



**FONO AOA O FAITULAFONO.  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SAMOA.**

**REPORT OF THE JUSTICE, POLICE AND  
PRISONS , LAND AND TITLES COMMITTEE**

**ON THE**

**P.P. 2014/2015 No. 38, Samoa Law Reform  
Commission Report on the Media Regulation 10/12**

**(Presented to the Legislative Assembly)**

## **1. RECOMMENDATION:**

**The Justice, Police & Prisons, Land & Titles Committee recommends that the Assembly takes note of its Report.**

## **2. RESOLUTION:**

The Committee resolved to recommend to the Assembly:

**To approve the P.P. 2014/2015 No. 38, Samoa Law Reform Commission Report Media Regulation Report 10/12.**

## **3. RECOMMENDATION:**

Based on its Findings the Committee recommends that Government:-

**Takes note and considers Recommendations submitted by the Samoa Law Reform Commission on the National Heritage Board.**

**Takes note of Recommendations No. 1 to No. 21 given by the Samoa Law Reform Commission in its Report. The Committee is of the opinion that these recommendations are complete and satisfactory for the improvement of the roles and functions for the enactment of the Media Regulation. Recommendations by the Commission for the reform of the Media Regulation is to solely improve the services provided by the Media to address the media coverage needs of Government and the public.**

## **4. FINDINGS:**

### **(i) View and Recommendations**

The report of the Samoa Law Reform Commission is based on the enactment of the Media Regulation which outlines the process in which its consultation and examination were conducted. A general Reference given by the Attorney General was the guideline for the Commissions examination, and in their understanding there are two views that include:-

- Examining the need for regulations for media in Samoa; and
- Making recommendations about what form such regulation should take.

The Commission noted the main reason of the reference and was able to consider other improvement issues that are needed in order to reform these regulations such as:

- the role of education and training within or alongside regulation;
- the identity and structure of a regulating body;
- composition of the regulating body and the appointment of personnel;
- how a complaints system would operate;
- the nature and extent of powers of the regulating body, including orders available and enforcement options; and
- sources of funding.

The specific content of any codes of conduct or professional guidelines has not been addressed in this review by the Commission. Reason being that the design of such documents is a task for the media industry, or for a regulating body working with representatives from the industry.

The crux of this reference is related to 'news media' therefore the review by the Commission was focused on the large sub-group of the media. For the purpose of this reference the Commission considered news media included:-

- print media (newspapers and magazines); and
- broadcast media (television, radio and internet sites).

The Committee noted various aspects considered during the Committees examination for the need of a media regulation. Furthermore, a survey examining social, geographical, technological and other factors that determine the need for media regulation in Samoa.

The Commission was able to carry out consultations with relevant stakeholders regarding the need for a media regulation. The Commission is of the opinion, that it is important to consider beyond the policies of these regulations, which cover specific roles performed in various societies and corporations. The media is the disseminator of information as 'the public has the right to know'. Based on this, the Commission supports the role of the media as the Fourth Estate.

Key arguments and proposals given by media Stakeholders during consultation are noted by the Commission in its report, in order to explain and further clarify the view and recommendations of the Commission.

At the completion of the Commissions examination in the various forms of a regulation in order to improve services for this form of occupation, with the view that combining the first three methods stated in Chapter 4 will allow for achievement of its mission, which include:

1. Education and Training;
2. Internal 'self-help'; and

### 3. External 'self-help'.

The following recommendation by the Commission derives from these methods, with the belief that all media organisations should consider what systems they can implement within their organisations to correct errors, improve their relationship with the public and ultimately reduce the need for external regulation.

#### Commission Recommendation

1. All media organisations should consider implementing and/or improving one or more of the following mechanisms for internal 'self-help':
  - Effective monitoring, by the Editor of Chief, of compliance with company policies and industry codes.
  - Providing opportunities for audience feedback, interaction and critique, such as letters to the editor, talk-back radio, and regular printing or broadcasting of clearly identified 'Corrections' at a consistent time or place;
  - Employing a readers' editor to deal independently with complaints, monitor compliance with company policies and industry codes and communicate with the public about media ethics and accountability.

