



info sheet Human Rights

CHOOSING WHAT TO REPORT ON/ INVESTIGATE (HUMAN RIGHTS)

The Office follows a clear criteria when choosing which human rights issues to report on/ investigate

CHOOSING AN ISSUE

A human rights issue may come to the attention of the Ombudsman via complaints received from the public, media reporting and/or from partners and stakeholders.

An issue may be chosen to be investigated where:

- the Office has received a pattern of similar complaints (through its three mandates - Good Governance, Human Rights and Special Investigations)
- a large number of Samoans are directly and substantially affected by the issue
- there's significant public interest in the issue
- an investigation has the potential to improve practices across various national and local governance structures
- a practical and enduring outcome may be achievable for agencies and the public

FOCUS AREAS/ GROUPS

The Office as prescribed by the *Ombudsman Act 2013* has made a commitment under its human rights mandate to focus on issues affecting ALL Samoans. These include men, women, children, persons with disabilities (PWDs), faafafine and faatama community, prisoners and other vulnerable groups.

It is important to note that although reporting and monitoring of the human rights situation of the above groups is conducted annually, there are instances where the Office may choose a particular area/theme or group to focus on e.g. Health, PWDs. This happens especially where:

- the human rights of such group has been greatly affected compared to other groups,
- to shine light on an area e.g health that requires urgent attention and priority of the State to remedy its shortfalls,
- to assist with policy and legislative change