



Australian High Commission
Vanuatu



8 June 2018

Media Release

Celebrating the 25th anniversary of FRANZ

On 7 June, Vanuatu's Prime Minister, Charlot Salwai, joined the Australian and New Zealand High Commissioners, Jenny Da Rin and Jonathan Schwass, the French Ambassador, Gilles Favret, and other dignitaries on board the visiting HMAS *Success* to celebrate 25 years of FRANZ cooperation.



From left to right: French Ambassador Gilles Favret, Australian High Commissioner Jenny Da Rin, Commander Grant Zilko, Vanuatu Prime Minister Charlot Salwai, Commander Stuart Watters, and New Zealand High Commissioner Jonathan Schwass, on-board HMAS Success to celebrate the 25th anniversary of FRANZ.

The FRANZ (France, Australia and New Zealand) partnership is an arrangement between the three governments through which they coordinate responses to natural disasters in the Pacific when requested to do so by partner governments in the region.



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In Vanuatu the FRANZ partnership ensures Australian, French and New Zealand humanitarian assistance is delivered in a coordinated and effective way to support the Vanuatu Government's response.

“Vanuatu's vulnerability to natural disasters underscores the importance of close coordination in our responses. Over the past 25 years, Australia, France and New Zealand have worked cooperatively with the National Disaster Management Office and Vanuatu Government so that we can respond to natural disasters as quickly and effectively as possible and the FRANZ partnership has been key to this,” said Australian High Commissioner, Jenny Da Rin, the current Chair of FRANZ, speaking on behalf of the FRANZ partners.

The FRANZ partners have worked closely to support Vanuatu Government most recently in response to increased volcanic activity on Ambae. The FRANZ partners are committed to working with the Vanuatu Government to ensure they remain coordinated; humanitarian assistance is used effectively and reaches those who need it most.

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