

Pacific Judicial Strengthening Initiative Newsletter

(Issue 1 , December 2016)

Launch of the PJSI

In June 2016 the Government of New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade selected the Federal Court of Australia as the Managing Services Contractor for the Pacific Judicial Strengthening Initiative (PJSI).

The PJSI will operate in 14 Pacific Island Countries which include the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

Vision for the PJSI

PJSI's goal is ***Building Fairer Societies***, and it will contribute to this goal by supporting partner courts to develop more accessible, just, efficient and responsive court services.

Following an intensive technical needs assessment and design process, five thematic pillars have been identified to guide implementation of the Initiative, namely:

- **Regional Leadership** - building institutional capacity, systems, processes and tools at the regional level for stakeholders to proactively manage judicial development at the local level.
- **Access to Justice** - improving the accessibility of court remedies, and enable right-holders to exercise their legal rights.
- **Professionalisation** - building professional competence, and institutional capacity, to administer justice that is accessible, fair, efficient and timely.
- **Substantive Justice** - improving the substantive fairness - that is, the qualitative or 'thick' dimensions of justice service delivery; specifically in relation to human rights law generally, and gender and family violence specifically.
- **Procedural Justice** - improving the efficient and timely delivery of court services.

Inside this issue

Launch of the PJSI	1
Vision for the PJSI	1
Welcoming Remarks	2
Leadership Meetings - PNG Sept-2016	2
Upcoming Activities	3
Leadership Incentive Fund	3
PJSI Website	3
Comments & Feedback	3
The PJSI Team	4



Chief Justice Sir Albert Palmer addresses the delegates at the Chief Justices' forum held in PNG.

Welcoming Remarks

Welcome to our first PJSI newsletter!

It has been a busy six months with the launch of PJSI in June and planning of activities over the next three years. In concert with our partners in participating courts, we have scheduled activities. The schedule was approved by participating Chief Justices at their meeting in September in PNG.

We have recruited our management team and five technical roles, namely the: Judicial Orientation Training; Access to Justice; Human Rights; Gender & Family Violence; and Accountability Advisers.

We are now poised to start delivering activities and look forward to continuing to work with our Pacific colleagues over the coming months and years.

We wish you all the best for the upcoming festive season.

Dr Livingston Armytage, PJSI Technical Director



**The Initiative Executive Committee, PJSI
Technical Director and Team Leader**



Chief Justices' Leadership Meeting, Port Moresby, PNG: 7-10 September, 2016

Back Row (left to right): Judge Sir Hugh Williams, Sir William Young, Justice Saksak, Chief Justice Ratu Joni Madraiwiwi, Hon. Chief Justice Ngiraklsong, Justice Charles Cato, Deputy Chief Justice Sir Gibbs Salika, Chief Justice Ingram

Front Row (left to right): Chief Justice Patu Sapolu, Chief Justice Sir John Muria, Chief Justice Sir Salamo Injia, Chief Justice Sir Albert Palmer, Associate Justice Beaulen Carl-Worswick.

Leadership Meetings - PNG: 7-10 September, 2016

The first PJSI Chief Justices' Leadership Forum and Initiative Executive Committee (IEC) meetings were held in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea from 7-10 September, 2016. A key recommendation from the meetings was to pursue a "Certificate of Justice" qualification to be administered by a regional education provider.

The IEC also agreed to hold some future meetings remotely eliminating the need for members to travel and reducing the time away from judiciaries.





Dr Livingston Armytage presenting the Career Gateway and Career Pathway concepts to the Chief Justices of the PJSI Partner Courts

Upcoming Activities

Activities scheduled for the next six months are listed as follows:

- Piloting of Human Rights resource / toolkit - **Solomon Islands: 6-17 February, 2017** - *this activity aims to support Chief Justices' to develop an institutionalised approach to fostering human rights within the region's courts.*
- Piloting of Gender and Family Violence resource / toolkit - **Tonga, April 2017** - *this activity aims to explore ways in which courts can better meet the needs of victims of gender and family violence.*
- Project Management and Evaluation Workshop - **Vanuatu, 20-24 February 2017** - *This workshop aims to strengthen participants' capacity to produce desired results through the delivery of projects.*
- Monitoring and Evaluation assistance - **Samoa, 27 March-7 April, 2017**
- 2nd Chief Justices' Leadership Forum & IEC meeting - **Samoa, 3-7 April, 2017**

Leadership Incentive Fund

The Leadership Incentive Fund (LIF) was launched in October 2016. The LIF aims to support the achievement of national courts objectives not otherwise addressed by the PJSI. Five grants of up to AUD 10,000 per year and two grants of up to AUD 35,000 per year will be made available.

You may obtain the guidelines on applying for the LIF from the PJSI by contacting Ms. Caitlin Stone (email caitlin.stone@fedcourt.gov.au).

PJSI Website

The PJSI Website was officially launched at the Chief Justices' Leadership Forum. It may be found at:

www.fedcourt.gov.au/pjsi/home

We aim to keep our partners updated via the website ensuring key documents are updated regularly. There are links to toolkits, benchbooks and key reports produced by the PJSI. The key themes of the Initiative are listed and described in brief detail.

Comments and Feedback

We welcome and appreciate comments or contributions from everyone involved in the PJSI. If you have any feedback or require further information please contact our PJSI team.

Email at: pjsi@fedcourt.gov.au

Telephone: (+ 61-2) 9230 8906



The PJSI Team

Dr Livingston Armytage - PJSI Technical Director:

Livingston is a barrister & solicitor with more than 40 years' experience specialising in justice reform, judicial development and litigation law. He is a visiting fellow of the University of Cambridge, and adjunct professor of law at the University of Sydney.



Mr Lorenz Metzner -

PJSI Team Leader: Lorenz is a justice reform and development professional with over 15 years' experience. He has worked with a range of donors leading and implementing development assistance initiatives in the Pacific, Asia, and Africa.



Ms Cate Sumner - Accountability Adviser:

Cate has worked in the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific, focusing on access to justice, human rights and judicial reform. She has worked on PJDP and in August 2016 launched a research publication commissioned by UN Women on Women and Children's Access to the Formal Justice System in Vanuatu.



Ms Helen Burrows - Director, International Programs and PJSI M&E Adviser:

Helen is a qualified solicitor with 15 years' experience directing, managing and delivering judicial development projects with over 50 countries across Asia, the Pacific and Africa.



Ms Nicole Cherry - PJSI Project Manager:

Nicole has over 10 years' experience in managing development assistance programs across the Asia Pacific region. She has overseen the design, implementation and evaluation of more than 40 projects.



Dr Carolyn Graydon - Human Rights Adviser:

Carolyn is a barrister & solicitor with over 20 years' experience in human rights, protection and refugee law, community and customary legal empowerment, and gender justice. She has worked in the Asia Pacific region and the Middle East with a range of UN and international organisations.



Mr Lorenzo Aventi - Finance Officer: Lorenzo is a CPA with more than 20 years' experience in financial, management and project accounting. He has provided high quality expertise to successfully manage activities in the private and public sectors, including PJDP.



Dr Abby McLeod - Gender and Family Violence Adviser:

Abby is an applied anthropologist, with nearly 20 years' experience in the Pacific, promoting gender equality, improving state responses to gender-based violence, and strengthening the relationship between state and informal institutions. She has published widely on these and related issues, and has worked for a range of organisations and projects in the Pacific.



Ms Caitlin Stone - PJSI Project Officer: Caitlin has a background in child protection and gender and family violence where she has worked in both direct practice and policy roles. She has worked internationally with NGOs in community development and gender and family violence.

