

## Inform'ACTION n°30

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### New SPC staff

Mr Tony Kolbe joined SPC in February 2009 as the Influenza Surveillance Specialist. His role is to support the CDC-funded laboratory-based influenza surveillance project and to establish and improve sentinel surveillance systems for influenza-like illness. He works closely with PRIPPP staff and members of the communicable disease surveillance team. Trained originally as a microbiologist and then as an epidemiologist, he has worked in public health in Australia for the last 18 years. In addition, he has undertaken short-term epidemiology assignments in a number of Pacific Island countries. He first worked in the Pacific for two years as a laboratory scientist in Rarotonga in the early 1980s under the Australian Volunteers programme.



“This position has given me an opportunity to work again in the Pacific, a part of the world that I am very fond of. I am looking forward to working with health staff from PICTs and hope that I can make a very positive contribution to improving the surveillance and control of communicable disease.”

