



Australian Government
Refugee Review Tribunal

Country Advice Western Samoa

Western Samoa – WSM37001 – Women –
Single women – State protection –
Religious groups – Employment – Police

18 August 2010

1. Are young single women open to problems/risks in Samoa? What are they?

According to a 2008 AusAID study on women in business, Samoa reportedly performs comparatively well (by Pacific standards) when it comes to gender equality in areas such as education and economic opportunities and this is not generally seen as an issue. The study does note, however, that Samoa's village-chief system has produced two strata of women (privileged and urban versus under-privileged and rural) and those "from chiefly families have more economic opportunities than those from families without title, and women's advancement stems directly from their elite cultural status."¹ Sources also note that women's overall status is a subordinate one.² The US Department of State (USDOS) reports that this traditional subordinate role is changing, albeit slowly.³ Violence against women is reportedly quite a significant problem in Samoa.⁴

Much of the study of violence against women in Samoa focuses on the issue in a domestic setting, among the extended family (*aiga*). The information indicates that social attitudes tolerate the abuse of women in the home and that such abuse is common.⁵ The most common perpetrators of violence against women are fathers, other family members and teachers.⁶ Information was not found on the situation for women outside their extended family, as this situation appears to be very uncommon in Samoa. The *aiga* is the basic organisational unit in Samoan community. The *aiga* authorities provide support and protection for its members, including punishment of those who transgress.⁷ It would seem probable, however, that a society which condones domestic violence against women would also experience a problem with violence against vulnerable women outside of a domestic setting.

¹ AusAID 2009, 'Women in Business in Samoa: Key findings from the August 2008 scoping mission', AusAID website http://www.ausaid.gov.au/publications/pdf/pwpsd_samoa.pdf – Accessed 10 August 2010 – Attachment 1.

² AusAID 2009, 'Women in Business in Samoa: Key findings from the August 2008 scoping mission', AusAID website http://www.ausaid.gov.au/publications/pdf/pwpsd_samoa.pdf – Accessed 10 August 2010 – Attachment 1.

³ US Department of State 2010, *2009 Human Rights Reports: Samoa*, 11 March, Section 6 – Attachment 2.

⁴ AusAID 2007, *Violence against Women in Melanesia and East Timor: A Review of International Lessons*, AusAID Office of Development Effectiveness website, pp. 6-7

http://www.ode.ausaid.gov.au/publications/pdf/VAW_review.pdf – Accessed 10 August 2010 – Attachment 3; US Department of State 2010, *2009 Human Rights Reports: Samoa*, 11 March, Section 6 – Attachment 2.

⁵ US Department of State 2010, *2009 Human Rights Reports: Samoa*, 11 March, Section 6 – Attachment 2.

⁶ AusAID 2007, *Violence against Women in Melanesia and East Timor: A Review of International Lessons*, AusAID Office of Development Effectiveness website, pp. 6-7

http://www.ode.ausaid.gov.au/publications/pdf/VAW_review.pdf – Accessed 10 August 2010 – Attachment 3.

⁷ World Health Organisation 2009, *Country Health Information Profiles – Samoa*, WHO Western Pacific Region website <http://www.wpro.who.int/countries/2009/sma/> – Accessed 10 August 2010 – Attachment 4; US Department of State 2010, *2009 Human Rights Reports: Samoa*, 11 March – Attachment 2.

A 2008 AusAID study on women in business in Samoa states “Samoa’s performance on gender equality is impressive by Pacific standards and is generally not perceived as an issue”; however, the report does note that “[w]omen’s overall status within the male chiefly structure is a subordinate one” and “violence against women is a key obstacle to their empowerment in Samoa.”⁸ According to data in a 2007 AusAID report, women in Samoa experience a comparatively high rate of violence. The report also notes that, unlike most countries, the most common perpetrators of violence against women in Samoa are not intimate partners (common perpetrators include fathers, other family members and teachers).⁹

It was difficult to find information on whether women face harassment and/or violence in the public sphere in Samoa. A January 2009 paper prepared for AusAID provides some information on harassment experienced by women in the workplace (with focus on the public sector).¹⁰ The report also detailed the difficulties faced by women travelling to and from work. The report looks at various Melanesian and Pacific island countries. While specifying that Papua New Guinea was particularly dangerous, the report also states that “Respondents from at least three other countries noted that they employ strategies to get home safely. For many this meant being escorted by a family member.”¹¹

The latest US Department of State country report on human rights practices has the following information on the situation for women in Samoa:

The constitution prohibits abuse of women, but common societal attitudes tolerated their physical abuse within the home, and such abuse was common.

