



A case for investing in social protection today: The Cook Islands

Easy Read Version

P4SP
Partnerships for
Social Protection

**Australian
Aid** 

Partnerships for Social Protection

A case for investing in social protection today:
The Cook Islands



We will provide instructions on how to read this document. [To skip ahead, go to page 5.](#)



The information on this page is called a **blog**.



A **blog** is information that is on the internet.



It includes the ideas and thoughts of the person who wrote the information.



This blog is called “A case for investing in social protection today: The Cook Islands”.



You can also read this blog at this website <https://p4sp.org/resources/a-case-for-investing-in-social-protection-today-the-cook-islands/>



Three other people also helped us to write this blog.



Their names are Hilary Gorman, Grace Chynoweth, and Juliet Attenborough.

How to read this blog



This blog is written in an easy to read way.



There will be some hard words.

We will write these words in **bold**.



We will explain what they mean.



You can ask someone to help you to read this blog.



When you see the words ‘we’, ‘our’, or ‘us’ it means **Partnerships for Social Protection**.

We also use the short name **P4SP**.



P4SP is a project by the Australian **government**.



Government means a group of people who make up the rules that everyone must follow.



P4SP aims to make social protection systems in the **Pacific** stronger.



Pacific means people who live on an **island** in the Pacific ocean.

An **island** is when there is water all the way around the land.

How is social protection working in the Cook Islands?



Social protection means things that the government gives a person, like **pension payments**, to help them to



- have money to buy things like food



- use things in the community, like seeing a doctor



- recover when something that is not planned happens, like losing your job or being in a flood.



Pension payments are an amount of money that the government gives to people to help them to pay for the things they need.

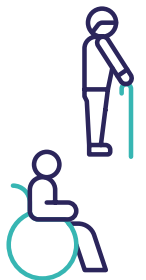


Social protection systems in the Pacific are getting stronger and helping more people.



Many countries in the Pacific give people social protection at times in their life when they need extra help.

This means that more social protection is given to



- old people
- people with disability
- other people who need help to live, including mothers and children.



The Cook Islands is a country in the Pacific that gives social protection to a lot of people at different times in their lives.



It has been providing social protection to people for over **50** years.



We know that the Cook Islands is different from other countries in the Pacific because



- The Cook Islands has more money than other Pacific Island countries.



- Most people in the Cook Islands are also **citizens** of New Zealand.

Citizen means a person who the law says belongs to that country.



Other Pacific countries can learn from how social protection is done in the Cook Islands.



P4SP did some **research** about social protection in the Cook Islands.

Research is a way to find out about something.



We learned that the Cook Islands has more than **15000** people living on 15 islands.



Over the past **20** years, people in the Cook Islands have had more money to live.



The Cook Islands Government started social protection systems in **1965**.

The Cook Islands has **tax-financed** and **contributory** social protection systems.



Tax financed is when the government gives people money if they need help.



Contributory means that you and your **employer** and sometimes the government all give some money that you can use when you need help or when you are older.



Employers are people who give other people jobs.



The Cook Islands government gives people **universal benefits**.

A **universal benefit** is money that helps everyone who needs it. It doesn't matter if they are rich or poor.



There are also systems that are **means tested** for people who might need more help.

Means tested is when the government asks you



- how much money you earn



- if you own a house



- if you run a business.



The Government uses this information to decide if it will give you money or not.



Most people in the Cook Islands get help through universal benefits from the tax financed social protection system.



We can see that social protection is working well in the Cook Islands.

Social protection has



- helped people to have more money to live



- made life more equal for everyone.



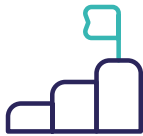
It is hard to know all the ways that the social protection system helps people in the Cook Islands.



We know that the difference between how rich people live and how poor people live is less in countries that have strong social protection.



The Cook Islands social protection system is helping a lot of people.



It shows other countries that starting with a small social protection program and building on it over time is a good way for countries to help people.



The Cook Islands is still improving its social protection system so that it works better and helps more people.



The government of the Cook Islands is writing a new social protection **policy**.

A **policy** is a group of rules or ideas about how something should be done.



The policy will help the government think more about how to make social protection better for everyone.

The policy aims to



- work out how best to keep records of all the people who receive social protection payments



- give parents more paid time off work when they have a baby



- give parents who have children with disabilities more money so they can get them the help they need.



This policy will help families a lot.

The Cook Islands government will keep working hard to



- make social protection better for all people living in the Cook Islands



- help people who need the most help.



How to talk to us

Would you like to learn more?

Do you have any questions?

You can contact us at:



Email: info@p4sp.org