous years during his tenure, the Statistics Adviser continued his voluntary, de facto role as "Ad hoc Communication Adviser" in 2016/17. The work was originally prompted by the need to distribute TNSO publications in electronic form, as initiated by his predecessor. In the absence of an effective Communications Officer on staff, these activities filled a void for other departments also - notably since the intense activities around and during the SIDS conference in Apia in September 2014. This work has led to 12 statistics media releases and 5 other original news stories and photographs being published in 2016/17; in addition to being the conduit for publicising other Tokelau-related news stories, official reports, and job advertisements on the website [tokelau.org.nz](http://tokelau.org.nz) (and gradually removing redundant or outdated information from it).

Good cooperation is achieved with Wellington journalist, Fatu Tauafi. He is being contracted by OCOG to write a variety of stories mostly relating to meetings in which Te Ulu o Tokelau participated; some of these stories were further publicised on his blog site Pacificguardians.org. Developing a comprehensive communications strategy for Tokelau appears to remain on hold.

Plans for modernising the website, improving the use of internal email and computer network, and other IT activities have been discussed with the office IT Manager from time to time, but have been largely unsuccessful due to incompatible work habits. Staff continue to rely on the Statistics Adviser as a back-up port of call for IT enquiries and minor trouble shooting.

### **Our cooperation across government**

Some cooperation with other government departments has taken place over 2016/17, notably Transport and Support Services; Finance, Health; Legal; and Economic Development, Natural Resources and Environment. However there is much scope for further integration to ensure that the Tokelau National Statistics Office both advises on correct procedures for collecting and analysing data, but also procures those data and makes them more accessible to and within the Government as a whole. The roadmap of the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics offers suggestions how to incorporate better coordination within the National Statistics System.

### **TSNO staffing**

Moving statistics forward and allow for sufficient consultation within TNSO and with other departments requires resources. Indeed the Roadmap to the Tokelau National Strategy for the Development of Statistics recommends that the development of the TNSDS should not start until the TNSO has its 2.5-3.0 FTE already allocated, in action.

At the time of writing, TNSO has just the Statistics Adviser operational. His StatsNZ secondment came to an end on 1 October 2016 and was replaced by an employment contract for 3 years.

The Census proper had been contracted to Statistics NZ to ensure a high quality process and comprehensive suite of products, in line with Census 2006 and 2011. This proved a success, all the more so as the more experienced National Statistician was on sick leave from 1 October 2016 also.

Local capacity building took a leap forward by the appointment of a Statistics Officer (Trainee) from New Zealand, Mafa Mativa. She speaks the Tokelau language and has university-level knowledge of statistics. Successful performance however appeared incompatible with her having 4 children under the age of 10 to look after; and after 8 months' training and participation she left for NZ again.

Much prior effort had gone into soliciting and finding an appropriate trainee. Given the desire to appoint a Tokelauan (or at least someone who is fluent in Tokelau language), any imminent appointment of another trainee to the TNSO is unlikely and capacity building may need to be further deferred. Finding the right person and capacity building remains a very high priority, however.

Further secondment opportunities need to be explored with Statistics NZ. However that organisation has been severely affected by the Kaikoura earthquake of 14 November 2016, unable to return to their Wellington office building "Statistics House" to date. Both short-term consultancies and longer-term staff input from StatsNZ remain desirable.

### **Publications**

A record number of formal and informal statistical publications were published in 2016/17: a comprehensive list is attached.

## Plans for our work in the 2017/18 financial year

The period June 2017 – June 2018 is likely to be one of consolidation rather than starting new projects. Several major surveys have now been completed and the emphasis in 2017/18 will be on “explaining what it all means”, and progressing / refining things that have already been put in place.

### 2016 Tokelau Census of Population and Dwellings

Although the formal reports emanating from the 2016 Census have all been published, there is a need to publicise the results beyond just the use of population pyramids. Especially the new Quality of Life-related questions are very suitable for visualisation and further discussion. Indeed Taupulega demanded that further workshops be conducted about Census data, with members having the advantage of prior study and knowledge of the material. The Pacific Community (SPC) has expressed an interest in visualising Census data using their interactive mapping system PopGis.

### Household Income and Expenditure Survey

The HIES report was completed in English in September 2016. General Fono demanded in November 2016 that the entire report be translated into Tokelau language before agreeing to publicly release the information. Considerable delays in translating the large, technically complex report were experienced before its release in Tokelau during General Fono in July 2017.