Rape is illegal, but there is no legal provision against spousal rape. Many cases of rape went unreported because common societal attitudes discouraged such reporting. In recent years, however, authorities noted a rise in the number of reported cases of rape. This appeared to be a result of efforts by government ministries and local NGOs to increase awareness of the problem and the need to report rape cases to police. Rape cases that reached the courts were treated seriously, and the conviction rate was generally high. The penalties for rape ranged from two years’ to life imprisonment, but a life sentence has never been imposed.

...Domestic abuses typically went unreported due to social pressure and fear of reprisal. Village fono typically punished domestic violence offenders, but only if the abuse was considered extreme (i.e., visible signs of physical abuse). Village religious leaders also were permitted to intervene in domestic disputes. When police received complaints from abused women, the government punished the offender, including by imprisonment. Domestic violence is charged as common criminal assault, with penalties ranging from several months to one year in prison.

⁸ AusAID 2009, ‘Women in Business in Samoa: Key findings from the August 2008 scoping mission’, AusAID website http://www.ausaid.gov.au/publications/pdf/pwpsd_samoa.pdf – Accessed 10 August 2010 – Attachment 1.

⁹ AusAID 2007, *Violence against Women in Melanesia and East Timor: A Review of International Lessons*, AusAID Office of Development Effectiveness website, pp. 6-7

http://www.ode.ausaid.gov.au/publications/pdf/VAW_review.pdf – Accessed 10 August 2010 – Attachment 3.

¹⁰ Zubrinich, K. & Haley, N. 2009, ‘Experiencing the Public Sector: Pacific Women’s Perspectives’, Australian National University Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies website, pp. 16-18

http://rspas.anu.edu.au/papers/melanesia/research/SSGM_Public_Sector.pdf – Accessed 10 August 2010 – Attachment 5

¹¹ Zubrinich, K. & Haley, N. 2009, ‘Experiencing the Public Sector: Pacific Women’s Perspectives’, Australian National University Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies website, p. 20

http://rspas.anu.edu.au/papers/melanesia/research/SSGM_Public_Sector.pdf – Accessed 10 August 2010 – Attachment 5

The government did not keep statistics on domestic abuse cases specifically but acknowledged the problem to be one of considerable concern.

...Prostitution is illegal; it existed but was not widespread. The law prohibits sexual harassment; it was not widespread but was believed to be underreported.

... Women have equal rights under the constitution and statutory law, and the traditional subordinate role of women was changing, albeit slowly, particularly in the more conservative parts of society. The Ministry of Women, Community, and Social Development oversees and helps secure the rights of women. To integrate women into the economic mainstream, the government sponsored numerous programs, including literacy programs and training programs for those who did not complete high school.¹²

It should be noted that, while the USDOS report states that prostitution is not widespread, a 2004 NGO shadow report on the status of women in Samoa states that, while women involved in prostitution are an invisible group, prostitution has become a growing concern in Samoa.¹³

Another problem faced by women in Samoa is in the owning of property. The 2008 AusAID report states that male *matai* hold disproportionate control over land in Samoa. Eighty-seven percent of the country's land is under customary ownership, and only 10 percent of women hold title.¹⁴

In 2001, an academic at the Australian National University, Dr Pamela Thomas, provided advice to the Tribunal in response to questions regarding the situation for young Samoan women. Although the circumstances addressed are different, some of the information is relevant. Dr Thomas commented that:

