



## Pacific Judicial Strengthening Initiative Newsletter

Issue 7 | January 2021

### ***Welcome to 2021!***

As the COVID-19 pandemic has continued to impact us all, the PJSI Team have sought new ways to collaborate with our Partner Courts throughout 2020, to continue to support and promote accessible, just, efficient and responsive justice services.

We remain indebted to the region's Chief Justices for their steadfast support, their commitment to the delivery of justice, and to ensuring that PJSI can deliver the most beneficial activities to address their priority development objectives. While we have not been able to meet our colleagues for most of last year, coming together remotely to address the extraordinary circumstances and impediments to justice presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, we have never felt closer and been more connected. PJSI is looking forward to continuing collaborations with our Partner Courts this year.

This newsletter provides a snapshot of remote activities delivered in 2020, and outlines upcoming PJSI activities in 2021. We hope that you are staying safe and healthy.

**Mr Lorenz Metzner**  
PJSI Team Leader

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### ***COVID-19 Re-design: Activity Implementation***

Under the approved [COVID-19 Re-design](#), the PJSI team have delivered 26 activities and approved 14 Leadership Incentive Fund applications to date, including:

- Eleven regional webinars
  - Nine remote training workshops
  - Two Case Tracking Systems
  - Three rounds of individual meetings with three Partner Courts on case data analysis
  - One Partner Court has received support to design, develop and deliver a revised Access to Justice Plan; and
  - Fourteen Leadership Incentive Fund activities have been approved.
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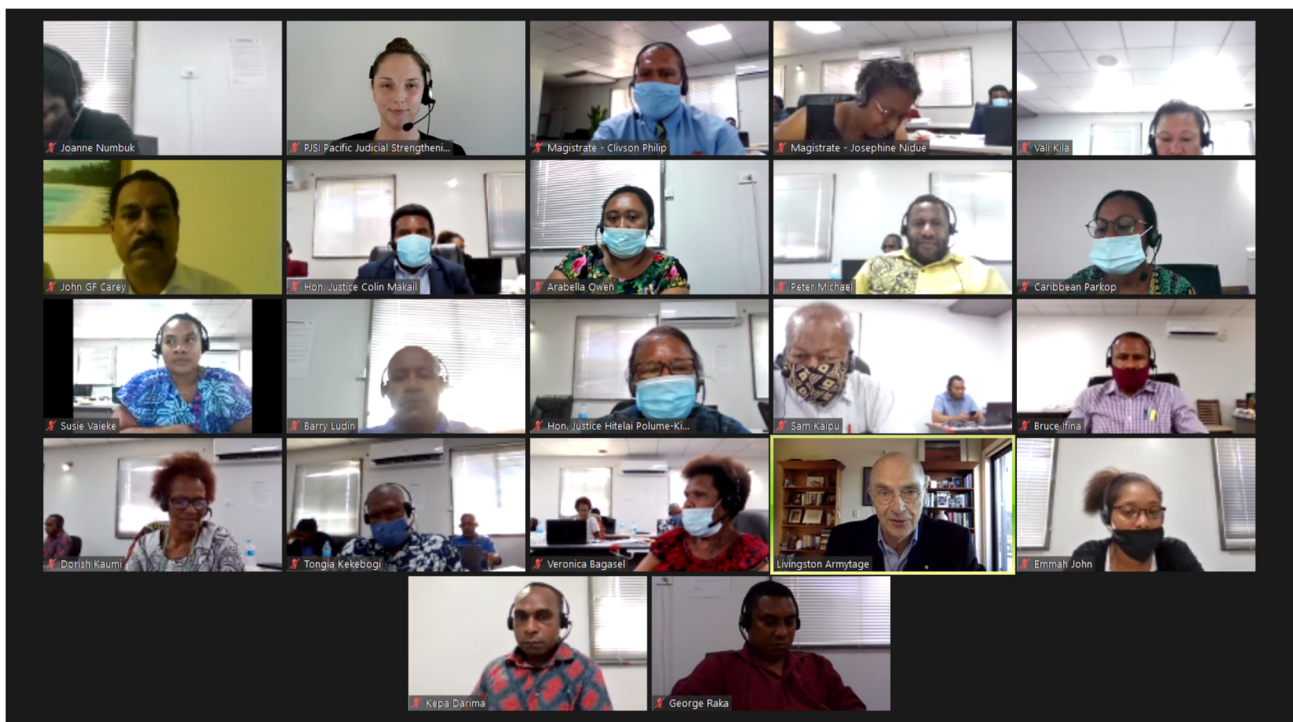


