

# TREASURY management division

GOVERNMENT OF THE COOK ISLANDS  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT

## Welcome to Edition 4 – A New Chapter for Finance and Connectivity

**Kia orana and welcome to the fourth edition of the TMD Bulletin.**

This issue marks a turning point in how we approach public finance. From smarter tools to stronger connections, the systems we rely on are evolving — and with them, so is the way we work together across government.

At the centre of this edition are key upgrades that will reshape financial processes for the better: the FMIS

move to the cloud, the major upgrade to Payroll ESS, and new features across our core platforms. These changes go beyond technology — they're making our systems more accessible, responsive, and aligned to the real needs of the people who use them.

Whether it's giving agencies in the Pa Enua the ability to process transactions in real time, enabling secure, anytime access without VPN constraints, or putting key payroll tools in the hands of staff — this is the start of a more connected, capable public service.

Thank you to all who continue to drive these changes forward. The path ahead is digital, yes — but more than that, it's collaborative, practical, and grounded in strong public financial management and the strengths of our people.

**Enjoy the read — and here's to what's next.**



The **Employee Self-Service (ESS)** system has been successfully upgraded with a modern look and future-ready features!

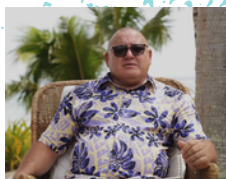
[New Link HERE](#)

### Index

Welcome.....	1
ESS Update .....	
Unit4 Cloud Migration .....	
FMIS Progress .....	2
Welcoming Simon Brittain ....	3
FMISHUB.....	
FMIS Deployment Schedule .	
CDRF Pacific Workshop .....	4
Elevating Internal Audit .....	
ADB Forum.....	5
IA Charter Review .....	
Growth and Restructure in FUNDS .....	6
Fiscal Data Skills .....	
Growth in Crown .....	7
EOFY Circulars .....	
Treasury - Autism Day .....	8
Treasury Management Division .....	



### MFEM Legacy Project 60th Anniversary of Self-Governance



**"To Remember the lessons learnt from the Crisis of 1996-97"**

[Click HERE](#)

## FMIS in the Cloud:

Built for Mobility, Powered by Connection

Hosted in the cloud by **Agilyx New Zealand**, the platform empowers not just local users, but teams across the **Pa Enua** and **offshore**. It removes technical barriers - **VPN access not required** — and supports a truly mobile, responsive way of managing public finance.

With access available on the go, FMIS Cloud makes it easier to stay connected, make decisions, and keep things moving — wherever you are.

## ACCESSIBILITY

Available anywhere,  
anyplace!

Email the FMIS helpdesk @  
[fmis.support@cookislands.gov.ck](mailto:fmis.support@cookislands.gov.ck)

[Cloud Link HERE](#)



# Aitutaki Agencies Gear Up for Digital Finance



Tahoa Puna - Senior Finance Officer, Linda Ruamoana - Senior Environment Officer (Aitutaki), Alone Davey - Environment Officer

## Taking Finance Forward in the Pa Enua

The FMIS rollout reached new ground this month as Itinga Nicholas and Asia Areora travelled to Aitutaki to join Annie Tearetoa in engaging seven government agencies for the next stage of digital transformation. Their mission: to assess cloud readiness and support the transition to real-time financial processing using FMIS Unit4 — enabling agencies to manage their own payments and receipting directly from the island.

This shift is part of a wider effort to empower the Pa Enua, giving local teams the tools to operate independently while easing the load on central finance teams in Rarotonga. It also reduces double-handling, improves accuracy, and strengthens overall service delivery.

By the end of June, several Aitutaki agencies will be trained and actively processing their own transactions — a key milestone in building a truly connected financial system across the Cook Islands.



(back) Itinga Nicholas - FMIS Project Team Lead, (front) Annie Tearetoa - Finance Systems Analyst



## Justice and OPM Go Live with FMIS

The FMIS journey is entering its home stretch, with the **Ministry of Justice** and the **Office of the Prime Minister** now fully live on the Unit4 platform.

This latest milestone brings us within reach of full financial system consolidation across the public sector, with only five Rarotonga-based agencies left to transition. Each go-live strengthens our vision of a single, modern financial system powering government operations across the Cook Islands.

With enhanced system access, real-time reporting, tighter security, and faster workflows, FMIS is reshaping how agencies manage public funds—delivering smarter, more transparent financial services.

And we're not stopping here. Next up: the Pa Enua. Check left to see how we're preparing island agencies for their turn in the digital spotlight.