[A] young woman, living in a village without her mother and not born of the particular household would have very little standing in traditional Samoan village society. She may often be very badly treated and may be forced to work as the household drudge. She may have no access to money...However, it would be highly unusual for her not to have access to, and contact with her father's family and paternal grandparents and other extended family members.¹⁵

In response to the question of possibility of relocation, Dr Thomas reiterates the importance of the extended family. Dr Thomas states:

Samoan families are very large and the extended family and reciprocity form the basis of Samoan society with family members usually keeping in very close contact with one another. It is accepted that family members can expect assistance with money, food and accommodation from within both the mother's and father's extended family group...It would be extremely unusual for her not to have some family or friends elsewhere that she could go to.¹⁶

In regard to the role of the extended family, the WHO 2009 country report for Samoa states:

¹² US Department of State 2010, *2009 Human Rights Reports: Samoa*, 11 March, Section 6 – Attachment 2

¹³ 'NGO Shadow Report on the Status of Women in Samoa' 2004, International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific website, December, p. 6 [http://www.iwraw-ap.org/resources/samoa\(English\).pdf](http://www.iwraw-ap.org/resources/samoa(English).pdf) – Accessed 10 August 2010 – Attachment 6.

¹⁴ AusAID 2009, 'Women in Business in Samoa: Key findings from the August 2008 scoping mission', AusAID website http://www.ausaid.gov.au/publications/pdf/pwpsd_samoa.pdf – Accessed 10 August 2010 – Attachment 1.

¹⁵ Thomas, P. 2001, 'Record of Conversation with the Refugee Review Tribunal', 2 May – Attachment 7

¹⁶ Thomas, P. 2001, 'Record of Conversation with the Refugee Review Tribunal', 2 May – Attachment 7

The extended family, the *aiga*, is the foundation of the *fa'a-samoa* (traditional way of life). The head of each *aiga* is the *matai* (customary chief), who is elected by family members. Traditionally, the family *matai* is responsible for maintaining the family's dignity and well-being by administering family affairs. More than 80% of the population lives under the *matai* system. Particularly strong in the rural areas and at village level, it functions as a safety net in providing social and financial security.¹⁷

An email was sent to Dr Pamela Thomas requesting information on the current situation for women without the support of immediate family members in Samoa; any organisations which might offer assistance and accommodation to single women; and the availability of state protection to women.¹⁸ A similar email was sent to Dr Asenati Liki Chan Tung.¹⁹

Advice from Dr Asenati Liki Chan Tung²⁰

Advice was received from Dr Asenati Liki Chan Tung on 10 August 2010. In response to the question of what problems/risks would be faced by a single woman who has no immediate family (ie. parents and siblings) in Samoa, Dr Tung advised:

The risks depend very much on her age. A single adolescent woman who lives on her own might face harassment – from those she knows and does not know. She would be depressed mainly a result of loneliness and lack of trusted relatives. Men would take advantage of the fact that her immediate family is absent. If she's a single adult woman (say 45+) the risks might not be as high because at that age she's treated by the community as an adult who should be able to decide for herself and will receive respect from the people or village. It is extremely unusual for single Samoan women to live by themselves in Samoa. The nature of the Samoan extended family encompasses its members regardless of their situation. So even if I do not have my immediate family members around if my extended family is there, that is my family. Internal differences among members of the extended family can be cause for women to look elsewhere for support.²¹

2. Are there any church groups, such as Seven Day Adventists, who provide a community, protection or accommodation for single women?

Sources indicate that the village religious leader or pastor (*pulenu'u*) may protect female victims of violence (specifically domestic violence) by offering them a safe house or by intervening in domestic disputes.²² Information was not found as to whether any church groups, such as Seventh Day Adventists, provide a program of assistance or accommodation to single women who are without the support of family in Samoa.

According to the USDOS human rights report for Samoa, there are shelters for abused women. The report states:

¹⁷ World Health Organisation 2009, *Country Health Information Profiles – Samoa*, WHO Western Pacific Region website <http://www.wpro.who.int/countries/2009/sma/> – Accessed 10 August 2010 – Attachment 4.

