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Peace & Conflict
Studies Institute
Australia



ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016

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Annual Report 2015-2016

Welcome from the chair of the board

In the financial year of 2015-2016 Peace and Conflict Studies Institute Australia (PaCSIA) has significantly expanded its geographical reach with the start of our work in Bougainville, Papua New Guinea (PNG). For a number of years most of PaCSIA's work was confined to small international research collaborations, such as the work conducted by Dr Volker Boege in Fiji and to projects and training in Australia. Now this has changed significantly. The Panguna Dialogue Project (PDP), funded by Misereor, has allowed a team of PaCSIA consultants to engage with project partners and stakeholders in Bougainville and PNG, as well as with church-based donors in Germany. PDP has significantly increased our operating budget and has opened the doors to a number of other projects in Bougainville, Solomon Islands and the Pacific. It has also brought a team of four PaCSIA consultants together as a joint project team, where in the past, it was normally only one or two PaCSIA consultants working on a joint project. And it has, so far, been extremely successful, thereby confirming our commitment to dialogical participatory practice and working in partnerships and through relationships on the ground.

At the same time PaCSIA has grown. We have welcomed two new members, Dr Joseph Hongoh and Dr Mark Love and have started to manage multiple projects simultaneously. Our finance officer, Mr Nick Heijm, has streamlined a lot of our administration and accounting procedures and we have updated our website to reflect PaCSIA's growing capacity and outreach.

Our work with Australian South Sea Islanders, the descendants of plantation workers from the South Pacific, who were brought to Queensland as indentured labourers is still ongoing, albeit only in an advisory capacity. We are still connected to the many groups of First Australians and refugees and asylum seekers that we have worked with in the past through our large Community Café events. While this work has changed somewhat and is carried on through the Café Conversations Project, the connections remain and we often touch base with our former clients and project partners. PaCSIA also remains connected to the University of Queensland, in particular through the work of Dr Volker Boege, Dr M Anne Brown, Dr Serge Loode and Dr Mark Love. And we are grateful to Dr Polly Walker on our board of directors for insights from across the Pacific and a connection to the American peacebuilding field.

Financially PaCSIA is on a solid footing. Our income slightly exceeds our annual expenses for accounting, website maintenance and indemnity insurance.

It is with great pleasure that I present this first annual report of PaCSIA and hope that you will find the information about our work in 2015-2016 useful. From now on we will publish an annual report at the end of each financial year.

Serge Loode

Chair, Board of Directors, PaCSIA

About us

PaCSIA is a not-for-profit organisation located in Brisbane, Australia. We design and conduct research, consulting and training in the areas of conflict analysis, conflict transformation and peacebuilding, and engage in culturally sensitive, dialogical research and practice.

PaCSIA focuses on the causes and dynamics of social conflict, including conflicts in communities, organisations, and political conflicts. We work in Australia, the Pacific and Southeast Asia. Our work includes:

- Culturally sensitive and cross-disciplinary research in partnership with local organisations.
- Conflict analysis and conflict mapping.
- Intervention design and facilitation of conflict transformation processes such as inter-group dialogue, mediation and problem-solving workshops.
- Training of project partners, service providers and communities in conflict resolution, facilitation, capacity-building and organisational development, cultural fluency and constructive conflict engagement.
- Participatory program evaluation and support of reflective practice.

PaCSIA's approach contributes to a better understanding of issues of conflict and peace through reflective practice, action research and participatory program design and evaluation.

We provide policy-relevant, innovative research results and recommendations, that are of practical relevance for the sustainable and peaceful development of communities and people in our region.

PaCSIA team members have strong national and international reputations as scholars and practitioners and are well connected in the field of peace and conflict studies.

We recognise and value non-Western local (customary, Indigenous) approaches to conflict resolution, fieldwork and qualitative research methods.

Our work on the development and peace nexus, on issues of structural and cultural violence, and on the interplay of state- and non-state based provision of security and justice in hybrid political orders, is an expression of our orientation towards positive peace and acknowledgment of local capacities for peace.

