

Perceptions and experiences of corruption in 17 Pacific Island countries: Findings from the Global Corruption Barometer

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2023 Pacific Update

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Introduction

Recognition of corruption as a growing threat in the Pacific

- Boe Declaration
- Teieniwa Vision

But, little data about perceptions and experiences of corruption

- GCB helps fill this 'data gap'

This presentation focuses on GCB findings from 17 Pacific Island countries

Methodology

Survey

Designed and commissioned by **Transparency International**

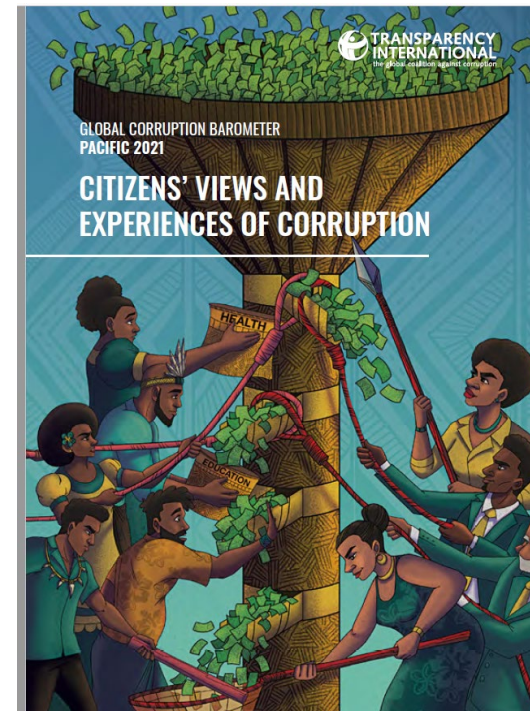
Phone interviews with **7,336 people** across in early 2021

37 close-ended questions: Perceptions, experiences, attitudes towards corruption and anti-corruption reforms and action.

Two separate analyses:

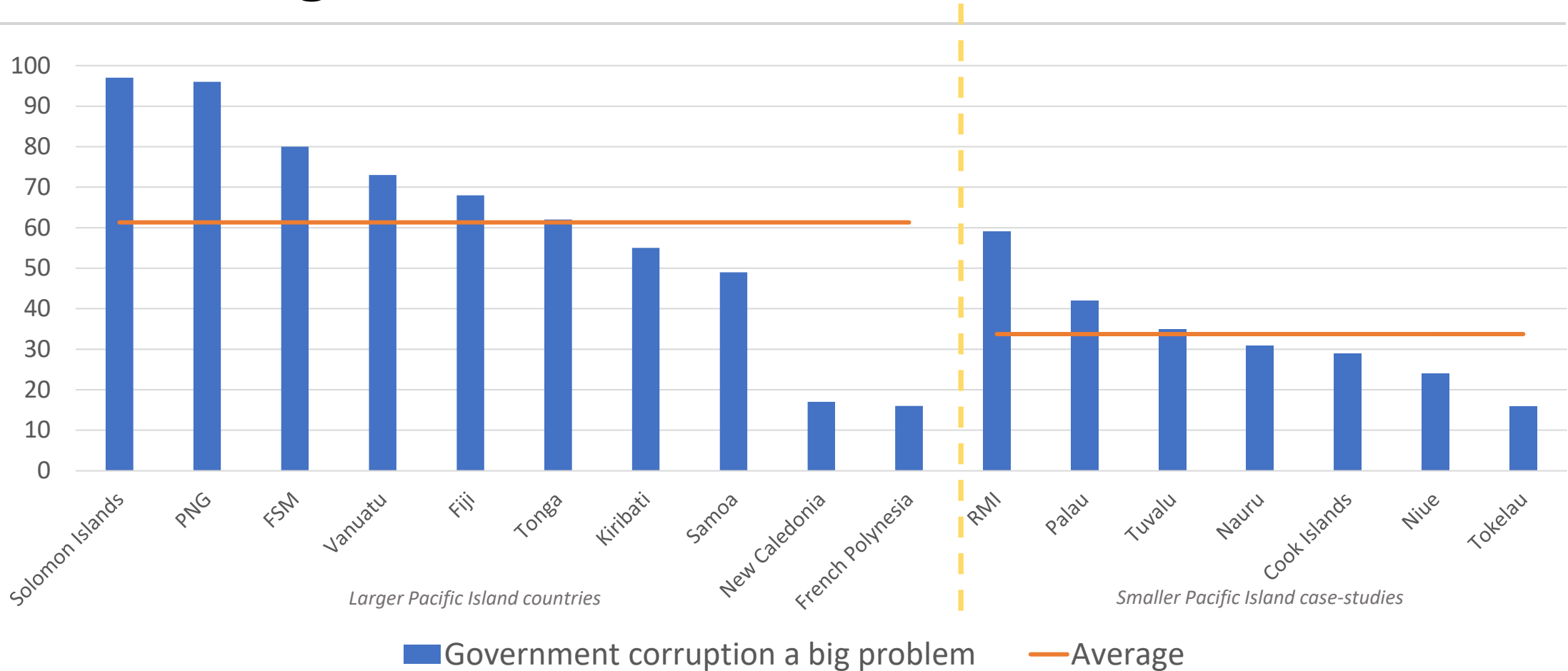
- 10-country study (6,144 respondents) : Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, New Caledonia, Samoa, Tonga, Vanuatu
- 7-country case studies (1,192 respondents): Tuvalu, Niue, Tokelau, Cook Islands, Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Nauru