HIES data utilisation workshops are planned thereafter; this is best done in a format where relevant results from HIES and Census are compared and any similarities and differences explained. The Census asked a limited number of questions to *all* households on *one day* (“broad but shallow”), whereas HIES was a very detailed survey of *a sample* of about 50 percent of Tokelau households over a *fortnight* (“narrower but deep”). Their results need to be carefully compared to show how they complement each other and can be made best use of. A series of analyses and plain-English publications are planned to be released in 2017/18.

### Consumer Price Index

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) information is collected, analysed, and released on a quarterly basis, and the TNSO expects to continue this for the 2017/18 financial year and beyond.

During the 2017/18 financial year, TNSO will focus on progressing various aspects of its CPI programme. These include:

- further improving the quality of price collection on the atolls (and some in Apia)
- ensuring the long-term viability of the CPI analysis by simplifying the calculation process and ensuring that the items for which prices are collected, are representative of family purchases in Tokelau (and to some extent in Apia as well).
- deliver utilisation workshops in all three atolls (CPI combined with imports study/IMTS, GDP, HIES and Census) to explain the importance of such economic indicators to Tokelau.

### International Merchandise Trade Statistics

Cooperation will continue to be sought from the IMT group in Statistics NZ that currently operates in Christchurch, with the aim of implementing the computer package PCTrade in the TNSO. The aim is to simplify the imports administration, automate the generation of shipping manifests, and analysis.

The 2014 imports study will continue to provide good baseline data for further analysis and also for trialling any new system to be put in place. Yet there is a further need to update the study with more recent imports (2014-2017). Stores’; invoices and shipping manifests since are available for analysis, but the original “manual” work was tedious and without extra staff could not be redone.

The Consultancy report by SPC provides some suggestions for compiling quarterly or annual IMTS statistics but this presumes a good IT infrastructure for imports to be present, which is yet to be developed. Perhaps a better accountings system for the finance departments in the nuku and Apia could be tapped into, when this has reached its proof-of-concept stage.

### **Gross Domestic Product**

We now have a GDP figure for 2015/16, however this is really only a preliminary one as the Teletok annual accounts for that year were not available. So firstly the estimate needs to be revised when the Teletok Annual Report is published; and secondly a system needs to be put in place by which annual GDP can be determined routinely. The groundwork has now been done and the value of the indicator is appreciated within the Tokelau government. We may be able to benefit from PFTAC's continued support in setting up a system that we can run ourselves for annual reports, in future.

### **Civil Registration and Vital Statistics**

The TNSO is keen to continue to work with the Department of Health (DoH), and the Department of Transport and Support Services (TSS) to further implement a functioning vital statistics system for Tokelau. The primary responsibility for birth, death and marriage data entry and monitoring lies currently with DoH and TSS. Not until their backlog of data entry is cleared, will TNSO be able to produce on-going statistical reports on Tokelau's vital statistics. We remain eager to be of assistance, all the more so as NZ-DIA has offered to supply ("exchange") birth and death data of Tokelauans residing temporarily in New Zealand. Being able to calculate life expectancy using such data would be of major interest nationally (e.g. DoH), regionally and internationally.

### **Communications, Website development and IT assistance**

Voluntary contributions to Communications, Website maintenance and IT assistance may continue upon request, subject to this not interfering with statistics activities. Redesign of the website is long overdue, part of a Communications strategy that has been on the backburner for several years. Given his extensive prior experience in these fields, the Statistics Adviser continues to be willing to contribute to such developments, ideally in a structured form with clear responsibilities defined.

### **Partnering with regional and international statistical agencies**

Partnerships with other statistical agencies in the Pacific remains a priority in 2017/18. The TNSO has an ambitious work programme, yet it remains the smallest Pacific National Statistics Office. It will struggle to expand its services without active engagement with regional and international statistical agencies.

The excellent relationship with Statistics New Zealand continues, with the Government Statistician, Mrs Liz MacPherson, committed to supporting Pacific projects. Further secondment arrangements, both short-time consultancies and longer stays, should be explored further.

The TNSO's good working relationship with the Statistics for Development Division of the Pacific Community also continues, through HIES, CPI, IMTS, Census, and various topical conferences.

For the TNSO to achieve an expanded range of relevant statistical collections, these international relationships will need to be maintained / further developed throughout the 2017/18 financial year. Other means of co-operation and training also need to be explored as opportunities arise.

## **Capacity building and future proofing**

Capacity building remains a very high priority, in particular with respect to the position of Statistics Officer – Trainee. The incumbent, Mafa Mativa, sought leave without pay from 1 June 2017, to be reunited with her family in New Zealand and to continue her university training in statistics.

