



Australian High Commission
Vanuatu

Joint Media Release

Australian High Commissioner to Vanuatu Presents Credentials to the President of Vanuatu

1 April 2022: Australia's new High Commissioner to the Republic of Vanuatu, Her Excellency Ms Heidi Bootle, presented her letters of credence to His Excellency Pastor Moses Tallis, President of the Republic of Vanuatu on 1 April.

In welcoming the new Australian High Commissioner, the Head of State commented on the close ties Vanuatu and Australia share.

“Our two countries will continue to share a long-standing relationship based on shared values, a strong socio-economic, business and people to people ties. This is a relationship that the Vanuatu Government and its people cherish and look forward to strengthening going forward, said H.E. the President.



Ms Bootle is a senior career officer with the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and has previously served as Consul-General to New Caledonia, French Polynesia and Wallis and Futuna and as Deputy High Commissioner to Solomon Islands.

“I am very pleased to have been chosen as Australia's representative in this bilateral partnership of highest importance and to have this opportunity to return to the Pacific,” she said.



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Ms Bootle has also represented Australia at the Australian Embassy in Paris as well as in previous assignments in the Pacific. She recently served in Canberra as Assistant Secretary Pacific Partnerships in the Office of the Pacific. Prior to this, she was a Senior Advisor to Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Women, Senator the Hon Marise Payne, on the Pacific and Development.



“Australia and Vanuatu have a strong and long-standing relationship based on our shared history, values and interests.

“People are at the centre of our cooperation - across Government, business, indigenous culture, including Australia’s South Sea Islander Community, sports, churches, volunteers and students. I look forward to building these linkages as High Commissioner” said Ms Bootle.

“Both of our countries face common regional challenges which we engage on side by side to ensure peace, stability, and the prosperity of our people.

Our relationship is founded on the belief that we can depend on each other, in good times and in hardship. We know we can rely on our friendship when disaster strikes in either of our countries.

Australia stands shoulder to shoulder with Vanuatu as it responds to COVID-19, just as Vanuatu stood shoulder to shoulder with Australia when we experienced devastating bushfires in 2020.



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Throughout these challenges, we have grown our partnership to reflect our shared interests in the security, stability and prosperity of the Pacific,” said Ms Bootle.

Ms Bootle holds a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Tasmania, a Graduate Diploma in Foreign Affairs and Trade from the Australian National University, and is undertaking a Master of Studies majoring in international relations and French.

She speaks French, Solomon Islands Pijin and Bislama. Ms. Bootle arrived in Vanuatu in March 2022 with her son Dane Wate-Bootle

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