

STATE OF THE MEDIA

FEDERATED STATES
OF MICRONESIA

RESEARCH BRIEF

ABC
INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT


PACMAS
Pacific Media Assistance Scheme

 **THE UNIVERSITY
of ADELAIDE**



AT A GLANCE



1. Access to media
impeded by FSM's
dispersed geography



2. FSM's media sector
is small and mostly
homogeneous



3. Media freedom
is uneven

ABOUT THE RESEARCH

This report provides a detailed, up-to-date snapshot of the state of the media in The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). It is part of the State of the Media project, which comprises 12 country reports and one regional report. These reports serve as an accessible resource for media, civil society, and government organisations in support of development goals in the region.

METHODOLOGY

The study adopted a multi-method approach. The research team began with a desk-based review of primary and secondary literature. Additionally, five stakeholder interviews were conducted. At each step, feedback and advice was sought from the FSM country media expert adviser, Peterson Sam, who also crosschecked the accuracy of findings and co-authored this report. The research was approved by the University of Adelaide Human Research Ethics Committee, and steps were taken to mitigate risks to all research participants, including maintaining their anonymity.

KEY FINDINGS

- 1. Access to media impeded by FSM's dispersed geography**

FSM has an online newspaper, radio stations, and a subscription internet protocol television (IPTV) service; however, these are often only available near major population centres. Internet access is a particular challenge, with less than half the population having regular access – although the recent introduction of Starlink, an internet service that provides high-speed internet via low orbit satellites even to remote areas, is changing this.
- 2. FSM's media sector is small and mostly homogenous**

Most of FSM's domestic media sector is comprised of public broadcasters (one in each state) and church media. It also includes a paid television service, which broadcasts international stations only, and one online newspaper – FSM's only independent media organisation. Reporting sometimes lacks diversity and often simply disseminates key information, rather than engaging in critical discussion.
- 3. Media freedom is uneven**

Respondents expressed concern about media freedom, including the right to access government information, although they acknowledged that the government is considering freedom of information legislation. The small size and homogeneity of the sector may also be impacting media freedom. Respondents did not express strong concerns about misinformation or disinformation, even during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The State of the Media: Federated States of Micronesia study is delivered as part of the Pacific Media Assistance Scheme (PACMAS), an ABC International Development (ABCID) managed program funded by the Australian Government through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). Data was collected and initial findings distributed in 2024, but the reports are published in 2025

Disclaimer: Any opinions represented in this report are those of the authors and research participants and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Australian Government, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation or the University of Adelaide.