

[View this email in your browser](#)



Pacific Judicial Strengthening Initiative Newsletter

Issue 8 | April 2021

As the COVID-19 pandemic enters its second year, the PJSI team continue to connect and engage with Partner Courts remotely. We are grateful for the continued support of the region's Chief Justices and our Partner Courts who consistently guide and enable PJSI to deliver activities to address their priority development objectives.

The PJSI has received an extension from the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) to deliver a small suite of activities during the remainder of 2021. We thank New Zealand MFAT for their ongoing support and we look forward to continuing our collaborations with Partner Courts this year.

This newsletter provides a snapshot of a selection the remote activities delivered since the end of 2020, and outlines upcoming PJSI activities.

Mr Lorenz Metzner
PJSI Team Leader



Vale Honourable Justice Regina Sagu

It is with much sadness that we express our deepest condolences to our former colleague and friend the Honourable Justice Regina Sagu, who died on the Friday 12 March 2021.

Justice Regina Sagu was an active and longstanding supporter of the Pacific Judicial Development Programme (PJDP) and PJSI. She graduated in PJSI's advanced *Training of Trainers* Workshop held in Auckland, and was appointed as a valued member of PJDP's regional training team.

Justice Sagu started her judicial career as a Magistrate, and was then appointed as founding Director of Papua New Guinea's Centre for Judicial Excellence, where she was instrumental in laying the foundations of judicial education in PNG. Her humility and perseverance equipped her to overcome many obstacles to introduce seminars and workshops for the judges and magistrates which are now an accepted and appreciated part of judicial service. In 2019, she was elevated as a Judge of the National Court where she realised her life's aspiration.

Justice Sagu's personal warmth, gentleness and lively sense of humour made her a pleasure to work with. She will be greatly missed by her friends and colleagues across the region.



Launching Human Rights Checklists across the Region

Six Human Rights Checklists, developed by PJSI Human Rights Adviser, Dr Carolyn Graydon, were officially launched during a regional webinar in February. The [ready-to-use Checklists](#) function as a resource to support coordinated 'best practice' actions to apply human rights in the daily practice of judges, magistrates and court staff.

The full series of Human Rights Checklists include:

- Checklist 1: Minimising Pre-Trial Detention
- Checklist 2: When Juveniles/Children come to court
- Checklist 3: Judicial Visits to Places of Detention
- Checklist 4: When Victims of Family and Sexual Violence come to Court
- Checklist 5: When People with Disabilities come to Court
- Checklist 6: Creating Welcoming, Inclusive Courts

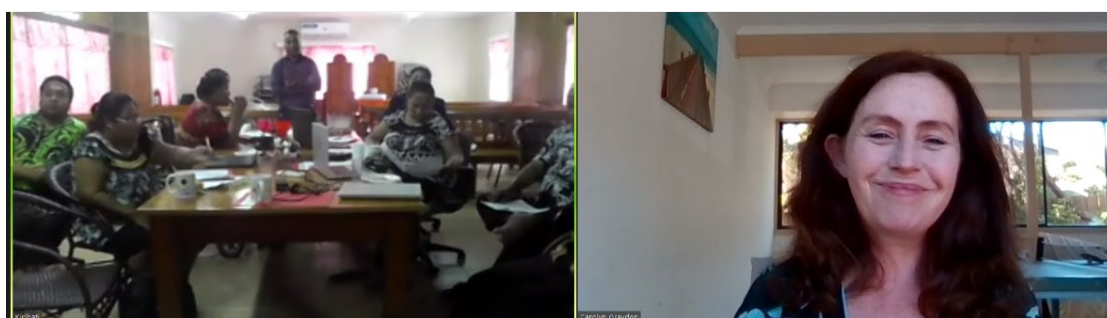
The Checklists are designed to be used alongside the [PJSI Human Rights Toolkit](#), which provides further background about the human rights standards that the recommended actions in the Checklists are based upon. The checklists have been circulated to all Partner Courts and can be accessed [here](#). The webinar recording is also available on the [PJSI website](#).



Kiribati: Applying Human Rights in Kiribati Courts

In January, PJSI delivered a 3-day remote workshop to Judges, Magistrates and Court Staff in Kiribati. The workshop was led by PJSI Human Rights Adviser Dr Carolyn Graydon who provided practical training on how human rights can be applied each day in court. The program also piloted the six human rights checklists prepared by Dr Graydon.

The Kiribati Courts enjoyed engaging with the Checklists and found that the Checklists would be extremely useful to them in their roles.