*Under the first Commission Recommendation, the Committee is of the opinion that it is satisfactory and relevant, this recommendation should be implemented immediately in order to improve procedures for journalists in Samoa.*

#### (ii) **Newspapers and Printers Act 1992/1993**

Other important issues that the Commission was able to examine included the current status of freedom of the press in Samoa. The Commission noted from its consultations with media stakeholders, that in accordance with Section 10 of the Newspapers and Printers Act 1992/1993, there is a shield that covers freedom of the press to carry out its roles and duties. The Commission takes the view that a system of regulation can operate effectively despite rules set by corporations. However, the Commission noted that regarding this issue, there may be conflicts between the current rules set by the media, when considering the provisions of the Act, for instance complaints towards the media.

The Commission believes that it is a must, however, to consider the content and operation of the Newspapers and Printers Act as part of the review of existing framework for regulation of the media.

The Commission stated that one of the main issues which has been a subject of criticism from within the media due to the provision stated above regarding Journalist Privilege. This principle allows journalist to withhold the name of its source.

Other concerns by the Commission is the largely ineffectual use of the Newspapers and Printers Act 1992/1993. Legislation prohibits the printing of a newspaper that is not registered. However, the Ministry of Justice (responsible for administering the Act) told the Commission they do not keep a register of newspapers and printers. Enquiries with the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour revealed that publications are registered under the Newspaper and Printers Act.

Based on its examination and consultation the Commission recommends that its recommendation be considered for the improvement of these matters.

#### Commission Recommendation

2. The Newspapers and Printers Act 1992/1993 should be reviewed to examine the effectiveness of the registration system it establishes, and to consider the need to amend or repeal S.10 as it relates to the disclosure of information about a journalist's source.

*The Committee takes note of the recommendation by the Commission in order to comply with provisions of legislation, in addition, a much need amendment so that this Section is complied with. Therefore the Committee is of the view that this recommendation is vital and should be enforced in order to address the need for media regulations.*

#### **(iii) Broadcasting Act 2010**

Based on consultation with one of its stakeholders, suggested that the Broadcasting Act 2010 should be reviewed and amended, in order for the Act to support an appropriate system of regulation for the media. The Commission is of the view that this matter refers directly to the Broadcasting Regulator, as not being able to take on the broader role as media regulator. For this reason the Commission supports that there needs to be a review, in order to reflect the limits of the Broadcasting Regulator's role.

In addition to this matter, the Broadcasting Regulator cannot act a news media regulator. To add a regulatory role for print media to the Broadcasting Regulator's functions would be untidy and confusing. Therefore, on these basis the Commission recommends that any roles involving the regulation of media content be removed from the Broadcasting Regulator's mandate.

#### Commission Recommendation

3. The Broadcasting Act 2010 should be reviewed to identify and remove any functions that overlap with the role of the News Media Council as described by the Commission in Recommendation 7.

*The Committee considered finding of the Commission as well as identifying the recommendation. The Committee believes that this is a very good approach as noted during the Commissions consideration. This recommendation should be considered as it is a means of improving the role and duties of the media.*

(iv) **Regulation**

During the Commissions examination based on the purpose and guide of this report, a number of reviews worldwide included the following inquiries;

- if self-regulation of the media is working;
- how convergence can be effectively addressed in media regulation; and
- how serious ethical breaches by journalists can be prevented.

The Commission agrees with the principle established by the Australian government's Convergence Review 'citizens and organizations should be able to communicate freely with the media'. An overseas journalist in his review stated that, a new body for regulating all forms of media be established by statute.

However the biggest problems facing the media in Samoa are a lack of formal education and training for journalists, deficient understanding among both the media and the public about journalistic standards, and the absence of any binding code of practice. Until the media has been properly supported to meet these needs itself, the Commission believes that there is no basis for deciding that a regulatory body should be established by Statute.

