



Pacific Judicial Development Programme Newsletter - Issue 10

Courts are Administering Justice Better

PJDP is improving the quality of society and human wellbeing in the Pacific



Chief Justices' Leadership Meeting, Apia, Samoa: 20-22 April, 2015

Ms Helen Burrows, Director of International Programs presents to the Chief Justices at the Chief Justices' Leadership Workshop on the completion report.

Over the past five years, the PJDP has had the privilege of partnering with and working for the various Courts within the Pacific. Our collaboration has improved the quality of justice across the Pacific in ways that are relevant, effective, efficient and sustainable.

At the recent Leadership Meetings in Samoa the PJDP management team shared PJDP's achievements from our [Completion Report](#), approved by the Leadership team. The report highlights 5 key results supporting PJDP's work in improving the quality of society and human wellbeing in the Pacific. These results are shared in this newsletter and can be found on our website.

Additionally, we are pleased to announce that the PJDP has now added 6 new toolkits making up a resource library of 14 toolkits in total. The new toolkits are also now available on our website and include the following: [Public Information](#); [Enabling Rights](#); [Judges' Orientation](#); [Judicial Complaints Handling](#); [Reducing Backlog and Delay](#); [Project Management](#)

"While some initiative may be local, the PJDP developed the initial concepts for these which inspired these local initiatives - PJDP provided the ignition key."

Hon. Chief Justice Patu Sapolu
Supreme Court of Samoa

We have greatly enjoyed our work on the PJDP, and on behalf of my team I would like to thank the Chief Justices and PEC members for their dedicated leadership throughout this period. As well as, to thank the judicial and court staff we have worked with throughout this programme.

Dr. Livingston Armytage, PJDP Team Leader



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Leadership Meetings - Samoa: 20-24 April, 2015

The final Chief Justices' Leadership and Programme Executive Committee (PEC) meetings were held in Apia from 20-24 April, 2015. The PEC approved a 6-month Interim Plan of activities which provides for a transition between the completion of PJDP in June 30, 2015 and the proposed commencement of a new MFAT-funded programme, the Pacific Judicial Strengthening Initiative (PJSI), in January 2016.

In addition, the Leadership discussed and approved the PJDP's achievements over the past five years as captured in the draft Programme Completion Report presented to the meeting. A copy of the final report is available on the PJDP website or by clicking on the following link: [PJDP Completion Report](#)

"We use PJDP because we have confidence in it as a judicial programme which is unique in the world in the sense that it is regionally managed by a court. We have tremendously benefited from PJDP."

Hon. Chief Justice Lunabek,
Supreme Court of Vanuatu

The Leadership team acknowledged the overarching outcome that the PJDP has identifiably contributed to *Courts in the Region Administering Justice Better*, and approved the five key results summarised in the following pages.



10th Programme Executive Committee Meeting, Apia, Samoa: 23-24 April, 2015

Back Row (left to right): Mr Lorenz Metzner, Mr John Kenning, Dr Livingston Armytage
Front Row (left to right): Hon. Chief Justice Ngiraklsong, Hon. Chief Justice Sapolu (Chair), Ms Helen Burrows, Hon. Chief Justice Lunabek, Ms Anna Pasikale, Ms Ranmali Fernando.

Courts are Administering Justice Better

PJDP is improving the quality of society and human wellbeing in the Pacific

1. Citizens Live in Fairer Societies With Better Access to Justice



Citizens in Pacific Island Countries (PICs) are more empowered to access and use the courts to redress injustice, and the courts are more responsive to the needs of the public seeking justice - in PICs where PJDP has provided support, citizens are now better informed about accessing justice services and can exercise their legal rights in court more easily. Judicial and court officers have been empowered to provide a fair trial and provide reasons for their decisions; offer more creative and restorative approaches to justice where appropriate; and meet the justice needs of marginalised groups, particularly unrepresented litigants, victims of violence, and children.



Two-thirds (67%) of court users experience improvements in performance.



85% of judicial and court officers consider that PJDP has assisted their court in becoming more responsive to community justice needs.



535 people participated in Family Violence / Youth Justice Workshops in which **4** sectoral MoUs were signed.