In our practice work we have helped to build bridges between different communities through dialogue and restorative practice. We regularly conduct training in conflict resolution processes and skills for government services, businesses and organisations.

Our work 2015-2016

PaCSIA was engaged in a variety of projects and consulting services during 2015 and 2016, including work in Bougainville (Papua New Guinea), as well as in South East Queensland.

Panguna Dialogue Project

From January 2015 PaCSIA has been involved in a community engagement and capacity-building project in the Panguna mine area of Central and South Bougainville. This huge mine in the mountainous interior of Central Bougainville was the primary catalyst of the internal war that devastated Bougainville between 1988 and 1998. It was shut down in an early stage of the war and remains closed even today. Over the last decade and a half, peacebuilding on Bougainville has come a long way. After the devastations of the crisis years in the 1990s, Bougainville peacebuilding is widely acknowledged as a success story all over the world. However, peacebuilding is not finished yet. There are still quite a number of crisis-related issues which have not been addressed or solved. There are still reconciliations outstanding, weapons disposal is not complete, there is the issue of missing persons, and there is still violence in the communities, the roots of which can be traced back to the crisis years. Domestic violence, caused by crisis-related trauma, or sorcery-related violence are cases in point.

The Panguna Dialogue Project (PDP) was designed to support peacebuilding, governance capacity-building and conflict resolution at this crucial grassroots community level.

The idea behind PDP is to bring peacebuilding closer to the communities and the people on the ground, particularly in those remote regions around Panguna where the crisis had started and where people still feel somewhat marginalised. This is why PDP's regional focus is on the Panguna mine area, including the three constituencies of Bolave, Ioro and Eivo-Torau. Here communities have special needs with regard to community-based peacebuilding, conflict resolution and governance capacity building.

The focus on the Panguna area furthermore allowed for the inclusion of the Panguna Meekamui into project activities. The Meekamui Government of Unity split off from the Bougainville Revolutionary Army during the first stages of the peacebuilding process and since then has not officially joined the peace process. However, the Meekamui have comprehensively participated in PDP and this also led to further constructive engagement between Meekamui and the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG). This is very important in view of the upcoming referendum. Several Memoranda of Agreement and Implementation between the ABG and Meekamui were inspired by PDP activities.

PDP's overall goal is to contribute to peacebuilding and the strengthening of grassroots democratic governance in Bougainville. Its aim is the empowerment of community leaders at the grassroots level – chiefs, elders, church leaders, women and youth leaders. These leaders have valuable experience in local governance, conflict resolution and the management of community affairs. However, due to rapid social and political change on Bougainville today, they constantly have to deal with new problems. This requires adapting to new challenges and acquiring new knowledge and skills. PDP supports them in doing so through a series of community dialogues.

The community dialogues respond directly to the needs of the people in the communities, building on the key values, skills and experiences, on the strengths and wisdom of community members. They offer an opportunity for participants to learn from each other and, together with the PDP team facilitators, to develop ideas and actions to address community problems. Shared visions for constructive change and village-centred action plans are outcomes of this process.

The foundations for the community dialogues were laid at the start of PDP, with a large gathering of community leaders of the three constituencies of Bolave, Ioro and Eivo-Torau, including Meekamui representatives, in Siimalaka village in Bolave in August 2015. This meeting came up with a

Memorandum of Commitment, the ‘Panguna Stakeholders Bolave Commitment – Panguna Dialogue Project’, which laid down the objectives, activities and management arrangements for the project, and which identified the main issues and challenges which were to be addressed by PDP. A project steering group was established and a team of Bougainville project facilitators was formed. The Steering Group included, among others, the three members of the ABG House of Representatives for the three constituencies of Bolave, Ioro and Eivo-Torau, the Honorables Dennis Lokonai, Michael Lapolela and Clarence Dency, as well as Commander Moses Pipiro as Meekamui representative. The Bougainville facilitator team was comprised of twelve members, six men and six women, from the three constituencies and from Meekamui, with a leadership team made up of Dominica Rovoeka from Eivo-Torau, Bonaventure Kenulei from Bolave, and Francis Nazia from Ioro.