The Commission is cautiously optimistic about media regulations and that the corporations should be given another chance to self-regulate. For this reason the Commission recommends that a different system be put in place if the media industry fails to regulate itself responsibly in the next two years.

**Commission Recommendation**

4. The media industry should act independently to establish a News Media Council for the regulation of print, online and broadcast news media in Samoa.

*The Committee believes that this recommendation should be implemented as it is important and contributes to the development of media corporations. In addition, compliance with journalist privilege in accordance with regulations.*

(v) **Mentoring and Networks**

The Commission noted in its report that the development of a Media Council will be hard. For this reason the Commission had to find ways to mentor the development of the Council and its activities so that it is able to achieve its main purpose. In the opinion of the Commission, that a mentoring relationship be developed with one or more well-reputed media councils in other jurisdictions.

One or two key people of the Media Council (the Chairperson and Executive Secretary) could undertake a familiarization trip to other jurisdictions. This is another form of introducing new trainings and knowledge relevant to the functions and procedures. Furthermore this will establish ongoing partnerships. This will also assist in terms of funding, as needed for its programs.

**Commission Recommendation**

5. The News Media Council should establish and foster a mentoring relationship with an overseas counterpart or counterparts to share information and expertise.
6. The News Media Council should cooperate with media groups and networks around the Pacific to collaborate in the facilitation of regional seminars and forums for reporters, editors and others involved in the media.

*The Committee believes that this is an important aspect as recommended by the Commission. The Committee is also concerned regarding limited funds needed in order to for the Media Council to achieve its objectives as well as its needs. The Council will also be able to foster greater experience and knowledge through networks especially in the Pacific. For this reason the Committee notes and acknowledge the recommendation by the Commission.*

(vi) **Role and Mandate**

The Commission believes that the Role and Mandate of the News Media Council should be considered in depth so that its activities are achieved. Multiple submissions were given from the Commissions Stakeholders as well as Media Stakeholders.

The News Media Council will have jurisdictions over all forms of media, including print, broadcast and online. Its core functions will involve: educating journalists and the public about the roles and responsibilities of the media and the purpose of the News Media Council; developing and maintaining an enforceable Code of Practice; and receiving and addressing complaints relating to breaches of the Code of Practice.

**Commission Recommendation**

7. The News Media Council should have the following roles –
  1. To educate journalists and the public about the roles and responsibilities of the media and the purpose of the News Media Council, including:

- (a) organising and advertising seminars for reporters and editors every two months on topics relating either to skills and practice or ethics;
  - (b) advertising journalistic training and workshops offered externally, both in Samoa and overseas;
  - (c) requiring members of the News Media Council to attend a minimum number of accredited or approved training courses per year, based on a points system established by the Council;
  - (d) organising training seminars for journalists found by the News Media Council to have breached its Code of Practice;
  - (e) encouraging and supporting in-house training of journalists and the establishment of internal mechanisms for self-regulation discussed in Recommendation 1, including by appointing mentors for senior staff in media organisations;
  - (f) raising public awareness about the role of the media and the standards to which it must adhere, and developing a marketing and outreach plan for this purpose;
  - (g) requiring members of the News Media Council to publish approved advertisements about the role of the Council;
  - (h) publishing any applicable codes, guidelines and decisions of the Council, and information about complaints procedures on an official News Media Council website;
  - (i) collecting data to assess how the News Media Council is functioning and to show trends in the resolution of complaints;
  - (j) producing an Annual Report, and quarterly reports which should include information such as guidelines for journalists and complainants regarding the complaints process, data gathered as above and information about courses and training available to reporters; and
  - (k) organising annual Media Awards.
2. To establish and maintain a Code of Practice, in consultation with the media industry more broadly.
  3. To enforce the Code of Practice by determining complaints from the public.

