**Twinning Professional Development Scholarship – FAQs**

**What is the *twinning bilong yumi* scholarship?**

Each year, staff from parliaments twinned with the Parliament of NSW will be invited to apply to either:

* prepare and present a paper at a relevant professional development event[[1]](#footnote-1)
* prepare a report or paper on a suitable research topic, for possible publication in a relevant publication.

The scholarship includes:

* the opportunity to collaborate with a member of staff from the Parliament of NSW in preparing the paper or report
* access to a mentor from your home Parliament to assist with developing your paper/report
* if required, costs will be met for travel and accommodation to present your paper at a conference or collaborate with staff in NSW.

A maximum of two scholarships will be awarded each year.

**What is the timeframe for the scholarship?**

This year, applications will open on 15 July and close on 15 August 2019. Recipients will be notifed in August and commence work to develop their paper/report with NSW staff immediately. The research paper/report must be finalised by 30 April the following year, or by a date agreed to in consultation with the Twinning Steering Committee.

**Who can apply for the scholarship?**

The scholarship is open to staff of the National Parliament of Solomon Islands and the Bougainville House of Representatives, however female staff will initially be prioritised in order to build on recent gender equality initiatives in those countries.

Prior to applying, applicants must ensure, in consultation with their Clerk or supervisor, that they will be able to commit sufficient time to finalise their paper/report within the timeframe set out above.

**How should I choose my research topic?**

While consideration will be given to the individual merits of each scholarship application, applicants are encouraged to develop a research/paper proposal that falls within the following topic areas:

* parliamentary law, practice and/or procedure
* parliamentary committees
* parliamentary privilege
* community engagement and education programs relating to the role and operation of parliament
* new and emerging technologies relating to any of the topics listed above.

**What should my application include?**

* Your details (name, parliament, current position and email address)
* A short proposal of no more than 500 words which sets out:
  + The topic of your proposed paper/report
  + Why the topic is relevant or interesting (eg what new insights or knowledge will the paper uncover?, why has the issue emerged?, does the issue highlight particular challenges/ opportunities for your Parliament or other Parliaments?)
  + The information sources you will use (eg staff experience/observation, academic journals, parliamentary publications, media reports)
* A statement of support signed by your Clerk or Deputy Clerk, noting that they have reviewed and approved your application.

**How will the scholarship be awarded?**

The scholarship will be awarded by a selection committee comprising the Clerks of the Bougainville and Solomon Islands Parliaments, the Joint Clerks of the Parliament of NSW and the Chief Executive of the NSW Department of Parliamentary Services.

**Interested in applying? Have more questions?**

If you would like to know more, or are ready to submit your application, contact Beverly Duffy, Chair of the NSW Twinning Steering Committee at: [twinning@parliament.nsw.gov.au](file:///C:/Users/CMoore/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/Content.Outlook/BAI9M9VV/twinning@parliament.nsw.gov.au).

**Application form**

**Personal details**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name** |  |
| **Parliament** |  |
| **Current position** |  |
| **Email address** |  |

**Research proposal (500 words)**

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| **Topic**  **Why is the topic relevant/interesting?**  (Eg What new insights or knowledge will the paper uncover? Why has the issue emerged? Does the issue highlight particular challenges/ opportunities for your Parliament or other Parliaments?)  **Information sources** |

* **Don’t forget** to attach a statement of support signed by your Clerk or Deputy Clerk, noting that they have reviewed and approved your application.

1. For example, the ANZACATT Professional Development Seminar, the Australasian Study of Parliament Group Conference, the Australasian Parliamentary Educators Conference, or a tertiary institution in the region. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)