Facilitated by the Bougainville PDP team, which was supported by three colleagues from PaCSIA, a series of community dialogues have been conducted in 2015 and 2016. They brought positive changes in the communities, in particular improved local governance and conflict resolution. For example, a number of reconciliation processes have been initiated, and new leadership structures have been established in some communities. Often community dialogues led to the development of community action plans, and the local facilitators accompanied communities in the implementation of these action plans.

In a later stage of PDP, stories of strength and stories of change were collected to demonstrate the effects PDP had in the communities. A special storytelling event was held with the Meekamui leadership in Panguna. This event was attended by several members of the Meekamui Government of Unity, including the President Phillip Miriori, the Vice-President Phillip Takaung and the Commander of the Meekamui Defence Force, Moses Pipiro.



Picture 1 Community planning workshop in Siimalaka Village

Communities decided that they wanted their stories to travel, and stories were shared among the different communities. Moreover, communities also agreed to share their stories with a wider Bougainville public. Some of the stories were published in the book “We made reconciliations happen: stories from the Panguna Dialogue Project” which presents the results of PDP. These stories include important lessons for grassroots peacebuilding and governance, which are of significance for all of Bougainville, particularly in view of the upcoming referendum.

PDP’s official title is ‘Building Capacity in Governance among Community Leaders in the Panguna Mine Area, Bougainville’. It is funded by Misereor e.V., the development agency of the Catholic Church in Germany. PDP is supported by the Catholic Diocese of Bougainville and the ABG Department for Referendum, Veterans Affairs and Peace. The ABG Vice-President Patrick Nisira and Bishop Bernard Unabali have shown ongoing personal interest in the progress of PDP.

The challenge ahead is to ensure the sustainability of PDP’s positive effects and the continuation of PDP-related and PDP-inspired activities. Community leaders, steering group members and Bougainville facilitators who have participated in PDP have committed themselves to continue working beyond PDP, which will come to an end at the end of 2016. It is obvious that the overall goal of PDP and its aims cannot be achieved by one single project. Continuous engagement is needed. Hence it is great news that, flowing from PDP activities, the Bougainville facilitator team has formed its own NGO – Bougainville Indigenous Dialogue (BID) which will do similar work. And it is also great news that, building on the success of PDP and its dialogical approach, planning for the conduct of Referendum Dialogues, to be carried out during the referendum process in 2017 to 2019, is well advanced.

Raise Your Voice Project

In 2015 PaCSIA partnered with Brisbane City Council (BCC) to investigate the ongoing exclusion of diverse young people from Muslim and other backgrounds and the risk of radicalisation. The Raise Your Voice Project aimed to engage with young people of diverse cultural backgrounds, with a focus on those who felt that they were marginalised and excluded. The project was designed in response to feelings of anger and frustration expressed by young people from diverse cultural backgrounds, and stemming from the ongoing debates about terrorism, violence and religious extremism. Specifically, young Muslim men stated in a meeting organised by Queensland Police Service (QPS), that they felt targeted by law enforcement services as part of counter-terrorism measures, aimed at deterring young people from joining the fight with the Islamic State (IS) in Syria and Iraq. Moreover, these young men stated, that they were being discriminated against, and that they were alienated from the dominant Australian society, because of their religion and socio-cultural background. This made it difficult to feel part of the Brisbane community. Arising from these sentiments, Brisbane City Council asked PaCSIA to partner with them, to design and implement a program to assist these community members.

Between June and December 2015, PaCSIA and Brisbane City Council held meetings with a number of young people as well as service providers and individuals working with young people. The goal was to gain a nuanced understanding of how the current discourse and political concerns about Islam and radicalisation was impacting on young people from different cultural backgrounds. At the same time the consultation also laid the groundwork for continued engagement of young people in initiatives that enhance pathways to leadership and social cohesion. The process began with informal conversations with a few young people and service providers. These informal conversations provided the platform for structuring the formal consultative process. Specifically, they helped generate questions for formal consultations, provided a summary of state of play in terms of issues that needed greater attention, and enabled both PaCSIA and BCC to build consensus on target groups for long-term engagement.