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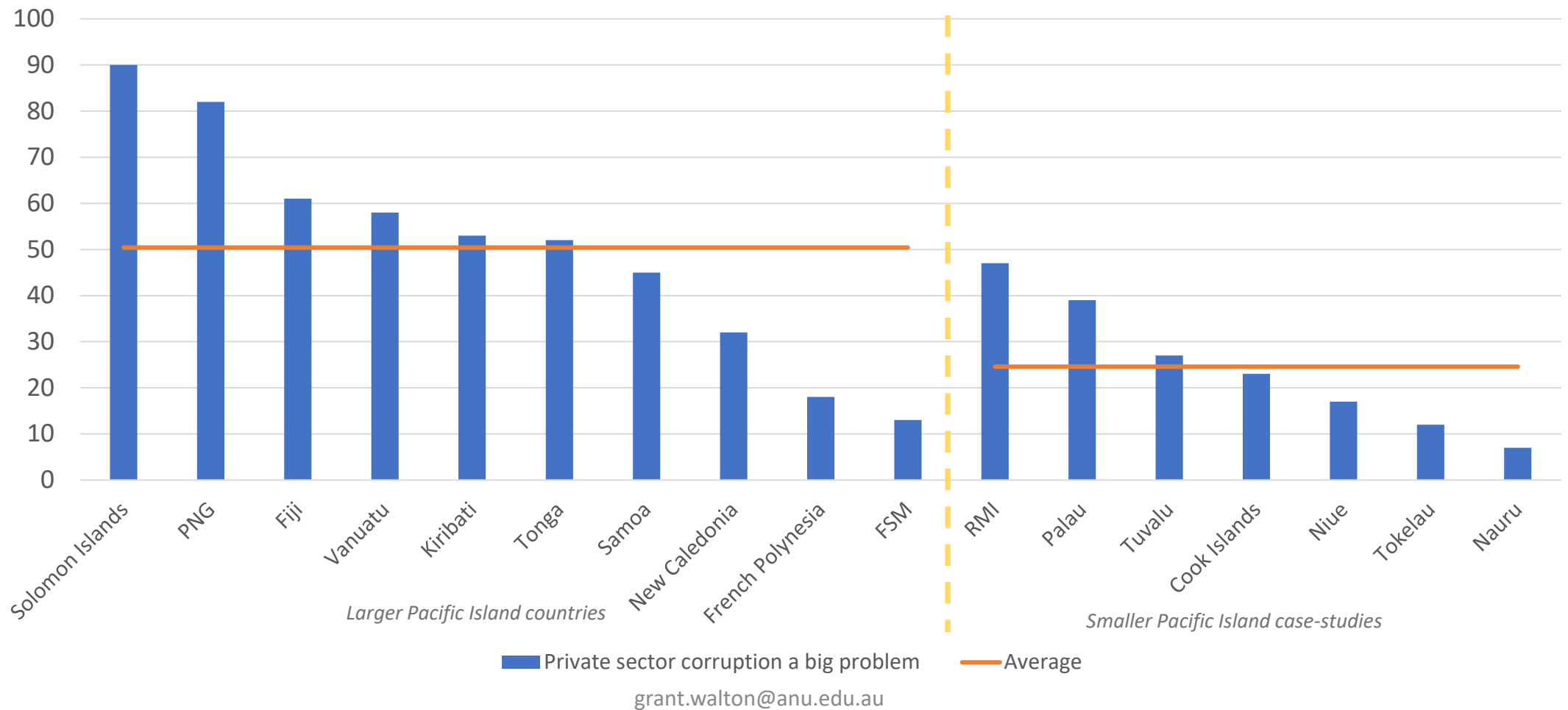


