

Melanesian countries are among the poorest in the world, with one in four families living below the poverty line.



EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

World Vision New Zealand works across the Pacific to improve access to education and healthcare, build resilience to climate change and natural disasters, and develop economic opportunities for remote communities.

Following our work with another multi-national NGO with close associations to World Vision in 2020, we advised World Vision New Zealand on the delivery of an aid project in Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands. The project aims to enable the success and empowerment of women and youth in agribusiness, with wider goals to reduce rural poverty, improve nutrition, and

create sustainable agriculture within their wider rural communities. Bell Gully was approached to assist on the logistical aspects of the project, including the contracting arrangements between World Vision New Zealand and the international grant agency providing funding for the project, and between World Vision and its in-country operational partners to establish firm foundations for the project's implementation and delivery.

"It was such a rewarding experience to work with World Vision New Zealand and see something we had worked on provide such a tangible benefit to communities in need of aid assistance and support. As you might imagine, there are some complexities involved with delivering aid projects in the middle of a pandemic, in addition to the natural challenges presented in the countries these projects are rolled out in. Having the opportunity to work with the passionate people at World Vision to navigate these practical challenges was incredibly rewarding" says solicitor, Tasha Lea who worked on the project. "World Vision employs

decades of experience, and proven, effective development and relief practices to empower communities to become self-sufficient and bring real, lasting change. They are the trusted partners of the New Zealand Government's Aid Programme across the Pacific."

Sarah Williams is the Head of Pacific Development, Grants Acquisition and Management for World Vision New Zealand.

"We are extremely lucky to have had the services of a professional firm like Bell Gully. The expertise that

Bell Gully was able to provide was instrumental in helping us to negotiate a contract with a large funder. Their timely and professional advice meant we were able to anticipate risks and use our systems to manage them appropriately. We are now confident we will be able to manage this large, multi-country programme well for the development of the rural communities we work with in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, and understand all the requirements of the funders. Working with Bell Gully's solicitors was a learning experience that we will be able to carry through to future programmes such as these, and we are very grateful to have had the opportunity to work with them."