Legal Aid and Bar Associations across the Pacific Webinar Series

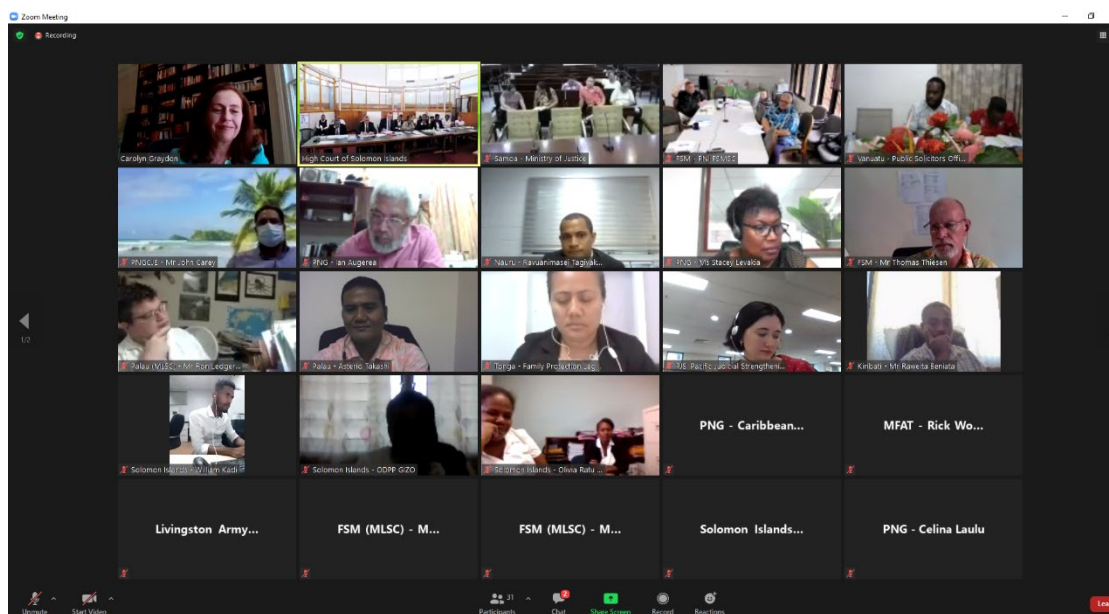
In late March, Dr Carolyn Graydon presented a three-part webinar series on Legal Aid and Bar Associations across the Pacific. During the webinar series, Dr Graydon presented her research findings from a review, identification and analysis of legal aid models in use throughout the Pacific; and assessed the needs of Pacific law associations in relation to their efforts to professionalise legal professions across the Pacific. Dr Graydon's full research is presented in two Situation Analyses which can be accessed [here](#).

Legal Aid actors and Lawyer Association representatives from across the region had the opportunity to discuss the research findings and their first-hand experiences of these challenges within their jurisdiction. Participants enjoyed the opportunity to learn about how different jurisdictions operate and were excited to be able to connect and network with their counterparts around the region.

In the final webinar, Dr Graydon and PJSI Access to Justice Adviser, Dr Livingston Armytage shared key findings with Chief Justices from PJSI Partner Courts to provide clarity regarding priorities, needs, possible reforms and sources of support. This provided an opportunity to consider how Courts can best contribute to strengthening access to justice via legal aid services and strengthened legal professions.



We are grateful to everyone who attended the webinar series, and were pleased to have representatives from 11 Pacific Island countries across the 3 webinars.



Coming up in 2021

Several regional activities are scheduled and planned for delivery in 2021. These include:

Seventh Chief Justices’ Leadership Forum: 21 April

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.

Tenth Initiative Executive Committee Meeting: 22 April

The remote tenth Initiative Executive Committee Meeting will provide an opportunity for PJSI to brief the Committee 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.

Solomon Islands: Gender and Family Violence Workshop: 12-16 April

PJSI Gender and Family Violence Adviser, Mr. Tevita Seruilumi will deliver a remote 5-day Gender and Family Violence Workshop to Judges, Magistrates and Court Staff in the Solomon Islands. The workshop aims to strengthen the courts understanding of: how to work effectively with other agencies and organisations to address family violence; victim



centred approaches in consideration to access, safety and fairness; and perpetrator accountability and current approaches to sentencing.

Remote Court Proceedings Toolkit Pilot: April

Building on the Remote Court Proceedings Toolkit recently launched, PJSI Advisers, Ms Jennifer Akers and Mr Tony Lansdell will be delivering remote support to 4 Partner Courts to build knowledge, skills and ability with respect to the technical, operational and related policy and procedures, and building confidence to successfully conduct remote court proceedings.

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

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

Issue 8 | April 2021

