

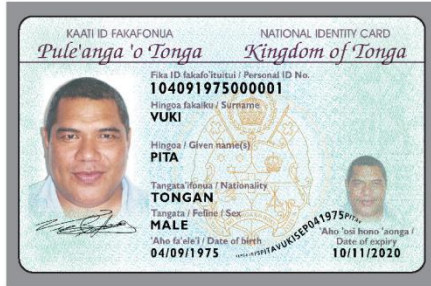


NATIONAL IDENTITY CARD OFFICE

For general enquiries contact :

National Identity Card Office
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NATIONAL IDENTITY CARD OFFICE



National Identity Card Office
Palace Office
Nuku'alofa
TONGA

Visit Us Today:

- *If you are 14 years of age and above please visit us at the National Identity Card Office to register for your National ID Card.*
- *If you have any corrections or have lost or damaged your current National ID Card please visit us at the National Identity Card. Office*
- **REMEMBER TO BRING A COPY OF YOUR PASSPORT; OR BIRTH CERTIFICATE; OR DRIVER'S LICENSE.**

NATIONAL IDENTITY CARD OFFICE

WHAT IS THE NATIONAL IDENTITY CARD OFFICE?



The National Identity Card Office is a sub-branch of the Palace Office and is under the charge of the Lord Privy Seal (Mr Va'inga Tōnē).

The Office was established in 2010 to take charge of the National Scheme of registration of Tongan nationals and issuance of ID cards for eligible residents in Tonga.

In 2010, the Office successfully collaborated with the Tonga Electoral Commission in a joint effort to issue all registered voters with their National ID Cards prior to the 2010 General Parliamentary (25th November 2010).

On the 28th March 2011, the Office re-opened to take new ID registrations, ID corrections and answer any other ID related matters on the 28th March 2011.

Applications Forms are available at the Tonga Electoral Commission office, situated at the Old Civil Aviation Office, Salote Road. Registrations begin at 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday to Friday.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN FUNCTIONS OF THE NATIONAL IDENTITY CARD OFFICE?

The National Identity Card Office's main functions are to:

- (a) to maintain an office where applications for national identity cards shall be received and processed;
- (b) to provide advice and information about the national identity card scheme and to print and make available forms;
- (c) to process applications and if approved, to prepare national identity cards and issue them;
- (d) to maintain a register of all persons (and their photographs and details) who have been issued with a national identity card;
- (e) to take all necessary actions, and make all enquiries, to ensure that all persons who are defined as residents of Tonga under section 8 have applied for and been issued with national identity cards;
- (f) to make enquiries to ensure that the register contains the names of all people eligible for a national identity card and to remove names of those no longer eligible because they are no longer resident in Tonga or alive;
- (g) To co-operate with the authorities responsible for the Electoral Roll, Immigration, Police, Registration of Births Deaths and Marriages, driving licenses, and other relevant areas of government, to ensure the register is correct;

(h) to issue replacement national identity cards when they have expired or been lost, mislaid or destroyed, and to amend national identity cards as necessary;

(i) maintain the security and confidentiality of the register and allow details to be used only for the purposes specified in section 12.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE NATIONAL ID CARD?



The main purpose of the National ID Card is to verify proof of identity.

In 2010, many of the registered voters for the General Parliamentary Election used their National ID Cards as proof of identification on Election Day.

To date, the National ID Card has been accepted by many businesses and government organizations as a means of proof of identification. To name a few are as follows: at the Tonga Westpac Bank individuals are required to produce their National ID card when applying for a new bank account, transferring money or cashing a cheque; at the New Zealand and Australian High Commission VISA applicants are required to provide their National ID card to complete their VISA application; interisland travel on the 'Otuaanga'ofa requires passengers to produce their National ID card before boarding; at the Tonga Post Office individuals picking up packages are required to produce their National ID card to prove their identity; Freight and Air Cargo companies require individuals picking up their overseas consignments to show their National IDs as proof of identity.