2. Judicial Leaders are directing the Delivery of More Substantive Justice Outcomes

Courts are more proactively managing improvements, with Chief Justices networking across the region to drive, plan and administer justice locally - PJDP has focused on building knowledge, understanding and capacity to apply the rule of law on the part of key judicial actors as well as the community. This is significant given that three-quarters of judicial officers in the Pacific have no formal legal education. Improvements are evidenced by 94% of judicial and court officers indicating that they are more competent and confident in performing their roles / duties after participating in PJDP activities.



81% of court users experience improvements in competence and reliability of justice services.



750 people locally engaged or trained as a result of Responsive Fund activities.



14 Toolkits produced as a resource for the region.

3. Public is Enabled to Demand Judicial Integrity, Transparency and Accountability

Improvements in professionalism, integrity and conduct have built public trust in the courts. The 15 “Cook Island Performance Indicators” and regular annual reporting equip courts and the public with knowledge and capacity to drive continuing improvements in judicial quality - PJDP has achieved a considerable amount in this sphere through diagnostic work along with the development and implementation of internationally recognised performance measures, standards and principles of timeliness.



12 PICs are now regularly publishing Annual Court Reports, up from 2 PICs in 2010.



6 PICs have procedural documentation to map the progress of cases and assist with timely disposal.



77% of court users experience improvements in the standard of judicial integrity and conduct.

4. Courts Administer and Deliver Justice More Efficiently

Courts are increasingly disposing of cases and reducing backlogs according to established time standards. Improved efficiency, and public awareness of this, is strengthening public trust and consolidating confidence in courts - by measuring and reporting on performance, courts are becoming more transparent. Courts are also becoming more proactive in dealing with delay and backlogged cases. Through these advances in timeliness, courts are conducting proceedings more competently, consistently and efficiently.



68% of court users experience improvements in efficiency, transparency and accountability.



2,458 people supported across 8,764 participant training days.



169 activities completed across 17 projects.

5. Continuing Improvements are Transforming Court Performance

Courts are more able to build capacity through experienced local trainers conducting sustainable judicial development across the region - the quality, relevance and sustainability of professional competence building are improved through local trainers who are proactive, self-sufficient and professional in addressing competence needs. This is evidenced by 79% of judicial and court officers reporting that the quality of locally-led training activities has improved.



65% of Responsive Fund activities delivered by local trainers.



84% of judicial and court officers report that courts are managing their development more effectively.



69 local-activities independently designed and delivered by PJDP-certified trainers.

6-month Interim Plan: 1 July - 30 December, 2015

The 6-month Interim Plan approved by the PEC will be a combination of bi-lateral and regional activities as requested by the Chief Justices' Leadership Group and endorsed by the PEC. This will include a Chief Justices' Leadership and PEC Meetings from the 3-5 November, 2015, in Sydney. The activities are planned to enable ongoing momentum prior to the proposed commencement of Pacific Judicial Strengthening Initiative (PJSI).



"PJDP has been one of the best programmes; I was very impressed from the beginning; there was no better way to maximise the use of resources."

Chief Justice Sir Albert Palmer
High Court of Solomon Islands

PJDP Website

The PJDP website is available both through: PacLii - <http://www.pacii.org/pjdp/> and Federal Court of Australia - <http://www.fedcourt.gov.au/pjdp>

The following reports have been recently uploaded to the PJDP website:

- Six revised or new Toolkits including:
 - [Public Information](#)
 - [Enabling Rights](#)
 - [Judges' Orientation](#)
 - [Judicial Complaints Handling](#)
 - [Reducing Backlog and Delay](#)
 - [Project Management](#)
- [PJDP Completion report](#)
- [2014 Court Trend Report](#)
- [PJDP 10th Quarterly Report \(Jan-Mar 2015\)](#)
- [2014 PJDP Annual Progress Report](#)
- PEC Meeting Resolutions ([October 2014](#) & [April 2015](#))

Comments and feedback

We welcome and appreciate comments or contributions from everyone involved in the PJDP.

If you have any feedback or require further information please contact our PJDP Project Officer, Ms. Krystle Praestiin on:

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