¹⁸ RRT Country Advice 2010, Email to P. Thomas 'Request for information from the Refugee Review Tribunal, Sydney', 30 July – Attachment 8.

¹⁹ RRT Country Advice 2010, Email to Asenati Liki Chan Tung 'Request for information from the Refugee Review Tribunal, Sydney', 10 August – Attachment 9

²⁰ [Dr Asenati Liki Chan Tung](#) is currently a Pacific Research Fellow at the Australian National University (ANU).

²¹ Tung, A. 2010, Email to RRT Country Advice 'RE: Request for information from the Refugee Review Tribunal, Sydney', 10 August - Attachment 23.

²² Thomas, P. 2001, 'Record of Conversation with the Refugee Review Tribunal', 2 May – Attachment 7; Martin, P. 2002, 'Implementing women's and children's rights: The case of domestic violence in Samoa', *Alternative Law Journal*, vol. 27, no. 5, October, p. 227 – Attachment 12

The Ministry of Police has a 10-person Domestic Violence Unit, which received reports of domestic abuse and worked in collaboration with NGOs that combated domestic abuse. NGO services for abused women included confidential hot lines, in-person counseling, victim support, and shelters.²³

The Samoa Victims Support Group was the only named provider of shelters for victims of abuse, and others in need, found in a search of the available sources.²⁴ This was set up in 2005, specifically to help victims of sexual crimes. According to a 2008 *Radio New Zealand* article, their service now extends to helping other victims including the homeless and those abandoned by their families. The article notes the need for more funds and resources for the support group.²⁵ A 2007 article also emphasises the lack of resources available to the group stating: “The safe-house they used for victims of violence was equipped with 16 beds, a few books and one primer stove and no fridge”.²⁶

In 2001, Dr Pamela Thomas advised that the only NGO working in the field of violence against women was Mapusaga O Aiga (MOA) (Translation: Family Haven). Dr Thomas said that MOA provides counselling and advice but does not provide a safe house. Their only centre was in Apia.²⁷ No information was found as to whether MOA currently provides shelters or financial assistance for women in need.

It may also be of relevance to note that the latest USDOS report states that:

In June the country hosted a congress of women’s ministries of the Seventh Day Adventist Church, with particular focus on the problem of domestic violence. According to press reports, hundreds of persons participated in a “peace march” in Apia prior to the conference to call for action against abuse of women and children.²⁸

3. Would it be difficult for single women to obtain employment in Samoa?

It is hard to determine from the available information whether it would be difficult for single women to obtain employment in Samoa. The sources located indicate that the level of women’s participation in the paid labour force is relatively high in terms of representation. However, sources also indicate that full-time employment opportunities are scarce and urban-based. Unemployment is high in Samoa.

As noted in Question 1, the 2008 AusAID study states that Samoa’s performance on gender equality is impressive by Pacific standards and is generally not perceived as an issue. In regard to the labour force, the report states:

Women are represented in the labour force, although full-time employment opportunities are scarce and urban-based. Seventy-eight per cent of women live in rural areas where employment opportunities are virtually non-existent. Even though 55 per cent of Samoa’s 180 000 people are classified as being of working age (15 to 59 years), only just over 50 000 were employed in 2001 (Figure 1). Underemployment is on the rise and youth

²³ US Department of State 2010, *2009 Human Rights Reports: Samoa*, 11 March, Section 6 – Attachment 2

²⁴ Fairbairn-Dunlop, P., Mason, N., Reid, E. & Waring, M. 2009, ‘Pacific Gender and Aid Effectiveness Case Study Report’, Auckland University of Technology Institute of Public Policy website, 5 February, p. 36 http://www.ipp.aut.ac.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0013/110443/pacific-gender-and-aid-effectiveness.pdf – Accessed 10 August 2010 – Attachment 13

²⁵ ‘Samoa victim support group seeks more resources’ 2008, *Radio New Zealand International*, 27 August <http://www.rnzi.com/pages/news.php?op=read&id=41699> – Accessed 10 August 2010 – Attachment 14.