MBIE

## Welcoming Simon Brittain: A Strategic Asset to Treasury's Shared Services

We're excited to welcome Simon Brittain to the **Treasury Shared Services team**. With a strong background from **MBIE NZ** and the New Zealand Treasury Shared Service, Simon brings deep experience in public sector finance, process improvement, and data integrity.

Since arriving in Rarotonga, Simon has hit the ground running—cleansing fixed asset registers, clearing historical data, and developing models to streamline monthly VAT returns across all CIG agencies. He's also designing automation tools to simplify annual report preparation, helping Treasury modernize and boost efficiency.

Drawn to the Cook Islands by a spirit of adventure—and his partner Jo, who joined EPD earlier this year—Simon is already making a big impact with his sharp insights and collaborative approach. We're fortunate to have him on the team.



# FMISHUB 2.0 is Here – Explore the New Features Today!

## New features:



### JSM Support Desk

Log an FMIS ticket here!



### FMIS Knowledgebase

Where you will find all of your UNIT4 user guide needs!



### Training request form

Workshops, onsite training, and online training are available on request



[Click here for FMISHUB](#)

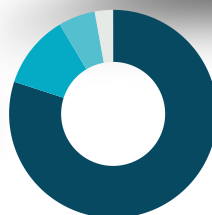
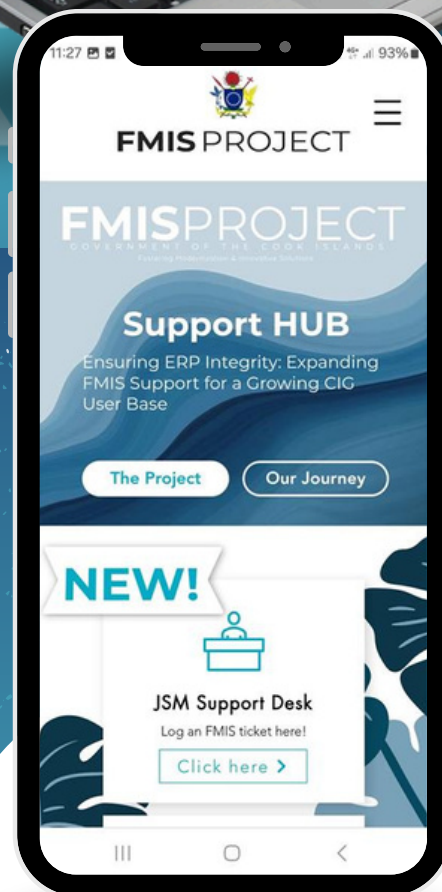


## FMIS Deployment Dates

as of June, 2025

Government Agency	Date
Outer Islands	1 Jul 2025
Ministry of Marine Resources	1 Jul 2025
Ministry of Health	1 Sept 2025
Infrastructure Cook Islands	1 Oct 2025
Ministry of Education	1 Oct 2025
Cook Islands Tourism Corporation	1 Jul 2026

Also available on mobile!



### Our Progress

**28** Fully deployed  
**4** Soft deployed - CIG  
**2** Soft deployed - Other  
**1** Not onboard

With **thirty-two agencies** now operating in the FMIS Unit4, the project is tracking steadily towards deploying all agencies by the end of the 2026 financial year.

Want to know more? visit us @ [www.fmishub.com](http://www.fmishub.com)

See [The Project](#) | [FMISHUB](#) for latest dates





# CLIMATE AND DISASTER RISK FINANCE PACIFIC WORKSHOP 2025

“BUILDING RESILIENCE”



In February 2025, **Terry Piri**, representing the the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management of the Cook Islands, participated in the Workshop on **Climate and Disaster Risk Finance** in Nadi, Fiji. Hosted by the World Bank and the Pacific Catastrophe Risk Insurance Company, this three-day workshop focused on enhancing climate and disaster risk financing in the Pacific region.

The event provided a platform for stakeholders from across the Pacific, including government officials, technical experts, regional organizations, and development partners, to collaborate and exchange valuable insights. It covered key issues related to improving disaster risk financing, identifying challenges, and

exploring opportunities for stronger regional resilience against climate disasters.

The workshop offered a unique opportunity for participants to strengthen their understanding of CDRF tools, enhance policy awareness, and foster networking among practitioners in the Pacific.

For the Cook Islands, it was an essential chance to gain new knowledge and bring back strategies to improve national disaster risk financing and institutional frameworks.

This participation underscores the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management (MFEM) commitment to strengthening climate resilience within our country. It ensures that the country will be well-equipped with the right tools for disaster preparedness and recovery.