*In regards to the recommendation by the Commission, the Committee noted that it is relevant in order to further improve activities set out for the News Media Council. The Committee is determined that activities of the Council are carry out in compliance with legal provision, as well as improving plans of the Media Council.*

(vii) **Structure and Composition**

The Commission in its report identified ‘External mechanisms: private and statutory media councils’ used in other jurisdictions.

The Commission and some of its Stakeholders believes that a regulatory body comprises of different arms:

- board to operate the marketing;
- educate and administrative functions of the body and an ombudsman or tribunal to consider and determine complaints.

Whatever legal personality the News Media Council adopts, it is essential that all members be bound to its rules by an enforceable document.

The News Media Council comprises of 11 members, the Commission believes that this is important as it will set out the composition of the Council, each member is elected for a 3 year term. This composition provides media expertise but holds the balance in favour of the public to reflect the existing power imbalance between media and private individuals.

To ensure sensible, effective and independent appointments to the Council, the Commission recommends that members be appointed by the Chief Justice on nomination given in the following way. Only working members of the media may nominate the five media representatives. To achieve certainty in appointments, the media industry may choose to pool together to nominate their five suggested candidates. Any person other than a working media member of the media may nominate for the Chair and the five positions to be held by public representatives.

The employment of two paid staff was another matter that the Commission based its recommendation on, the staff will provide assistance to the Council. One of which will be an Education officer, who will be an academic or other experienced journalist or editor capable of training journalists and educating the public about ethics and professional standards in journalism.

The other position will be given to an Executive Secretary to carry out administrative tasks associated with the operation of the Council. The Commission has already set in place policies as given in its recommendation.

The Commission believes that all journalists, editors and media organisations must be members of the News Media Council if it is to operate effectively. This includes operators of news websites and freelance journalists.

With regards to the media having access to court proceedings, this was one of the main issues examined by the Commission. In accordance with recommendations in the report for the establishment of a Media Council, the Commission is of the view that reform should be done to the Criminal Procedure Act 1972. These amendments will clarify relevant information as to members of the media who are allowed to sit in during court proceedings. In any court matter that is being considered, the Commission notes that only genuine journalists who are bound by a code of ethics, be permitted to be present at the discretion of the Court. In addition, to reiterate the general powers of a judge under Article 9(1) of the Constitution so as to guide such orders.

Some of the stakeholders raised the same issue but regarding the Young Offenders Act 2007. The Act stipulates that all proceedings conducted in the Youth Court must be closed to the public and the media. However, the Commission recommends that this rule be changed bearing in mind proceedings involving children are particularly sensitive. It is recognized in international law that the best interests of the child are a primary consideration in deciding how proceedings should take place. In addition, the privacy of every child accused must be ensured, in the context of the child's sense of dignity and worth, and taking into account the child's age and the desirability of promoting his or her reintegration in society.

For this reason, the Commission report outlines Recommendation 8 to Recommendation 13 provisions are stated to be included into the Regulation, in order to strengthen and improve it.

#### Commission Recommendation

8. The governing board of the News Media Council should comprise five representatives from a cross-section of media platforms, five public representatives and a Chair, appointed by the Chief Justice. The five media representatives will be nominated by the media industry, and all remaining members must be nominated by persons outside the industry, with two referees provided. The Chair must be a lawyer with at least five years experience as a barrister or judge, preferably with expertise in media law, but having no direct connection to the media. One of the public representatives must also be a lawyer with strong dispute resolution skills, and will be appointed as Vice Chair. No gender will make up less than 30% of the composition of the board. Members will be paid remuneration according to time spent carrying out official duties for the News Media Council (for example, a daily sitting allowance).
9. The News Media Council must operate a staffed office with a shopfront. There will be two paid employees: an Education Officer (part-time or full-time as necessary), who will be an academic or experienced journalist with teaching skills; and an Executive Secretary (full-time) who will carry out administrative tasks associated with the operation of the Council.
10. All Samoan journalists, editors and media organisations, including operators of news websites and freelance journalists, should be members of the News Media Council. Only members of the Council will be eligible to receive an award at the annual Media Awards (see Recommendation 7).
11. On the establishment of a fully functioning News Media Council, the *Criminal Procedure Act 1972* should be amended to provide that the court, in exercising its power under art 9(1) of the *Constitution* to exclude the public and the media from proceedings, must permit any member of the media, as defined below, to attend, if to do so is in the interests of justice.