²⁶ Porteous, D. 2007, ‘Samoa visit an eye-opener for victim support expert’, *Otago Daily Times*, 27 January – Attachment 15.

²⁷ Thomas, P. 2001, ‘Record of Conversation with the Refugee Review Tribunal’, 2 May – Attachment 7.

²⁸ US Department of State 2010, *2009 Human Rights Reports: Samoa*, 11 March, Section 6 – Attachment 2.

employment opportunities are scarce, encouraging emigration and a return to semi-subsistence village living where a degree of social security exists.²⁹

According to a 2009 WHO paper, “the level of women’s participation in the paid labour force is relatively high” and “women occupy a number of senior positions in the public sector.”³⁰

A 2009 AusAID paper notes that, while Samoa has a good representation of women in the public sector, this does not mean that there is not a problem with inequality:

There is only one country within the study group [of six Pacific island countries], namely Samoa, with close to ideal representation of women in the public sector. But close to equal numerical representation does not mean there is not inequality. Samoa is a case in point.³¹

Advice from Dr Asenati Liki Chan Tung

Advice was received from Dr Asenati Liki Chan Tung on 10 August 2010. In response to the question of whether a woman would find it difficult to obtain employment, Dr Tung states:

If the woman is not academically qualified (for example, completed year 12 or above) it would be difficult to find well-paid employment. More flexible work like baby sitting, office or domestic cleaning, house girl, garden keeper or even factory work is available in and around the town area if one desires that and looks for it.³²

4. Are the Police able and willing to protect single women?

The available information indicates that the police force is small and suffers from a lack of resources. The police force reportedly traditionally suffers a gender imbalance and lacks training in cases involving violence against women, leading to a tendency for abuse cases to be under-reported.³³ However, recent information indicates that steps are being taken to rectify this situation.³⁴ The USDOS report states that when police received complaints from abused women, the government punished the offender, including by imprisonment. Village authorities enforce rules and provide security in individual villages.³⁵ Information was not found on the situation in urban areas.

The latest USDOS human rights report states that: “The country has a small national police force. Enforcement of rules and security within individual villages is vested in the

²⁹ AusAID 2009, ‘Women in Business in Samoa: Key findings from the August 2008 scoping mission’, AusAID website http://www.ausaid.gov.au/publications/pdf/pwpsd_samoa.pdf – Accessed 10 August 2010 – Attachment 1.

³⁰ World Health Organisation 2009, *Country Health Information Profiles – Samoa*, WHO Western Pacific Region website <http://www.wpro.who.int/countries/2009/sma/> – Accessed 10 August 2010 – Attachment 4.

³¹ Zubrinich, K. & Haley, N. 2009, ‘Experiencing the Public Sector: Pacific Women’s Perspectives’, Australian National University Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies website, p. 4 http://rspas.anu.edu.au/papers/melanesia/research/SSGM_Public_Sector.pdf – Accessed 10 August 2010 – Attachment 5

³² Tung, A. 2010, Email to RRT Country Advice ‘RE: Request for information from the Refugee Review Tribunal, Sydney’, 10 August - Attachment 23.

³³ ‘NGO Shadow Report on the Status of Women in Samoa’ 2004, International Women’s Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific website, December, p. 4 [http://www.iwraw-ap.org/resources/samoa\(English\).pdf](http://www.iwraw-ap.org/resources/samoa(English).pdf) – Accessed 10 August 2010 – Attachment 6.

³⁴ AusAID 2009, *Annual Program Performance Report: Samoa 2008-09*, AusAID website, June, pp. 23-24 <http://www.ausaid.gov.au/publications/pdf/appr-0809-samoa.pdf> – Accessed 10 August 2010 – Attachment 22.