The Statistics Officer's is a demanding job at relatively low pay, but with potential high long-term prospects. It could lead to promotion to Statistics Adviser (3-5 years) - and eventually National Statistician? This key position for Tokelau has the opportunity to be trained by the incumbent Statistics Adviser – allowing for a 2018/19 HIES, possibly extended to cover a 2019 Population count and 2021 Census as well, to make best use of currently available expertise.

Given the desire to appoint a Tokelauan (or at least someone who is fluent in Tokelau language), considerable effort may be needed again to solicit and find an appropriate trainee. The salary on offer may also require to be reviewed upwards to increase interest in potential applicants.

## **National Strategy for the Development of Statistics**

The National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) is meant to replace the TNSO Strategic Plan 2009 – 2013. The consultant's in-depth analysis of the status of the TNSO within the public service, and a comprehensive and highly consulted road map were produced in 2015. The next stage is the development of a strategy for the implementation of statistical activities over the next 10 years. Assistance from the Paris 21 group had been received for the first stage and will continue to be sought.

However their recommendation is to wait until a full complement of staff (2.5-3 FTE as a minimum) is operational to put any plans into action. This is why NSDS development is listed here last, despite its great importance for the development of TNSO. Without dedicated people, it cannot be done.

The Tokelau NSDS needs to provide a clear vision of TNSO's role within all of government. The current perception, that TNSO is only there for Census and CPI, needs to be countered by effective promotion, cooperation, and delivering pertinent results of the widest possible relevance to policy.

One important area where improvements could be made is for Departments to share their statistical data with TNSO so they can be validated and archived in a consistent fashion. Data will be treated in confidence and keep secure as prescribed by the Statistics Rules (2013).

## **Our operating budget**

The budget (Appendix 1) shows the operational funding we are seeking in the 2017/18 financial year: NZ\$40k. The table does not include baseline expenditure covered by OCOG, such as staff salaries, accommodation and incidental allowances.

## TNSO Publications 2016/17 – website <http://TokelauNSO.tk>

Titles of publications containing Official Statistics are shown in *bold italic type*.

### **Census (with Statistics NZ) – website <http://tinyurl.com/TokelauCensus>**

About Tokelau 2016 Census / Tuhiga igoa a Tokelau ite 2016 (Information leaflet for interviewees: [2 pages pdf, 267 kB](#))

Interviewer training manual - includes questionnaire ([186 pages pdf, 6.6 MB](#))

**Final population counts: 2016 Tokelau Census** ([6 pages pdf, 164 kB](#)) / ***Ikuga o te Aofaki o tagata na faitau: Tuhiga igoa a Tokelau i te 2016*** ([itulau e 6 pdf, 126 kB](#))

[Media release 11 November 2016](#): Population count from 2016 Tokelau Census released within the month / [Fakahalalauga tatala ki tua: 11 Novema 2016](#): Aofaki o tagata na faitau mai te Tuhiga igoa a Tokelau i te 2016 na fakahalalau i loto o te mahina

#### **Final data tables**

- 1) ***Demography*** ([15 pages Excel, 74 kB](#))
- 2) ***Economic activity, revised*** ([14 pages Excel, 69 kB](#))
- 3) ***Migration*** ([7 pages Excel, 41 kB](#))
- 4) ***Education, revised*** ([11 pages Excel, 59 kB](#))
- 5) ***Social profile*** ([15 pages Excel, 174 kB](#))
- 6) ***Dwellings and households, revised*** ([19 pages Excel, 82 kB](#))
- 7) ***Quality of life*** ([10 pages Excel, 48 kB](#))

#### **Atoll profiles**

***Atafu*** ([31 pages pdf, 979 kB](#))

***Fakaofu*** ([30 pages pdf, 847 kB](#))

***Nukunonu*** ([30 pages pdf, 812 kB](#))

***Analytical report - Profile of Tokelau: 2016 Tokelau Census of Population and Dwellings*** ([pdf, 95 pages, 2.3MB](#))

[Media release 2 May 2017](#): Analysis of Tokelau's 18 October 2016 Census now completed

[Media release 12 May 2017](#): Tokelau Census team takes data back to the people

Data and policy workshops / Tomuaga mo na akoakoga agai ki na fuainumela ma faiga tonu

Module one: An Introduction to Statistics ([pdf for print, 7 pages, 511 kB](#) and [Powerpoint presentation, 4.4MB](#)) / Vaega 1: Tomuaga agai ki na Fuainumela Fakamaumau ([pdf, 785 kB](#) - [Powerpoint 3.4 MB](#))

