

OVAVA

EMPOWERMENT AND SECURITY

Originating from the creation of a concept in development since 2001, *Ovava Limited* was founded in 2010 as a non-profit organisation committed to the advancement of bilateral relationships between Australia and the South Pacific region, focusing its work initially on the Kingdom of Tonga.

Pacific nations face some prevailing challenges, the more widely discussed and immediate including unemployment, which generates poverty, unsettlement and at times social instability. Other obstacles facing the Pacific region include serious and worsening health problems, environmental challenges and rapid urbanisation.

Together with its neighbours, Tonga is in a precarious position both socially and economically, calling for leadership in the delivery of a more comprehensive development approach.

Ovava plans to pioneer the creation of a bilateral hub in Tonga to centralise Australia's engagement with the Pacific region

while committing support to the ongoing provision of development assistance.

Ovava's efforts in recognising this plan will focus on developing relationships between Australia and its Pacific neighbours to re-establish historical ties, increase capacity for engagement and firmly establish mutual partnerships with the neighbouring region.

Ovava's approach to enhance Australia's regional partnership with Tonga and the broader Pacific region is unique in both its vision and strategy to generate real and effective development gains.

Ovava Limited maintains a Board of Directors co-patroned by the Hon Alastair Nicholson AO RDF QC, former Chief Justice of the Family Court of Australia, and His Excellency Sonatane Tu'akinamolahi Taumopeau Tupou, Tonga's ambassador to the United Nations.

The 'ovava is the Pacific Banyan tree which was used as the meeting place for a chief and his people. It would be under the 'ovava that announcements, discussions, as well as declarations of war would be made.

There is a Tongan saying:

"Holo pe misi ki he 'ovava"

"The misi flock to the 'ovava"

The misi is an indigenous bird of Tonga and will instinctively seek shelter and sustenance from the 'ovava tree. For the Tongan people, the 'ovava tree is an analogy for safety and protection.



M E E T T H E T E A M

PATRONS

Hon Alastair Nicholson AO RFD QC



Alastair Nicholson is a former Chief Justice of the Family Court of Australia and a former Justice of the Supreme Court of Victoria. He is also a former Judge Advocate General of the Australian Defence Force and Air Vice Marshal RAAF. He is currently a Professorial Fellow attached to the Law School of the University of Melbourne and Chair of Children's Rights International, an NGO advocating children's rights issues. He has spoken and written extensively on human rights issues with particular reference to children and Indigenous people.

His Excellency Sonatane Tu'akinamolahi Taumopeau Tupou



His Excellency Sonatane Tu'akinamolahi Taumopeau Tupou is Tonga's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, a position that has concurrent accreditation as Tongan Ambassador to the United States, Chile, Cuba, Mexico, and Venezuela, and Tongan High Commissioner to Canada. He is a former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Defence, and Governor of Vava'u for the Government of Tonga. He has advocated widely for the nations of the Pacific region.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Hon Alastair Nicholson AO RFD QC



Professor Rob Moodie



Rev Siupeli Taliai



Rhonda Baker



Paul Lees



John McMullan



Maria Dimopoulos



Georgia Prattis



Ikani Taliai

ADVISORY BOARD

His Excellency Sonatane Tu'akinamolahi Taumopeau Tupou

Magistrate Anne Goldsbrough

Michael Lindell

Michael Hodgson

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY



CONTACT

Ikani Taliai
Ovava Limited
Rialto Towers
525 Collins Street
Melbourne VIC
Australia 3000
+61 414 595 674
ikani@ovava.org.au

contact@ovava.org.au | www.ovava.org.au | ACN 147 292 180