Picture 2 Preparing the Raise Your Voice Forum

The informal conversations led to a formal process of dialoguing with selected young people, community leaders, service providers and government agencies. These included semi-structured interviews and brainstorming discussions with service providers and government officers, semi-structured interviews with community and youth leaders from diverse cultural backgrounds, and two dialogical focus groups with young people from diverse cultural backgrounds. At the same time the PaCSIA team reviewed recent literature on radicalisation and terrorism connected to the IS and Al-Qaeda. During the consultation phase, a number of studies and policy papers were published in Australia and these were reviewed and discussed among the project team.

The project team also hosted a large dialogical youth event in the form of a Community Café Dialogue. Community Cafés utilise the internationally recognised and documented World Café Conversations facilitation method to encourage small-group dialogue in comfortable, respectful and creative settings for people of all ages and cultural and ethnic backgrounds. These events provide opportunities for peer learning, collaborative problem-solving and the discovery of similarities and differences. The Café event was held relatively early in the consultation process and the discussions laid important groundwork for some of the recommendations in this report, and provided important insights into how challenging it can be to develop safe and accessible spaces for dialogue among young people. The findings of the consultation and youth forum were provided in a project report to BCC.

International Students Service Forum



Picture 3 Discussions at the International Students Services Forum

Connecting International Students is a partnership between the Sunnybank Uniting Church, and Brisbane City Council's Youth Development and Regional Community Development Teams. The aim of the project is to develop collaborative responses to the interests and needs of international students living in Brisbane's South, to support their well-being and positive experience of community life.

In 2013, 75,000 international students were living in Brisbane, with the City benefitting socially, culturally and economically. While many students enjoy their time studying here, a significant number face considerable challenges, including social isolation, economic insecurity, language and cultural barriers, housing insecurity and exploitation in the work place. These challenges impact their health, well-being and quality of life.

The Connecting International Students project has evolved from work Sunnybank Uniting Church has been undertaking to support international students to integrate well into community life in the South Region. The Church recently undertook a project, Students Together Brisbane, funded through Council's Community Development and Capacity Building Grants.

This project included engagement with international students through a social/support group. This weekly gathering continues today since its first meeting in July 2013. It also included research into international students' experiences, issues hindering their integration into community, their interests and hopes for life in Brisbane.

To further deepen and progress this work, the Connecting International Students project delivered a community forum, facilitated by PaCSIA on 29th September 2015.

The Community Café style forum brought together key stakeholders, promoted Students Together Brisbane's research outcomes, deepened understanding of the issues, as well as identified priorities and potential responses. The forum culminated in the formation of a collaborative working group to progress these responses.

RTA Conciliation and Communication Skills Training

PaCSIA continues to be the preferred training provider of the Residential Tenancies Authority Queensland (RTA) for the training of their conciliation and client services team. Since 2012 PaCSIA has provided a Conciliation and Mediation Skills Training Program for new conciliators and also a Mediation Accreditation Preparation and Refresher Program for experienced conciliators. Together these programs meet the training requirements of the National Mediator Accreditation System (NMAS) and have assisted a number of conciliators from the RTA to gain national mediator accreditation. In 2015 we redesigned the training program to make the refresher program applicable to a broader range of staff from client services, including those who do not work as conciliators. The redesigned one-day program focused on a deeper understanding of human communication, listening skills and the ability to deliver clear and comprehensive explanations to clients. The workshop was delivered in May 2015 by Dr Serge Loode and Ms Mieke Brandon and was very well received by the staff who attended it. In November 2015 the Conciliation and Mediation Skills four-day workshop was delivered to nine staff from the RTA. In this workshop we introduced a new consultant trainer, Ms Melanie Schroder, to the RTA program. Melanie's facilitation skills and experience as a mediator and trainer received very positive feedback from the participants.