A member of the media<sup>4</sup> is a person who is in the court for the purpose of reporting on the proceedings and who is either subject to or is employed by an organisation that is subject to: (i) an enforceable code of practice; and (ii) the complaints procedure of the News Media Council.<sup>7</sup>

12. On the establishment of a fully functioning News Media Council, the *Criminal Procedure Act 1972* should be amended to provide that during the taking of evidence from a victim, sexual offence proceedings should be dealt with in closed court with only the following persons present at the discretion of the court:

- the judge;
- the defendant and his or her counsel;
- the representative of the prosecution;
- court officers responsible and necessary for court proceedings and recordings;
- **any member of the media as defined below;**
- any person whose presence is requested by the witness (such as a support person); and
- any person whose presence is deemed necessary by the court.

A member of the media<sup>4</sup> is a person who is in the court for the purpose of reporting on the proceedings and who is either subject to or is employed by an organisation that is subject to: (i) an enforceable code of practice; and (ii) the complaints procedure of the News Media Council.

13. On the establishment of a fully functioning News Media Council, s 8 of the *Young Offenders Act 2007* should be amended to enable the court, taking into account the best interests of the child as a primary consideration, to order that any member of the media, as defined below, be permitted to attend proceedings in the Youth Court. Section 8 should not otherwise be amended insofar as it relates to suppression of names and other identifying information.

A member of the media<sup>4</sup> is a person who is in the court for the purpose of reporting on the proceedings and who is either subject to or employed by an organisation that is subject to:

- (i) an enforceable code of practice; and
- (ii) the complaints procedure of the News Media Council.

***The Committee noted that the recommendation by the Commission is relevant based on its consultation and findings. The Committee acknowledges and takes note of these recommendations.***

(viii) **Funding**

The Commission was able to consider the need of funds for the Media Council. The Committee noted that funds are needed for activities associated with education and training of journalists. Furthermore, marketing and outreach to the public as well as salaries for the two staff mentioned above. The Commission also considered allowance for sittings of the adjudication panel and other administrative and operational costs, including rent of a central premises.

In addition, media organisations and journalists defending complaints will have their own costs to bear: respondents may wish to seek legal advice in relation to a complain. It is apparent from the views given to the Commission, most media organisations and freelance journalist in Samoa would not make sufficient profit to provide significant funding for a News Media Council.

The Commission recommends that the majority of funding for the News Media Council come from government and aid donors, with a small subscription fee being required from members. In order to monitor the use of funds, the Council must approve the use of funds at any given time.

The Commission also believes that funding should not only be dependent on the Government and other organisations, the Council should also consider the possibility of seeking funding directly through a donor funded scheme or agency such as the Civil Society Support Program.

**Commission Recommendation**

14. The News Media Council should be principally funded by the Samoan government and/or by an overseas aid program or non-governmental organisation. Any funding should be provided with ‘no strings attached’ and should be guaranteed for the review cycle of the Council. Subscriptions should also be taken from members, at an amount determined by the size and profit of the member.

*The Committee is satisfied and acknowledges the recommendation being relevant to secure funding for the Media Council in order to commence its activities.*

(ix) **Complaints procedure**

The procedure for complaints was one of the matters considered by the Commission during its examination, and recommended a robust system for addressing complaints. The Commission also believes that the first stop for resolving complaints is ideally the reporters, editors and news media organisations, and conciliation must be encouraged as the preferred means of resolving disputes.

