



info sheet Human Rights

HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Advisory Council of the Office of the Ombudsman/NHRI, Samoa was established pursuant to section 39 of the *Ombudsman (Komesina o Sulufaiga) Act 2013*. The Advisory Council is mandated to assist the Office to promote and protect human rights in Samoa.

COMPOSITION

It consists of a body of knowledgeable individuals, which is reflective of diverse constituent groups in Samoan society, to ensure individuals are fairly heard and represented.

FUNCTIONS

- *Assist the Office in enlarging its knowledge and awareness of human rights issues in Samoa;*

The quality of the work of the NHRI will largely depend on its understanding of the human rights issues that exist in Samoa. It is therefore your responsibility as Council members to assist the Office in the development of its knowledge and awareness of human rights issues in Samoa.

- *Assist the Office in the promotion of awareness, appreciation and protection of human rights in Samoa;*

The Advisory Council members should play an active role in helping to create a national understanding and consciousness of human rights, where both the rights of the individual and collective are respected.

- *Advice on matters referred by the Ombudsman;*

These matters may include those relating to the other mandates of the Office and not isolated to human rights issues.

- *Raise issues concerning the observance and violations of human rights;*

It is a major role of the Advisory Council to bring to the attention of the NHRI any Individual cases of human rights violations, thematic areas of human rights violations (for instance evidence of widespread gender based violence or widespread discrimination against people with disabilities), as well as human rights issues facing minority or vulnerable groups.

- *Reflect and comment on Human Rights Reports prepared by the Office.*

TERM & MEMBERSHIP

Council members are elected for a 3 year term and meet every quarter unless otherwise required by the Ombudsman.

***NOTE: re-appointment is not automatic, existing members who are likely to be re-appointed are required to submit an expression of interest and required documents for assessment and processing before an appointment or re-appointment is final.] Membership on the Council is not a salaried position, however, sitting allowances will be provided only to those who attend the quarterly meetings.**

MEETINGS

The Advisory Council meets every quarter, unless otherwise required by the Ombudsman. The meetings of the Advisory Council is chaired by the Assistant Ombudsman or a delegate.