



# Media Release

For Immediate Release

22 June, 2006

## **Sir William Deane joins next generation of Pacific leaders in Australia for first ever general dialogue on futures**

One hundred and twenty emerging leaders from twenty Pacific nations will converge on Brisbane next week to discuss joint security, health and development in the region.

These leaders are from business, government, union and community groups. They are in Australia to participate in the Emerging Pacific Leaders' Dialogue (EPLD) commencing Wednesday 28 June, 2006 at Parliament House, Brisbane. The conference, themed *Navigating Our Future Together*, is the first of its kind ever held in the region.

Sir William Deane, former Governor-General of Australia and Conference chair said, "In the last two and a half years I have watched this event evolve from a concerned comment at the Commonwealth Study Conferences in 2003 to a solidly established event for the future leaders of this region. The recent events in this region have made the need for a general and cross-national forum such as this even more important than we first imagined."

The EPLD will follow the long-standing practice of Commonwealth Study Conferences and feature 3-day formal opening plenary sessions in Australia (Brisbane) and closing plenary sessions over a similar time frame in New Zealand (Auckland). The New Zealand component of the conference will be opened by HRH, The Princess Royal. The opening and closing will be separated by a full week of 10 study tours of some 12/13 participants each visiting separate Pacific island nation locations from 1 to 8 July 2006.

The five themes of the conference are: economic growth and industry; regional cooperation and infrastructure; good governance; security, stability and strengthening communities and environment, education, science and health.

Nations and territories represented at the conference are Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji Islands, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

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The organisers would like to thank the many additional companies, organisations and individuals not listed above who have provided invaluable cash and/or in-kind support and assistance to the EPLD 2006.