Scenic Rim Peacemakers Forum

Scenic Rim Regional Council asked PaCSIA to contribute to their War Stories and Our Town program, commemorating the year of the ANZAC in 2015. As a counterpoint to the many war-related themes engaged with during the year-long program, PaCSIA was asked to help design and facilitate a Community Peacemaking Forum. The forum was held on 5 August 2015 and asked the following questions: What does peace mean to you? What does it mean for others in your community. The event included panel discussion with PaCSIA director Dr M Anne Brown, a dance performance of the piece "War Letters" directed and performed by Ms Erica Rose Jeffrey and a Community Café Dialogue facilitated by Dr Serge Loode and Ms Casey Crocket. The forum was attended by about 40 participants who engaged deeply about the questions raised.

Bougainville Senior Leaders Training

In early 2016 PaCSIA partnered with Queensland University of Technology to deliver training to the highest level of government in Bougainville. As part of a consortium of organisations led by QUT we were successful in securing a tender for the "Bougainville Senior Leaders Training". The training participants involve all ministers and department heads of the Autonomous Bougainville Government, including the President and Vice-President. PaCSIA's experience in working in Bougainville and its partnership with the Department of Referendum, Veterans' Affairs and Peace were important for the tender application. The program involves the following six modules: Govern Strategically, Lead Ethically, Develop Policies, Develop Budgets, Engage the Community and Build Peace and Develop the Economy. PaCSIA is responsible for Module 5: Engage the Community and Build Peace. The program commenced in August 2015 and so far the feedback from program participants has been very good. The PaCSIA team, comprising Dr Serge Loode, Dr Volker Boege, Ms Erica Rose Jeffrey and Dr Joseph Hongoh is looking forward to their component in May 2017.

The Café Conversations Project

During the financial year of 2015-2016 PaCSIA has organised and facilitated the second year of The Café Conversations Project at Blackstar Roastery in West End. Blackstar provides space and a barista on the last Friday of every month to support the free public Café Conversations Project. The project has created a small but committed group of people who plan the topic and questions for each Café and then come together to dialogue and discuss important current events and questions regarding social inclusion, social justice and environmental concerns. The participant group often fluctuates and regular participants bring along friends and relatives. The aim of the Café

Conversations Project was to provide a sustainable and ongoing platform for community dialogue that is accessible to anyone in the greater Brisbane area. Feedback from participants has shown that the Café Conversations are highly appreciated by the people attending and that the participatory and community-driven approach to creating themes and questions is working.



Picture 4 Café Conversation event at Blackstar Roastery in West End

The Café Conversations Project has dealt with the following topics in 2015-2016: Environmental change in our community; what is our moral responsibility towards strangers; the role of religion in our society; what are the spaces, activities and opportunities that connect us; personal changes and social change; how do you balance your life; fresh start and what does sorry mean?

The planning meeting to discuss and agree on the topic of an upcoming Café is always on the second Wednesday of each month at Contessa Blackstar in the city, while the actual Café is on the last Friday of every month at Blackstar Roastery in West End.

Our people

In 2015-2016 PaCSIA had nine members who were either also directors or consultants. PaCSIA also worked with two associates during that time and engaged an external consultant, Mr Nick Heijm, as our finance officer.

In 2015 PaCSIA membership increased and we welcomed Dr Joseph Hongoh and Dr Mark Love as new PaCSIA members. Both bring important expertise and perspectives to PaCSIA that further enhances our capacity as an organisation.

Dr Joseph Hongoh

Joseph has interests in the politics of conflict management and resolution in post-colonial settings. Specific areas include: state-society relations in conflict management and resolution, state-building as conflict management, politics of development, community-based approaches to managing conflict relations between local and external interveners in peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction. His PhD thesis focused on Governance and Conflict Management in complex post-colonial settings, with East Africa as his case study. He also holds a Sessional Lecturer's position at the School of Political Science and International Studies, University of Queensland, where he teaches conflict resolution.