## ***Papua New Guinea Centre for Judicial Excellence: Training of Trainers***

This remote workshop refreshed training techniques as outlined in PJSI's *Trainers' Toolkit*, bolstered experience in delivering effective KSA (Knowledge, Skills, Attitudes) training, extended the capacity of the PNG.CJE to develop curricula in KSA, and built capacity to deliver training remotely using Zoom/other ICT technologies.

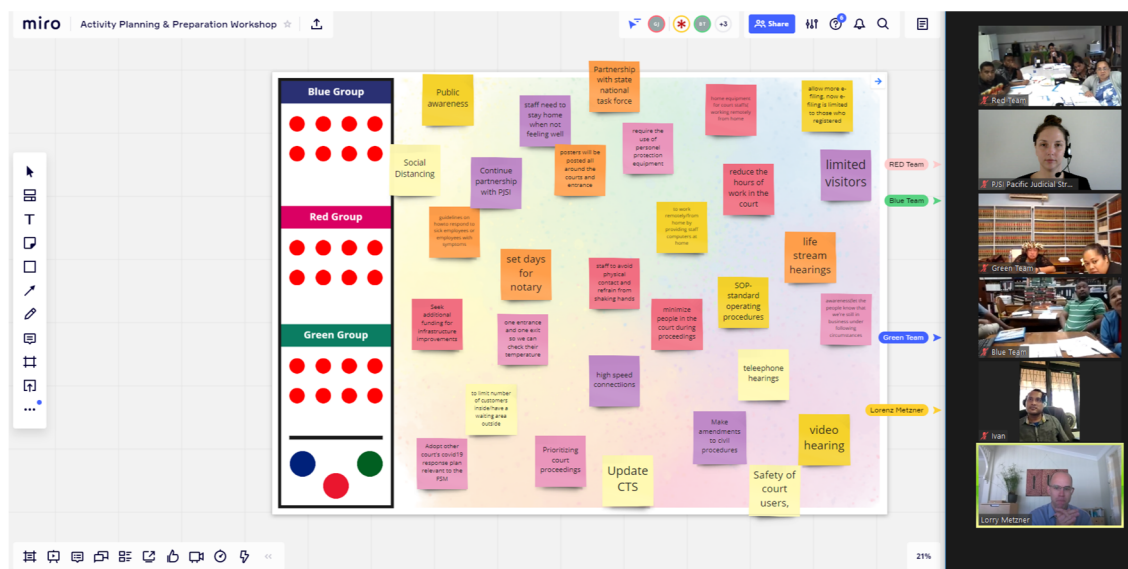
Sixteen participants engaged in this workshop in August 2020, which was facilitated on Zoom by Dr Livingston Armytage, with the support of Mr John Carey and Mr Sam Kaipu from PNG.CJE, and Dr Carolyn Graydon and Ms Margaret Barron from PJSI.

You can access the workshop resources on Training of Trainers, Gender and Family Violence, Judicial Ethics and Conduct, and How to Use Zoom, all on the PJSI website [here](#).



## ***Federated States of Micronesia: Activity Preparation and Planning Workshop***

This activity was delivered by Mr Lorenz Metzner in October 2020, and supported planning for the development of an awareness program for, and drafting of, the FSM Supreme Court's COVID-19 Response Plan, thereby strengthening FSM's capacity to lead and manage local judicial/court development activities. Eighteen sessions were held over five days, engaging 12 participants in Pohnpei and Chuuk, using the Zoom and Miro delivery platforms to facilitate remote collaboration.



