

# Anti-graft study

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GLOBAL studies show that there is a correlation between a high number of women parliamentarians and a decrease in corruption.

Global Organization of Parliamentarians against Corruption's (GOPAC) Oceania chairman John Hyde said this was maybe because of other factors in the community that happened at the same time that women parliamentarian took centre stage.

Mr Hyde said these other factors included the recognition of human rights, especially gender balance in society, and other advances.

"Around the world the research that has been done has shown a correlation between high number of female parliamentarians and a decrease in corruption," he said.

There are other factors in the community that happen at the same time in terms of human rights and other advances."

Mr Hyde said Fiji had the highest number of women parliamentarians in the South Pacific.

"Another interesting research showed that in Timor Leste, one of the poorest countries in the Asia Pacific region at 38 per cent, it has more female MPs but its probably making more inroads from when it were colonised by Indonesia to democracy now in tackling corruption," he said.

"In the Balkan countries and Eastern European countries the correlation is that once the community starts voting for more women they are embracing gender equality and equality in democratic functions leading to a decrease in corruption.

"The current trend maybe a good sign for Fiji, but again it is not a good reason to sit back and relax.

"We need to fight on and most importantly prevent corruptive practices."

Meanwhile, a statement from UN Women this year stated that although the Pacific had the lowest average of women Members of Parliament it identified Fiji as the region's notable success for its improving rate of women MPs.