

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Business Link Pacific and the Samoa Chamber of Commerce & Industry announce new Business Support Grants for the private sector in Samoa.

Monday 5th June, 2023

Business Link Pacific (BLP), a private sector development programme delivered by DT Global and funded by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), has announced the availability of new Business Support Grants for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) in Samoa.

“In Samoa, BLP’s ongoing journey to support Samoan SMEs has been highly valued, with its Business Support Grants facilitating critical access to targeted business advisory and support services needed by so many businesses. Aotearoa New Zealand is proud to support Samoa’s recovery in the post COVID environment” said the New Zealand High Commissioner, Dr Trevor Matheson.

The Business Support Grants are designed to stimulate SME growth, innovation, access to finance, and investment in social inclusion and climate action. SMEs in Samoa can present proposals that meet the criteria of at least 1 of the following 5 categories:

- Innovation: grant will be used to drive innovation within the business
- Growth: grant will be used to drive business growth
- Inclusion: grant will be used to increase inclusiveness within and by the business
- Climate: grant will mitigate, adapt, or increase resilience to climate change
- Finance: grant will be used to secure additional finance e.g., equity for a loan

To apply, businesses must submit a proposal that outlines the project they are proposing to undertake, the expected outcomes of the project, and the financial resources they are seeking. Proposals will be evaluated based on their alignment with at least 1 of the 5 grant categories mentioned above, as well as the feasibility of the project, the sustainability of the project, and the quality of the proposal.

Grants will be awarded based on business size and other factors. As a guide, businesses with up to 5 employees are eligible for grants up to WST 8,200 (NZD 5,000), and businesses with up to 10 employees are eligible for up to WST 16,500 (NZD 10,000). Businesses with 20 employees or more can apply for grants up to WST 33,000 (NZD 20,000). Businesses with up to 50 employees can apply for grants up to WST 50,000 (NZD 30,000).

BLP encourages applications from women, youth, indigenous entrepreneurs, and community-led businesses. The application process is done online and the guideline with the full criteria can be found on the BLP website <https://businesslinkpacific.com>.

The Samoa Chamber of Commerce will assist with the submission of applications as needed.

“We are excited to announce the availability of these new Business Support Grants, to support local businesses with their innovation and growth projects. We know that grants can boost SMEs capacity to access finance, increase employment and invest in critical issues such as climate resilience,” said Steve Knapp, director of BLP.

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Photo 1 of 1:



Details: A local entrepreneur working remotely.

Further information:

Enquiries about this news release should be made to the Samoa Chamber of Commerce on office: 31090 or email: samoa@businesslinkpacific.com

**About Business Link Pacific:**

BLP is a private sector development programme funded by the [New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade](#), and aimed at supporting the economic growth of Pacific Island countries.

The Business Link Pacific team is based in New Zealand and is currently supported by in-country partners in Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. BLP is extending its services to Nauru, Niue Tokelau and Tuvalu,

Since Business Link Pacific was established in 2017, it has assisted over 6,500 small-medium sized businesses with online [Business Health Checks](#), [Continuity Plans](#) and in-depth diagnostics. Also, it has facilitated over 2,000 business advisory services subsidies, nearly 600 business grants and contributed to the creation of an estimated 1,300 new jobs; 41% of which are filled by women.

Case studies and stories about the business talent in the PICs have been captured and shared with the Business Link Pacific audience both in New Zealand and across the Pacific Region, and can be accessed via the [Business Link Pacific website](#).

Business Link Pacific in Samoa is coordinated by the Samoa Chamber of Commerce & Industry, it has a quality approved Network of 17 business advisors offering services in 15 areas of business advice, including accounting, marketing, HR, business strategy, training, and coaching. Approved business advisors can offer subsidies to eligible local SMEs to partially cover service fees.