## ***Solomon Islands: National Judicial Workshop***

In October 2020, PJSI provided technical support to design and conduct the Solomon Islands National Judicial Workshop for 21 participants, addressing a range of topical issues confronting the courts of the Solomon Islands including leadership, case management and delay, court practice, ethics and COVID-19. The workshop was presented by Justice Mortimer of the Federal Court of Australia, Magistrate Benn of Western Australia, and Dr Livingston Armytage, Ms Jennifer Akers and Mr Tony Lansdell from PJSI.

You can download the Judicial Officer's Survival Guide Handbook, developed by Magistrate Benn for this workshop, on the PJSI website [here](#).



## *Coming up in 2021*

Several regional activities are scheduled and planned for delivery in the first quarter of 2021. These include:

### **Regional 2020 Court Trend Report Webinar: 4 February, 2021**

The PJSI Accountability Adviser, Ms Cate Sumner, is presently preparing the fourth Court Performance Trend Report for presentation to Chief Justices at the Forum in April 2021. The 2020 Court Trend Report looks to update the PJDP Court Performance Baseline Report in 2011 and present a picture of the significant improvement in court annual reporting over the last 9 years. The 2018 Court Trend Report is available [here](#). The webinar will provide an opportunity to discuss each Partner Court's improvements in court annual reporting against the agreed Cook Island Indicators (CII) and address any questions on the collection of data against these indicators.

### **Regional Human Rights Checklists Launch Webinar: 18 February, 2021**

The PJSI Human Rights Adviser, Dr Carolyn Graydon, has developed six Human Rights Checklists/resource pamphlets to support coordinated 'best practice' actions to apply human rights in the daily practice of judges, magistrates and court staff. The webinar will officially launch and discuss the Human Rights Checklists, which will be circulated to all Partner Courts in early 2021.

### **Regional Bar Associations and Legal Aid Webinar: 16, 18 & 25 March, 2021**

The PJSI Legal Aid and Bar Associations Adviser, Dr Carolyn Graydon, is presently preparing summaries of two situational analyses developed to: review, identify and analyse legal aid models in use throughout the Pacific region; and to assess the needs of Pacific law associations in relation to their efforts to professionalise legal professions across the Pacific, including their regulatory frameworks and capacity requirements. These summaries will be used to guide focus group discussions with Legal Aid actors and Bar Association actors from across the Pacific, during discussions on 16 and 18 March 2021.

Following this, a regional webinar for Chief Justices will be delivered, reporting back on the main themes and issues arising out of the situational analyses and focus group discussions. The webinar will serve to define a strategy for supporting Legal Aid services and Bar Associations in the future.



### **Seventh Chief Justices' Leadership Forum: 21 April, 2021**

The seventh Chief Justices' Leadership Forum will provide an opportunity for PJSI to engage with the heads of jurisdiction in our Partner Courts to: provide an overview and feedback on the implementation of PJSI's activities throughout Phases I and II; consider the findings and recommendations from PJSI's final evaluation; and supply a forum for leadership dialogue and networking on judicial development between Chief Justices. We remain hopeful that the COVID-19 pandemic will soon abate, and will look to conduct the Forum remotely on this occasion.

### **Tenth Initiative Executive Committee Meeting: 22 April, 2021**

The remote tenth Initiative Executive Committee Meeting will provide an opportunity for PJSI to brief the Meeting on PJSI's progress; consider the findings and recommendations from PJSI's final evaluation; consider and endorse any Chief Justices' recommendations; and provide an update with regards to any future programs of assistance.

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

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### ***Leadership Incentive Fund***

The LIF aims to support the achievement of national courts' objectives not otherwise met by PJSI, through the provision of grants. LIF applications are currently open on a first come, first served basis. Please email your applications and any enquiries to: [Nicole.Cherry@fedcourt.gov.au](mailto:Nicole.Cherry@fedcourt.gov.au)

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### ***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](mailto:pjsi@fedcourt.gov.au)

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