## INTERNAL AUDIT

### Elevating Internal Audit: The Transformative Impact of IIA NZ Membership

Since joining the **Institute of Internal Auditors - New Zealand (IIA NZ)** in 2024, Internal Audit has reaped numerous benefits. IIA NZ offers continuous professional development opportunities, including online forums and programs on topics such as **Global Standards of Internal Auditing, Fraud Risk Management, Cyber Security, and Operational Audits**. These sessions, delivered by industry experts, keep members well informed about the latest industry practices.

The networking platform is also invaluable, facilitating connections with peers and experts from leading firms like **Deloitte, PWC, and KPMG**. This access to mentorship and the ability to share and learn from others in the field has been particularly beneficial. Our team actively participates in IIA NZ's live online presentations, gaining valuable insights.

Membership in IIA NZ also enhances the credibility of the Internal Audit function. This is exemplified by Don's invitation to serve as one of three panelist judges for the “IIA NZ Pacific Internal Auditor of the Year” at the IIA NZ 40th Anniversary Conference in Wellington, from November 4th to 6th, 2025. Joining IIA NZ aligns well with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management (MFEM) Vision: “MFEM shall be a competent and professional organization inspiring public trust in managing public finances in pursuit of our national development aspirations.” The value added by IIA NZ membership supports this vision by fostering a competent and professional internal audit function.

*Don Buchanan - Advisor - Treasury Operation (Internal Audit), Ana Narovu - Senior Internal Auditor*







## 2025 ASIAN REGIONAL PUBLIC DEBT MANAGEMENT FORUM

In May 2025, **Alovi Pickering** from the Cook Islands Ministry of Finance and Economic Management (MFEM), Treasury Division, attended the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** conference on public debt management. This global event brought together experts, government representatives, and financial professionals to explore the challenges and solutions related to managing public debt—particularly in small and vulnerable economies like the Cook Islands.

### “ELEVATING KNOWLEDGE”

One of the key highlights of the conference was a session titled “Challenges of Managing Public Debt in a Small Nation,” where Lafala from the Cook Islands’ Economics Department spoke alongside a representative from Samoa. Their participation showcased the Cook Islands’ proactive involvement in high-level regional discussions on economic sustainability.

The conference addressed several important issues, including limited borrowing options for small states, vulnerability to economic shocks, ensuring long-term debt sustainability, and strengthening crisis preparedness.

The event provided a valuable opportunity for Alovi and other participants to gain deeper insights into global best practices and approaches to public debt management. The knowledge and strategies gained will help support the Cook Islands in building stronger financial systems and promoting sustainable economic development.

This participation reflects MFEM’s ongoing commitment to improving fiscal resilience and strengthening public financial management frameworks to better prepare the Cook Islands for future challenges.



## Review of Internal Audit Charter

The Internal Audit team is in the process of reviewing the Internal Audit Charter. This follows an MOU signed earlier this year between MFEM TMD Internal Audit and GCF, which funds audit operations. The MOU has expanded the audit scope beyond MFEM administrative duties to include compliance assurance for policies related to GCF-funded government projects.

These policies cover:

- **Environmental and Social Safeguards**
- **Gender**
- **Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism**
- **Anti-Fraud and Anti-Corruption**
- **Whistleblowing**
- **Tarai Vaka Process**
- **GCF Prohibited Practices**







## Enhancing Operational Excellence: A Strategic Restructure for the FUNDS Team

As part of our continued focus on operational excellence and service delivery, the Funds Team has implemented a refreshed structure to better support our evolving responsibilities and the development of our people.

While leadership roles remain consistent, this restructure brings increased clarity and alignment across functional areas, ensuring that each team member has a defined path to grow their expertise in one of three key areas: **Processing**, **Reconciliation**, and **Debt Management**.



[from the left] Kahl Frederick - Processing Officer (new), Teremoana Lowry - Processing Officer, Matangaro Emmanuela - Senior Processing Officer, Alovi Pickering - Funds Team Leader, Amelia Noopii - Senior Reconciliation Officer, Heinarii Tauria - Reconciliation Officer, Louand Brown - Reconciliation Officer

### Key improvements include:

- **Specialized Streams** – Roles have been grouped to focus on core functions, allowing staff to build deeper skills and ownership in their respective areas.
- **Career Pathways** – A clearer structure provides staff with more visibility of progression opportunities and targeted development within their stream.
- **Operational Effectiveness** – With better alignment across roles, the team is positioned to deliver services more efficiently, with increased capacity to manage future demand.