³⁵ US Department of State 2010, *2009 Human Rights Reports: Samoa*, 11 March – Attachment 2.

fono (Council of Matai).”³⁶ The report also notes that “a lack of resources limited police effectiveness.”³⁷ In relation to sexual violence, as already quoted in Question 1, the USDOS report states:

Many cases of rape went unreported because common societal attitudes discouraged such reporting. In recent years, however, authorities noted a rise in the number of reported cases of rape. This appeared to be a result of efforts by government ministries and local NGOs to increase awareness of the problem and the need to report rape cases to police. Rape cases that reached the courts were treated seriously, and the conviction rate was generally high. The penalties for rape ranged from two years’ to life imprisonment, but a life sentence has never been imposed.³⁸

Although somewhat dated, in a 1996 study by a Samoan NGO which deals with violence against women, Mapusaga O Aiga, details the problems faced by those who have experienced violence (specifically sexual violence) and wish to report it to the police. The report notes that the procedure is insensitive and that many victims do not report incidents.³⁹ Advice was received from Dr Pamela Thomas in 2001 on the subject of police help for sexual abuse/rape victims. Dr Thomas states that “there would be virtually no support from the police. The majority of the police force is male, and a young, unmarried girl of low status would not dream of going to the police.”⁴⁰ Likewise, a 2004 NGO shadow report on the status of women in Samoa states that “women victims of violence report that they feel uncomfortable reporting abuse to policemen, especially police men who have no training in dealing with these issues.” The report further notes the gender imbalance in the staff appointed to deal with the reporting of sensitive acts of violence against women.⁴¹

A more recent source, AusAID’s 2008-2009 annual performance report for Samoa, reports on positive developments in the Samoan police force, including an improved gender balance in the force.⁴² The report details AusAID’s aid funding for the Samoa Police Program which was completed in December 2008, and notes that a very significant outcome of the program is that community confidence in the police has improved. The report states: “Survey results suggest that in the years of the program, community confidence that the police force would be able to respond well to requests from the public increased by at least 30 per cent.” The report further states that the “gender balance has improved, with marked increases in female recruits; they now comprise 12.47 per cent of the Samoa Police service”.⁴³ The report, however, does not detail whether there has also been improvements in the training of officers handling cases involving violence against women.

³⁶ For information on the role of the village *fono*, see RRT Research & Information 2008, *Research Response WSM32800*, 7 January – Attachment 20.

³⁷ US Department of State 2010, *2009 Human Rights Reports: Samoa*, 11 March, Section 1.d – Attachment 2

³⁸ US Department of State 2010, *2009 Human Rights Reports: Samoa*, 11 March, Section 6 – Attachment 2

³⁹ Mapusaga O Aiga 1996, ‘A study of sexual and domestic violence against women in Western Samoa’, pp. 8 & 16 – Attachment 21.

⁴⁰ Thomas, P. 2001, ‘Record of Conversation with the Refugee Review Tribunal’, 2 May – Attachment 7.

⁴¹ ‘NGO Shadow Report on the Status of Women in Samoa’ 2004, International Women’s Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific website, December, p. 4 [http://www.iwraw-ap.org/resources/samoa\(English\).pdf](http://www.iwraw-ap.org/resources/samoa(English).pdf) – Accessed 10 August 2010 – Attachment 6

⁴² AusAID 2009, *Annual Program Performance Report: Samoa 2008-09*, AusAID website, June, p. 8 <http://www.ausaid.gov.au/publications/pdf/appr-0809-samoa.pdf> – Accessed 10 August 2010 – Attachment 22.

⁴³ AusAID 2009, *Annual Program Performance Report: Samoa 2008-09*, AusAID website, June, pp. 23-24 <http://www.ausaid.gov.au/publications/pdf/appr-0809-samoa.pdf> – Accessed 10 August 2010 – Attachment 22.