Findings: Perceptions and experiences

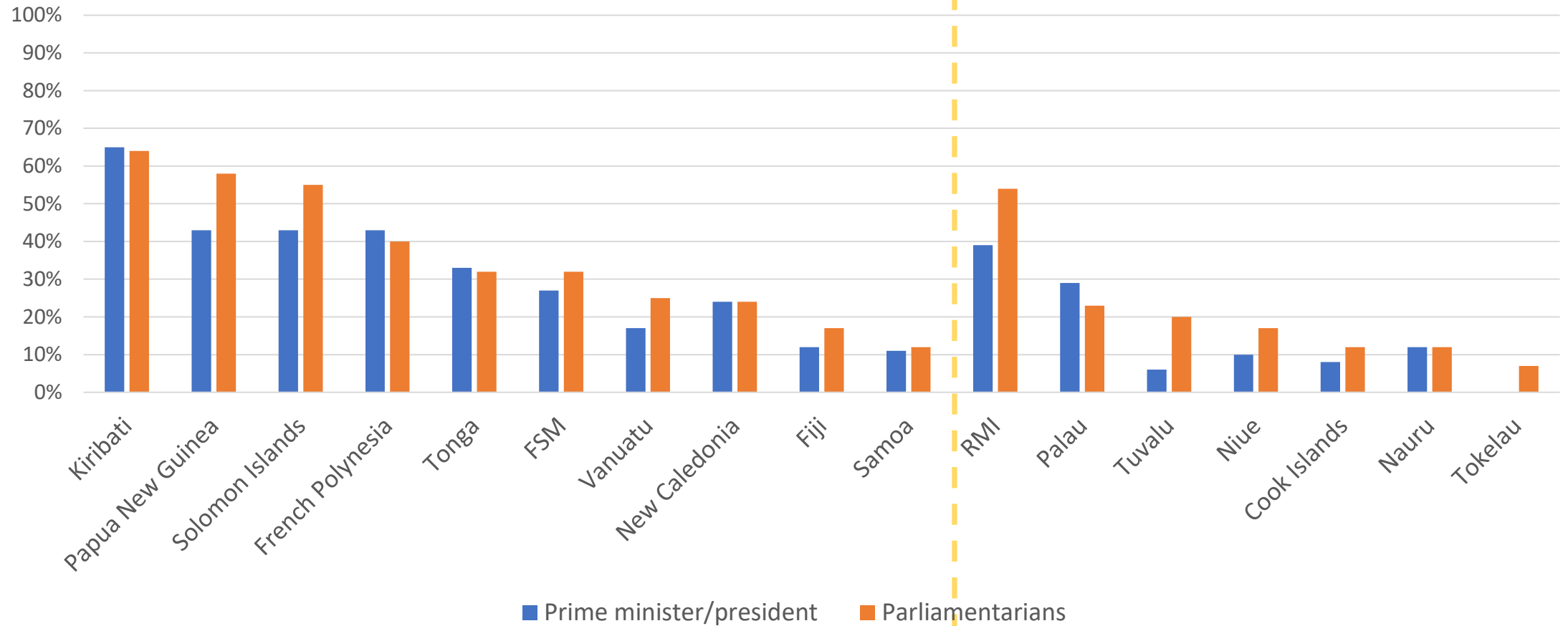
Concern about *government* corruption is higher within larger Pacific Island countries



Concern about *private sector* corruption is higher within larger Pacific Island countries



