

**His Excellency Will Robinson Remarks  
Gifting Ceremony for MCR from ABF – 2 October 2024**

- Reverend Moli Moli
- Deputy Prime Minister, Tuala Tevaga Iosefo Ponifasio
- CEO of the Ministry of Customs and Revenue, Fonoti Talaitupu Li'a-Taefu
- DCEO Customs Services, Lealataua Sophia Laifai-Oloapu
- The team of Customs and Revenue Management

Faafetai tele lava for the opportunity to share a few brief words this morning.

This handover is yet another milestone in our Samoa-Australia Partnership – a partnership built on shared values, trust, and a common purpose.

We both want to ensure the safety and security of our people and our borders.

Deputy Prime Minister – on behalf of the Australian Government, I am pleased to officially hand over this equipment.

This includes two Smiths 6040 x-ray units, narcotics identification kits, four RadEye personal radiation detectors, and a comprehensive set of personal protective gear.

It is our hope that this equipment contributes to Samoa's continued efforts in securing its borders – not only for CHOGM, but beyond.

Australia has worked closely with Samoa to provide training and support alongside this equipment.

It builds on the current technology training delivered by the Australia's Department of Home Affairs, in partnership with the Australian Border Force.

This training has included essential sessions such as Cabinet X-ray training, Narcotic Identification Kit testing training, Container X-ray image analysis training, Subject Matter Expert Advanced Operator training, Ionscan 500DT Operator training and RadEye PRD operator training.

Australia is proud to stand alongside Samoa.

We know that by working together, we can face the challenges of today's evolving global security landscape.

Our cooperation strengthens the safety of our borders and our shared Blue Pacific.

But what makes our partnership truly thrive is not just the sharing of resources, but the exchange of knowledge.

This is a two-way learning process, where we grow and learn from each other.

In that spirit, Fonoti, I hope my colleague Michelle has been an asset to your ministry, just as I know she has gained so much from working with your outstanding team.

I want to thank everyone involved in this important initiative, particularly the dedicated personnel at the Ministry of Customs and Revenue and the Australian Border Force.

Your hard work and commitment are the foundations of this partnership.

I look forward to continuing our close cooperation as we work together for a safer future.

Faafetai tele lava. Soifua ma ia manuia.