

MEDIA RELEASE

SVSG Strengthens Board Capacity Through Institutional Training

Apia, Samoa – 29 September 2025 - The Samoa Victim Support Group (SVSG) has completed a successful institutional strengthening training for its Board last Friday, 26th September, conducted by Ms. Lilly Bellabun, a specialist from the New Zealand Government (volunteer service abroad) VSA Program. The training aimed to build the capacity of SVSG's Board members to ensure effective governance, sustainability, and long-term growth of the organization.

The workshop focused on critical areas, including proposal writing, donor assessment, and essential governance documents. Participants were introduced to key regional frameworks such as the Pacific Region Five-Year Strategic Plan, which provides direction for aligning SVSG's work with broader development goals.

SVSG President, Siliniu Lina Chang, acknowledged the importance of strengthening Board leadership, "For SVSG to continue its mission of serving the most vulnerable in Samoa, our Board must be equipped with the knowledge and skills to make informed decisions. This training is another step forward in ensuring sustainability and accountability in everything we do."

In addition to SVSG Board members, representatives from partner NGOs were invited to participate, including Ms. Ladesha Stevenson from the Senese Inclusive Education Board. This collaboration reflects SVSG's commitment to working closely with other community-based organizations to share knowledge and strengthen civil society governance across Samoa.

SVSG extends its appreciation to the New Zealand Government Volunteer Service Abroad (VSA) Program for its ongoing support, and to Ms. Lilly Bellabun for her expertise in guiding the training.

The Samoa Victim Support Group is a non-governmental organization dedicated to providing support, care, and protection for victims of violence and vulnerable members of society. Through advocacy, community partnerships, and service delivery, SVSG works towards a safer, more inclusive Samoa.

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2016: With and for Girls Award – Star Foundation of London
2017: Innovation & Excellence Team Award – Samoa Public Service
2018: Finalist, International Children's Peace Prize 2018 – Kids Right Foundation of Amsterdam, Netherlands
2018: Human Rights Champion in Samoa – UNESCO
2019: Innovation for Sustainable Development Award – Commonwealth Secretary-General
2020: Nominated Person(s) of the Year – Samoa Observer
2021: Outstanding Contributions to Human Rights Promotion & Protection – Samoa Office of the Ombudsman/NHRI
2023: Healthy Islands Best Proposal Award – World Health Organization