Politicians are the group most associated with corruption



Electoral fraud and sextortion are reportedly key concerns

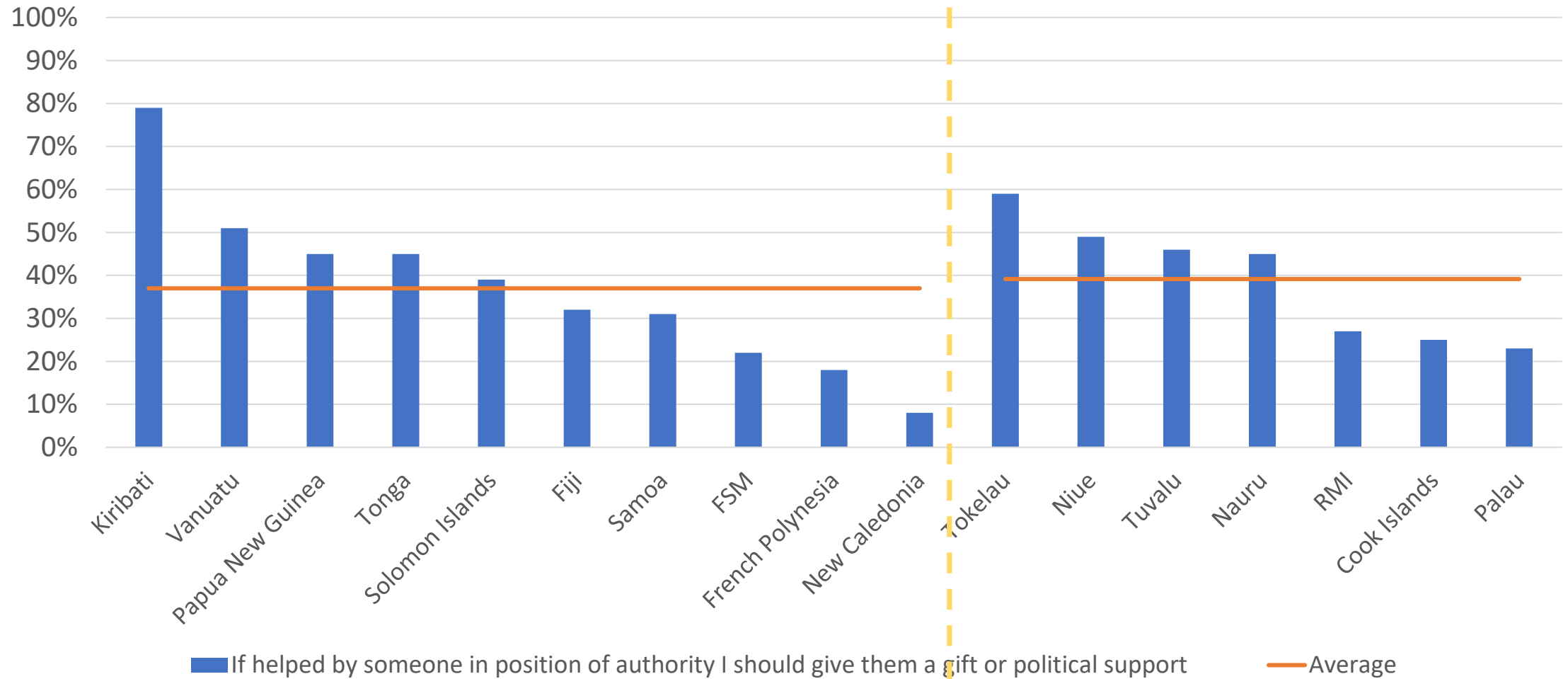
Electoral fraud

- In Papua New Guinea and the Federated States of Micronesia almost 60% of respondents reported being offered a bribe in exchange for their vote
 - More than 40% of respondents in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Kiribati, and Nauru

