

Pacific Judicial Strengthening Initiative Newsletter

Issue 5 | September 2019



Phase 2 Begins!

The Pacific Judicial Strengthening Initiative (PJSI) has begun its second phase - an extension funded by New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and delivered by the Federal Court of Australia. Running until May 2021 we will continue collaborating with 15 Partner Courts across the Pacific, including Fiji, to promote accessible, just, efficient and responsive justice services. Consolidating our earlier outcomes achieved by our Partners during Phase 1.

We look forward to continuing to work with you all on a number of important and exciting activities over the coming 2 years.

Dr Livingston Armytage AM
Technical Director

Objectives

During Phase 2 we will deliver 14 projects continuing to support local and regional objectives relative to promoting:

- Capacity among leaders to prioritize, implement and embed change
- Access to justice through community outreach and education and fostering sensitive treatment of vulnerable and/or marginalised litigants in court
- Professionalism of the judiciary through the provision of entry and advanced-level, in-region training of judicial and court officers
- Appropriate responses to cases raising human rights and/or gender and family violence
- Efficiency in disposal of cases
- Accountability through collating, analysing and reporting on key court performance data

We will also conduct 3 pilot activities related to the need for improvements in legal aid, bar associations, and progress towards sustainable development goals.

In the 2019 pipeline

A number of activities are scheduled this year, including:

Human Rights Visit - Solomon Islands: 23 September-4 October, 2019

The visit will provide participants with follow-up support on their courts *Human Rights Action Plan* developed in 2017 and progress the application of human rights in the courts.

Regional Efficiency & Court Data Management Workshop - Vanuatu: 14-18 October, 2019

Participants will review and refine their courts' *Court Data Management Plans* developed at the Building Capacity in Court Data Management Workshop held in Port Moresby in November 2018.

Information Communications and Technology Visit - Nauru: 21-25 October, 2019

The visit will further strengthen Information and Communications Technology-related processes in the Nauru Courts and improve the efficiency of disposal of cases.

Gender and Family Violence Visit - Vanuatu: 4-8 November, 2019

A follow-up to the workshop held in August 2018, this visit will support the reforms to be delivered under the recently launched Gender and Family Violence Action Plan.

Career Pathway Visit - Papua New Guinea: 11-15 November, 2019

Working with the Papua New Guinea Centre for Judicial Excellence (PNGCJE), this visit will review progress of the CJE as a regional provider of judicial training, and look to scope a range of future joint regional activities.

Access to Justice and Community Awareness Raising Project - Kiribati: 2-13 December, 2019

This visit will promote awareness of the roles and relationships of custom and law in remote communities, and further access to justice, community legal education and legal empowerment.

For a complete list of our upcoming activities and locations, please see the [Activity Schedule](#).

Leadership Incentive Fund Applications

The LIF aims to support the achievement of national courts objectives not otherwise met by PJSI. We do this through the provision of small grants.

Please send any questions to: nicole.cherry@fedcourt.gov.au.

The next round will open on 14 October, 2019.

Phase 1 Achievements

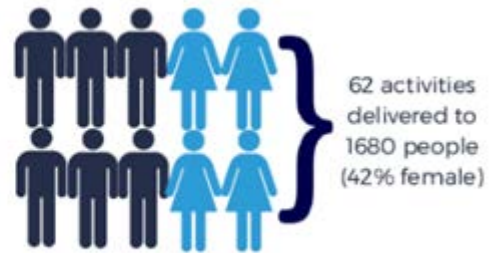
Under Phase 1, PJSI delivered 31 activities and funded 17 locally-led activities. With Leadership Plans in place, the capacity of judicial leadership to assess needs and lead judicial development locally has improved in 12 Partner Courts. Outreach through the Access to Justice Project equipped over 1,200 marginalised and vulnerable individuals to be able to access justice in and through courts in four Partner Courts. As a result of training by PJSI and its partners, judicial and court officers in 12 Partner Courts operate with a higher level of professionalism. The introduction of victim-centric policies, processes and approaches has resulted in four Partner Courts exhibiting more responsive and just behaviour. In addition, ongoing support across the region has increased capacity (both human and systemic) to collect and report on court performance data.

Average knowledge gain across
PJSI activities:

260%

Average satisfaction across
PJSI activities:

94%



Leadership

Annual Chief Justices' Leadership Forum and 34 Leadership Incentive Fund Grants approved



Access to Justice

123 participants in Access to Justice visits with several consultations across 4 Partner Courts



Professionalisation

Launch of Certificate of Justice with University of South Pacific



Substantive Justice

Implementation of Gender & Family Violence Toolkits



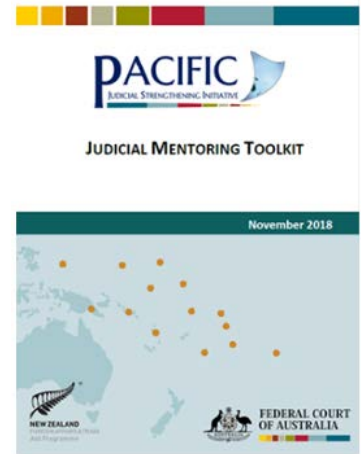
Procedural Justice

Monitoring data over 7 years in the Trend Report

NEW Judicial Mentoring Toolkit Released!

We are delighted to announce a new addition to our Toolkit Resources, the [Judicial Mentoring Toolkit](#).

The Toolkit aims to support and reinforce the judicial education programmes available to new judges around the Pacific by providing an introduction to the art and science of judging and an established mentoring program with experienced Judges.



Comments and Feedback

We welcome and appreciate comments or contributions from everyone involved in a PJSI activity. If you have any feedback or require further information, please contact our PJSI team on: pjsi@fedcourt.gov.au.