*This evolution reflects our commitment to building a sustainable, skilled, and high-performing team capable of supporting the Ministry's broader financial goals.*

We're excited to welcome Kahl to the Funds Team—our newest team member who joins us straight from school! Kahl has quickly settled in, thanks to the supportive TMD environment.

*"I wasn't sure what to expect, but the team has been so welcoming. I already feel like I'm part of something important."*

– Kahl

His story is a reminder of the importance we place on developing young talent. With hands-on learning and strong mentoring, Kahl is already building confidence and gaining real-world skills.

*"It's rewarding knowing the work you do matters. I'm learning so much every day."*

– Kahl







Workshop participants, facilitators (seated 2nd from left and 1st on right) and donors (seated middle 4)

## Key focus areas include:

- Classification of transactions using GFS codes.
- Executing accrual adjustments.
- Incorporating climate change indicators into GFS.

## COOK ISLANDS BOOST FISCAL DATA SKILLS IN FIJI

**Debora Mataio** and **Grace Raukete** from the Cook Islands attended a regional workshop in Fiji from March 24 to March 28, 2025. Their participation was geared towards further improving their skills in compiling and analyzing government financial data to support better fiscal policy and reporting in their roles.

The workshop focused on Government Finance Statistics (GFS) and Public Sector Debt Statistics (PSDS), aiming to enhance their knowledge of the 2014 GFS manual and PSDS reporting principles, as well as to align these standards with international accounting practices.



## Crown Acknowledgements

As of March 2025 **Norma Ngatamariki** has completed **7 years** of service within the Crown Accounts Team



## Crown Accounts

### EMPOWERING FINANCIAL EXCELLENCE: OUR TEAM OF SKILLED PROFESSIONALS

The **Treasury Management Division** is pleased to welcome **Joyti Devi** as the new **Crown Accounts Manager**, joining the team at a pivotal time for public financial reporting in the Cook Islands. With a career spanning key roles in audit and assurance at HFC, BSP, and Bred Bank in Fiji, Joyti brings with her deep experience in financial compliance and risk management. Her transition from the private banking sector into public service signals a fresh perspective for Crown accounts, where strong financial systems and oversight remain critical.

Joyti will be working alongside the existing team to support government agencies in upholding rigorous standards of financial accountability. Her appointment reinforces the Division's continued focus on strengthening transparency and control in government finance.



Leah Mae Bulosan - Crown Accountant, Aisake Mafua - Crown Accountant, Joyti Devi - Crown Accounts Manager, Norma Ngatamariki - Senior Crown Accountant, Debora Mataio - Senior Crown Accountant



## Attention Finance Officers

See here the **End of Financial Year Circular\_2025** for guidelines to ensure timely and accurate compliance with year-end procedures.

 **Deployed Agencies**

 **Non-Deployed Agencies**





# TREASURY management division

GOVERNMENT OF THE COOK ISLANDS  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT

## Treasury Supports Autism Day

*Treasury Management in front of MFEM  
office showing heartfelt support for  
autism awareness*



### Crown Accounts

**Joyti Devi | Manager**

Norma Ngatamariki, Aisake Mafua, Leah Mae  
Bulosan Akeina Tairea, Tungane Lockington



### Funds Management

**Terry Piri | Manager**

Alovi Pickering, Matangaro Emmanuel, Heinarii Tauria  
Louand Brown, Amelia Nooapii, Teremoana Lowry, Kahl Frederick



### Shared Services

**Peerui Tepuretu | Manager**

Miriam Cook, Debora Mataio, Dorisha Upokokeu, Tiamarama Tuivaga, Glenison Guina  
Tereapii Jacob, Kamakani Taneao, Mavalea Tangatataia, Simon Brittain, Tinapa Vailoa



### FMIS Project Management Unit

**Natasha Tupai | Project Manager**

Itinga Nicholas, Cecilia Rere, Annie Tearetoa, Asia Areora Tarlia Albert,  
Kyara Wilson, Bernadette Raffe, Maria Guadalupe



### Internal Audit

Don Buchanen and Ana Narovu



### MFEM ICT & Office Assistance

Siaosi Kaufononga & Tamati Teroi (Vaka)



## Treasury Management Division

**Elizabeth Tommy**

Director of Treasury Operations



### CONTACT US

MFEM Building  
Takuvaie Road

PO Box 120  
Avarua, Rarotonga  
COOK ISLANDS

+ (682) 29511

[treasury.info@cookislands.gov.ck](mailto:treasury.info@cookislands.gov.ck)