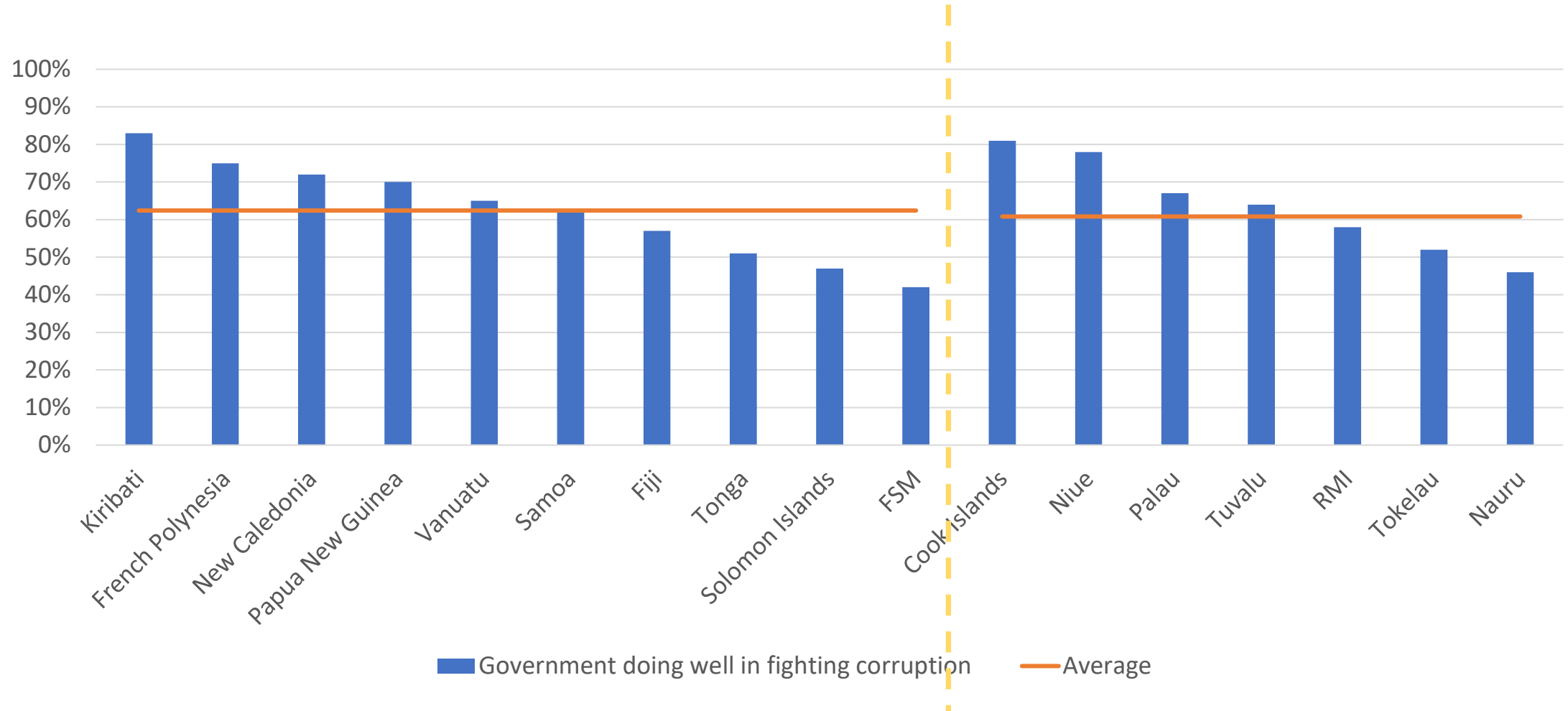
Sextortion (caution: more research needed on these responses!)

- French Polynesia: 92% of respondents experienced this form of corruption themselves or knew someone who had
 - Also high in New Caledonia (76%) and Papua New Guinea (51%).