The complaints procedure recommended seeks to ensure that procedural fairness is followed, and that the complainant and the respondent journalist or news media organisation are given sufficient information and support throughout the process.

#### Commission Recommendation

15. The following complaints procedure should be followed by the News Media Council –

1. Before addressing a complaint to the News Media Council, a complainant must demonstrate that he/she first directed the complaint to the offending media provider, and that the complaint was not addressed, or not adequately addressed, within five business days. This requirement may be dispensed with by the Chair of the News Media Council in special circumstances where he/she considers that complaining to the media provider was unlikely to have any effect or would cause undue hardship for the complainant.
2. A complaint must be made within four weeks of the offending material first being published or broadcast.
3. A third party may issue a complaint, but the Council may require permission from the party affected by the alleged breach of the Code of Practice before investigating the complaint, if this is considered necessary.
4. Before a complaint is considered by the News Media Council, the complainant must make a written declaration that he/she is seeking to resolve the matter through the Council rather than by pursuing legal proceedings. As part of this declaration, the complainant will also be required to undertake not to use any information gathered during the investigation of the complaint by the Council in any future legal proceedings.
5. Complaints must be made in writing in English or Samoan before they can be considered, but the Council must provide assistance to those for whom this is difficult.
6. The Chair of the Council may dismiss a complaint if: he/she considers it is frivolous or vexatious; it falls outside the Council's remit; it does not disclose any breach of the Code; or it has been issued outside the required timeframe and there are no special grounds for extending the timeframe.
7. On the day it receives a complaint, the Executive Secretary of the Council must contact the complainant to explain the procedure for progressing the complaint.

8. The respondent must also be contacted immediately on the same day a complaint is received, and must be provided with a copy of the complaint. The respondent will be asked to provide a written response within five business days. The complainant will be provided with the respondent's response as soon as it is submitted to the Council.
9. In the first instance the Council should encourage and assist conciliation in all cases unless it is plain that to do so would be unproductive or counterproductive, or otherwise inappropriate. If conciliation fails, complaints will be formally considered by the Council on the papers, with both parties being given an opportunity to respond. A full hearing may be given if the Council considers it appropriate, and a party may make an application to be heard.
10. Each complaint will be considered, whether on the papers or at a hearing, by a Complaints Committee composed of five appointed members of the Council. The Complaints Committee will comprise the Chair (or Vice Chair if the Chair is unavailable), two media representatives and two public representatives, determined by a roster system. Where a hearing is held, the complainant and respondent will be required to attend, but in order to save cost and minimise formality, lawyers will not be permitted to be present. Hearings will be advertised and open to the public, and journalism students should be encouraged to attend.
11. Unless attempts at conciliation delay proceedings, complaints must be considered by the Council within five business days after receiving the respondent's response, with the matter decided within a further five business days. Immediately after its completion, the written adjudication may be amended, and must be approved, by a majority of the members of the Council. Once this is done, the full written decision will be provided to both claimant and respondent, and will be made available on the News Media Council website once the respondent has published or broadcast an approved version as required.

(x) **Remedies and Enforcement**

Consideration by the Commission on punitive measures such as fines is not necessary to ensure compliance with the Code of Practice. It should be open to the News Media Council, according to the circumstances of each case, to order a respondent to publish or broadcast a reply, correction, apology and/or an approved version of the Council's finding with due prominence. In addition, the Council may require a respondent to undertake training or education in a particular area of relevance to the breach committed.

In order to emphasize on this matter, it is hoped that publishers and broadcasters will cooperate with the procedures of the Council and will comply with its orders. With regards to this matter, the Council will be an industry-operated body whose success depends in part on whether the code of practice is respected and can be effectively enforced. If a person or organisation fails to comply with an order of the Council as well as other provisions in a legislation.