Research Response WSM32800, dated 7 January 2008, provides information on state protection for women suffering domestic violence. The response also provides information on the role of the village authorities (*fono*) in judging and punishing village offenders.⁴⁴

Advice from Dr Asenati Liki Chan Tung

Advice was received from Dr Asenati Liki Chan Tung on 10 August 2010. In response to the question of whether the police are able and willing to protect women who do not have the protection of family in Samoa, Dr Tung stated:

By law the police have the power to protect anyone who needs help. The reality is quite different. A young single woman who seeks refuge with the police might not be taken seriously by the officers (reflecting a more macho-male attitude of the officers as Samoan policemen towards women). It is possible the woman can become a subject of ridicule etc by the officers. Over the last two years, more and more women have been hired to the Samoa police force. Hopefully this trend continues and that the presence of more women officers can change the common attitude of the force towards women.⁴⁵

Attachments

1. AusAID 2009, 'Women in Business in Samoa: Key findings from the August 2008 scoping mission', AusAID website
http://www.aisaid.gov.au/publications/pdf/pwpsd_samoa.pdf – Accessed 10 August 2010.
2. US Department of State 2010, *2009 Human Rights Reports: Samoa*, 11 March.
3. AusAID 2007, *Violence against Women in Melanesia and East Timor: A Review of International Lessons*, AusAID Office of Development Effectiveness website
http://www.ode.aisaid.gov.au/publications/pdf/VAW_review.pdf – Accessed 10 August 2010.
4. World Health Organisation 2009, *Country Health Information Profiles – Samoa*, WHO Western Pacific Region website <http://www.wpro.who.int/countries/2009/sma/> – Accessed 10 August 2010.
5. Zubrinich, K. & Haley, N. 2009, 'Experiencing the Public Sector: Pacific Women's Perspectives', Australian National University Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies website
http://rspas.anu.edu.au/papers/melanesia/research/SSGM_Public_Sector.pdf – Accessed 10 August 2010.
6. 'NGO Shadow Report on the Status of Women in Samoa' 2004, International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific website, December [http://www.iwraw-ap.org/resources/samoa\(English\).pdf](http://www.iwraw-ap.org/resources/samoa(English).pdf) – Accessed 10 August 2010.
7. Thomas, P. 2001, 'Record of Conversation with the Refugee Review Tribunal', 2 May.
8. RRT Country Advice 2010, Email to P. Thomas 'Request for information from the Refugee Review Tribunal, Sydney', 30 July.

⁴⁴ RRT Research & Information 2008, *Research Response WSM32800*, 7 January – Attachment 20.

⁴⁵ Tung, A. 2010, Email to RRT Country Advice 'RE: Request for information from the Refugee Review Tribunal, Sydney', 10 August - Attachment 23.

9. RRT Country Advice 2010, Email to Asenati Liki Chan Tung 'Request for information from the Refugee Review Tribunal, Sydney', 10 August.
10. Deleted.
11. Deleted.
12. Martin, P. 2002, 'Implementing women's and children's rights: The case of domestic violence in Samoa', *Alternative Law Journal*, vol. 27, no. 5, October. (RRT Library General Papers)
13. Fairbairn-Dunlop, P., Mason, N., Reid, E. & Waring, M. 2009, 'Pacific Gender and Aid Effectiveness Case Study Report', Auckland University of Technology Institute of Public Policy website, 5 February, p. 36
http://www.ipp.aut.ac.nz/data/assets/pdf_file/0013/110443/pacific-gender-and-aid-effectiveness.pdf – Accessed 10 August 2010.
14. 'Samoa victim support group seeks more resources' 2008, *Radio New Zealand International*, 27 August <http://www.rnzi.com/pages/news.php?op=read&id=41699> – Accessed 10 August 2010.
15. Porteous, D. 2007, 'Samoa visit an eye-opener for victim support expert', *Otago Daily Times*, 27 January. (FACTIVA)
16. Deleted.
17. Deleted.
18. Deleted.
19. Deleted.
20. RRT Research & Information 2008, *Research Response WSM32800*, 7 January.
21. Mapusaga O Aiga 1996, 'A study of sexual and domestic violence against women in Western Samoa'. (RRT Library General Papers)
22. AusAID 2009, *Annual Program Performance Report: Samoa 2008-09*, AusAID website, June <http://www.aisaid.gov.au/publications/pdf/appr-0809-samoa.pdf> – Accessed 10 August 2010.
23. Tung, A. 2010, Email to RRT Country Advice 'RE: Request for information from the Refugee Review Tribunal, Sydney', 10 August.