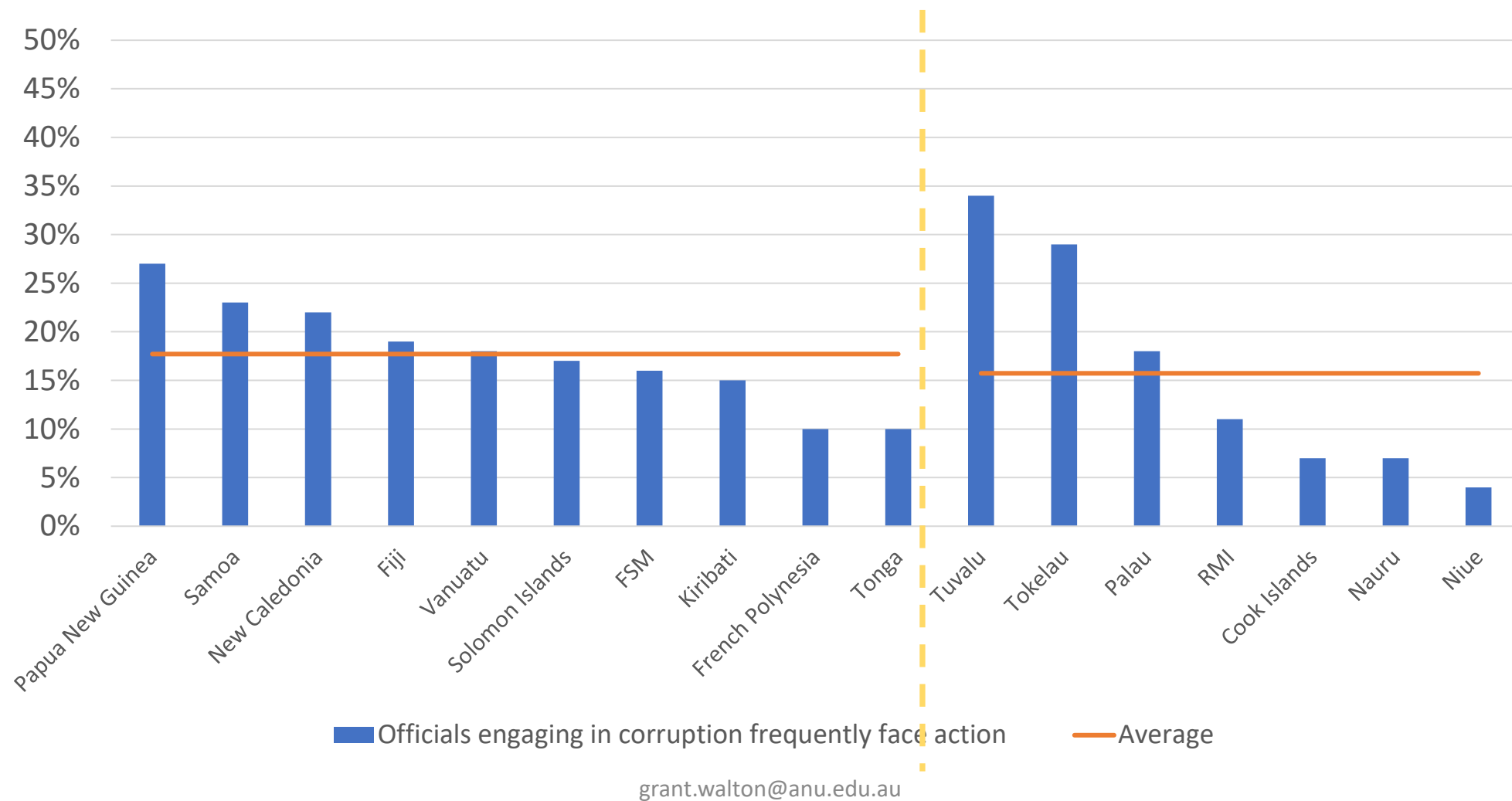
Reciprocity is important in small and larger countries



Still, many were *optimistic* about the fight against corruption



However, few believed corrupt officials were *punished*



Conclusions

Conclusions


First Pacific-wide statistical analysis on corruption

Provides researchers and policy makers with data to help guide analysis, open up discussion and guide regional and national anti-corruption reforms

Findings suggest many concerns, but reasons to be hopeful

The findings suggest...

1. Policymakers should **learn from past successes** when seeking to address corruption. Anti-corruption reforms will need to be **tailored** to each country's unique context.
2. There are key areas for future **research and monitoring**. Research to evaluate the effectiveness and shortcomings of key systems of integrity (formal and informal) would be helpful.
3. It is important to increase the **accountability of political decision-makers**
 - bolster the potential for **free and fair elections**

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5. Respondents want to ensure those caught engaging in corruption are **appropriately sanctioned**
 6. It is important to understand and address the **gendered dimensions** of corruption
 7. It is important to **regulate** the public and private sectors, particularly in countries where the private sector plays a large role in the economy (e.g. Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands).

Reports

GCB Pacific 2021: Citizens' views and experiences of corruption:

<https://www.transparency.org/en/gcb/pacific/pacific-2021>

Perceptions of corruption in seven small Pacific Island countries:

<https://knowledgehub.transparency.org/product/perceptions-of-corruption-in-seven-small-pacific-island-countries>