Module two: An overview of the Census ([pdf for print, 5 pages, 375 kB](#) and [Powerpoint presentation, 613 kB](#)) / Vaega 2: Kikilaga lautele ki te tuhiga igoa ([pdf, 431 kB](#) - [Powerpoint 668 kB](#))

Module three: Census data overview ([pdf for print, 9 pages, 2.9 MB](#) and [Powerpoint presentation, 5.5 MB](#)) / Vaega 3: Kotokotoga o te Tuhiga Igoa ([pdf, 2.9 MB](#) - [Powerpoint 4.6 MB](#))

Module four: Using data in policy ([pdf for print, 6 pages, 483 kB](#) and [Powerpoint presentation, 3.6 MB](#)) / Vaega 4: Fakaaoaga o na fuainumela i na faiga tonu ([pdf, 439 kB](#) - [Powerpoint 2.6 MB](#))

Module five: Tokelau National Statistics Office ([pdf for print, 5 pages, 483 kB](#) and [Powerpoint presentation, 2.6 MB](#)) / Vaega 5: Ofiha o Fuainumela Fakamaumau a Tokelau ([pdf, 565 kB](#) - [Powerpoint 2.5 MB](#))

**CPI – website <http://tinyurl.com/TokelauCPI>**

June 2016 quarter (published 19 July 2016)

Media release ([pdf, 105 kB](#))**Information release** ([pdf, 157 kB](#))**Tables** ([Excel, 35 kB](#))

September 2016 quarter (published 31 October 2016)

Media release ([pdf, 100 kB](#))**Information release** ([pdf, 150 kB](#))**Tables** ([Excel, 79 kB](#))Media release, Tokelau version ([pdf, 90 kB](#))

December 2016 quarter (published 31 January 2017)

Media release ([pdf, 135 kB](#))**Information release** ([pdf, 109 kB](#))**Tables** ([Excel, 75 kB](#))

March 2017 quarter (published 26 April 2017)

Media release ([pdf, 138 kB](#))**Information release** ([pdf, 109 kB](#))**Tables** ([Excel, 75 kB](#))

SPC: Tokelau CPI Base Revision, January 2017 – Technical Report (8 p, 814kB) – available upon request

**GDP (with PFTAC)**[Media release 28 April 2017](#): Tokelau's Gross Domestic Product determined for first time this century / [Fakahalalauga tatala ki tua 28 Apelila 2017](#): Ko te numela GDP a Tokelau**PFTAC/IMF: Tokelau: Report on the National Accounts Mission February 27 – March 10, 2017** (25 pages pdf, 280 kB) – available upon request**HIES (with Pacific Community) – website <http://tinyurl.com/TokelauHIES>****Key results from Tabulation and summary report** ([4 pages, pdf 350kB](#)) / **Ikuga Taua - 2015/16 hakilikiliga fakatatau kina tupe maua ma na tupe fakafano a kaiga (HIES)** ([4 pages, pdf 408kB](#))Tabulation and summary report ([76 pages, pdf 5.6MB](#))Tokelau 2015/16 Hakilikiliga Fakatatau Kina Tupe Maua ma na Tupe Fakafano a Kaiga - ([86 pages, PDF 1.3MB](#))**Tokelau HIES Methodological report** ([26 pages, pdf 1.5MB](#))**Imports in 2014**How much do Tokelauans consume – and throw away – in one year? Summary version 2, August 2016. ([pdf, 8 pages, 1.2MB](#)) / He a te lahi o na koloa e fakaaoga e tagata Tokelau, ma na koloa e tiaki i he tauhaga e fokotahi? ([pdf, 8 pages, 3MB](#))[Media release 17 August 2016](#): Tokelau imports & healthy policy development[Media release September 2016](#): Tokelau 2014 imports study completed**Analysis of 2014 imports into Tokelau from Samoa Part 2: Stores' invoices reconciled with cargo manifests, and quality of life implications** ([pdf, 34 p, 3.5MB](#))**IMTS (with Pacific Community)**

SPC: Technical Note on the Scoping Mission conducted at the Tokelau National Statistics Office on the compilation of Tokelau's International Merchandise Trade Statistics. (16 p pdf, 313 kB) – available upon request

**Non-TNSO media releases by Statistics Adviser (as *ad hoc* Communications Adviser):**[Media release August 2016](#): Beyond Tokelau's 100% solar: add wind power![Media release 27 March 2017](#): Tokelau meets in Apia about ocean acidification[Media release 12 May 2017](#): American Samoa gifts tons of tinned tuna to Tokelau[Media release 5 June 2017](#): Ulu joins toast to Leulua'iali'iotumua English[Media release 26 June 2017](#): 'Electric' graduation at Don Bosco Technical School