The Commission therefore recommend that:

Commission Recommendation

16. In the event that a respondent to a complaint is found to have breached the Code of Practice, the News Media Council may require the respondent to do any or all of the following –

- publish or broadcast with due prominence an approved version of the Council’s finding (which will be either the full decision or a condensed version and will include the News Media Council logo and the heading ‘News Media Council Adjudication’);
- publish or broadcast with due prominence a reply, correction or apology;
- undertake training or education in a particular area of relevance to the breach committee, to be conducted by the Education Officer or at an approved external course.

17. There will be no appeal from a decision of the News Media Council other than by instituting legal proceedings for judicial review in the Supreme Court.

*The Committee takes note of the recommendation.*

**(xi) Review and Further Recommendations**

The Commission noted that an independent review should be conducted within two years from now in order to assess the effectiveness of the Council. The Commission is of the belief that this will ensure that the Council are determined to continue self-regulation. At the end of such a review the Council will be able to monitor its progress in relation to its duties.

The Commission also noted that if the review finds that the News Media Council has failed within the two years, the Government should establish by statute a body with the same functions. The Commission is of the view that the establishment of a News Media Council through legislation need not involve any dangerous intrusion by the government into the media. The point is not to tighten control on the media but to ensure it takes responsibility for its own work. Any divergence from the scheme recommended by the Commission in its report should be scrutinized to ensure that it will not have an overall detrimental effect on a free, but accountable, media.

#### Commission Recommendation

18. An independent review to assess the effectiveness of a News Media Council should be carried out two years after the release of this report (**‘Two Year Review’**).
19. If the Two Year Review concludes that the media industry has failed to establish an effective News Media Council, the Government should establish by statute a body with the same functions and characteristics as described by the Commission in Recommendations 5 to 17. If any modifications are made to the model recommended in this Report, they must be only those required to address deficiencies noted in the Two Year Review, without threat to a free but accountable media.
20. If the Two Year Review determines that the existing News Media Council is sufficiently effective, it should make recommendations for the improvement of the Council.
21. Whether or not a statutory body is created after the Two Year Review, further independent reviews of the Media Council and its Code of Practice should be conducted every three years thereafter.

*Despite the views given the Commission believes that this is an appropriate approach as stated in its recommendation. The Committee acknowledges and takes note of the recommendation by the Commission.*

#### **5. ASSISTANCE (S.O. 156)**

During Committee consideration, assistance was given by the following:

Samoa Law Reform Commission

Leota Theresa Potoi - Executive Director

Pale Fuimaono - Principal Analyst

## **6. COMMITTEE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:**

The Committee acknowledges the Samoa Law Reform Commission for research and services carried out in order to compile this Report in accordance with the Commission and the Governments objectives.

## **7. STANDING ORDER 173:**

In accordance with the provisions of Standing Orders 173, it shall be the duty of the Committee:-

- (a) **To consider any bill, petition or other matter referred by the Assembly or pursuant to these Standing Orders; and such Estimates or review of ministerial performance as maybe referred by the Finance & Expenditure Committee.**
- (b) **To consider private bills;**
- (c) **To examine the policy, administration and expenditure of ministries and associated government organizations related to Official information, information privacy corrections, courts, legal services, justice, police, privacy, serious fraud, lands and titles.**

## **8. RESOLUTION:**

At the conclusion of its consideration the Committee resolved to recommend to the Assembly:

**To approve the P.P. 2014/2015 No. 12, Samoa Law Reform Commission Report on the National Heritage Board Report 13/13.**

**TUISA Tasi Patea**  
**CHAIRPERSON**

**AFOAFOVALE John Moors**  
**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON**

**LAFATELE Patrick Leiatuaalesa**  
**MEMBER**

**TAPUAI Toese Ah Sama**  
**MEMBER**

**PAPALII Lio F Taeu Masepau**  
**MEMBER**

**LENATAI Victor Faafoi Tamapua**  
**MEMBER**

**LEFAU Harry Schuster**  
**MEMBER**

**Erosi Koria**  
**COMMITTEE CLERK**