



MARK BROWN

The Hon. Mark Brown was brought up on the main island of Rarotonga, in the Cook Islands. He attended primary school and secondary school in the Cook Islands before he was awarded a scholarship along with a number of other students to finish his final secondary school year and commence tertiary studies in New Zealand. Like many of our young people, Mr. Brown studied and worked in NZ and Australia for 10 years from 1982 to 1991.

In 1991, Mr. Brown returned to the Cook Islands and joined the Cook Islands Public Service where he held a number of senior positions including Policy Advisor to the Prime Minister's Office, Senior Performance Manager at the Public Service Commission and the Head of Ministry for the Ministry of Agriculture.

In 2001, he ventured into the Private Sector and spent 10 years as a Company Director of his own company in the Property Management and Development sector. In 2010, Mr. Brown entered the world of politics as a Member of Parliament for the constituency of Takuvaine Tutakimoa on the island of Rarotonga. He was immediately appointed to be a Minister of the Crown and holds a number of current portfolios including Finance, Sports and Telecommunications.

As the Minister for Internal Affairs, Minister Brown was responsible for the passage of the 2012 Employment Relations Bill through to enactment in Parliament. The provision of universal paid maternity leave and guarantee of employment for all working mothers are key hallmark of the new act.

Minister Brown holds a diploma in Public Sector Management (Massey University) and a Masters in Business Administration (University of the South Pacific). He is bilingual being fluent in both Cook Islands Maori and English. He is married to Daphne and they have two children.