

The names of the divisions within the Commonwealth Secretariat reflect the broad sectors of its concern: Education, Youth, Law, Science, Health, Trade and Finance, Commodities, Food Production and Rural Development, Applied Studies in Government. The emphasis in these areas has evolved with the expression of the needs of the member countries. The Secretariat has responded to these requests in the direct, friendly and understanding fashion that is a feature of the Commonwealth relationship.

Commonwealth members like to talk to each other, and we do it often and everywhere. It's what we call widespread consultations and it's part of the functional co-operation we enjoy. With the benefit of a common language, and similar institutions and approaches, members communicate well, informally and on a regular basis. Commonwealth members find that it's easier to work things out with friends over a cup of coffee than in a classroom situation. They find that it's easier to meet freely, in confidence and without the rigid framework of, for instance, a UN meeting. As an eminent New Zealand educationalist once put it: "Commonwealth meetings begin where UNESCO meetings end."