Geographically, Joseph has extensive work experience in the Great Lakes region and Horn of Africa. Here he has undertaken assignments in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan and Rwanda. He has also been involved in short-term initiatives in Zambia and Somalia. Outside of Africa, Joseph has worked in the Philippines and in Australia.

Before coming to Australia in 2009 to pursue a Rotary Peace Fellowship, Joseph spent 7 years working in local, national and regional programs in peacebuilding and conflict resolution in Africa. He worked with the Great Lakes Parliamentary Forum on Peace that provided space for Members of Parliament to strengthen linkages with their communities and other stakeholders in areas of peacebuilding and democratic governance. In the Philippines, he worked with the Office of the Presidential Advisor on the Peace Process (OPAPP) engaged in monitoring and evaluation of peacebuilding programs undertaken by the Peace Institutions Development Office (PIDO).

In Australia, Joseph has combined his academic engagement with community work. He has significantly contributed to the organisational capacity of African communities in Queensland and implemented the award-winning Diverse Brisbane Project for Brisbane City Council.

Dr Mark Love

Mark Love is an anthropologist with a strong emphasis on applied research and practice, with over 10 years experience working in the Pacific region (Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Australia). Mark's research and practice has focused on: development effectiveness and project evaluation; customary and community governance (especially how they inform development outcomes); social impact analysis; environmental management (political ecology); social mapping; cultural heritage (tangible and intangible); 'dialogic approaches' to community development and cross-cultural engagement; social inclusion (in particular finding alternative and more effective pathways to enhancing women's and young people's participation in decision making that effects their lives); the politics and economics of mobility and remittances; local-level socio-economic strategies and sustainable livelihoods; how micro (local) and macro (regional/global) historical processes inform the present (especially development outcomes); and, research methods.

Mark's work in the Solomon Islands primarily focused on evaluating several marine conservation initiatives in the Western Province, capturing and analysing local livelihood and community governance processes, and undertaking assessments of alternative livelihood initiatives in the area.

In Vanuatu, in addition to his work on the Vanuatu Kastom Governance Partnership and the Christensen Fund/Anglican Church 'Language, Family and Relationships' project, Mark's dissertation research included evaluations of the impacts of the women's micro-finance group VANWODs and several marine conservation and alternative livelihood programmes in two select regions of the country.

Board of directors 2015-2016

PaCSIA directors are elected every 2 years from the membership at the annual general meeting. During the financial year of 2015-2016 PaCSIA had the following board of directors:

Dr Anne Brown

Dr Volker Boege

Dr Serge Loode

Dr Polly Walker

Ms Anna Nolan

Our partners

Misereor e.V.

MISEREOR supports the weakest members of society: the poor, the sick, the hungry and the disadvantaged. It is of no importance whether those in need of help are men or women, what religious beliefs they hold or where they come from. To love one's neighbour is a basic attitude of Christian life, and MISEREOR's vocation is to translate this attitude into concrete action; the poor are our sisters and brothers, who have a right to a life of dignity. MISEREOR supports them in realising it. The organisation does not pursue any ends other than the promotion of development. The mandate given to MISEREOR by the German Bishops rules out the promotion of pastoral or missionary measures. MISEREOR supports PaCSIA's Panguna Dialogue Project.

INEF

The Institute for Development and Peace (INEF), which was founded in 1990, is an Institute of the University of Duisburg-Essen (Faculty of Social Sciences).

Autonomous Bougainville Government

The Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) was developed from the peace negotiations (Bougainville Peace Agreement) that concluded the Bougainville Crisis era. The purpose of the ABG is to function as the official governing entity within the Autonomous Region of Bougainville and also to represent and advocate for the interests of Bougainvilleans in the national context of Papua New Guinea and in international affairs. PaCSIA works closely with the Department of Referendum, Veterans' Affairs and Peace.

Conciliation Resources

Conciliation Resources is an independent international organisation working with people in conflict to prevent violence, resolve conflicts and promote peaceful societies.

We believe that building sustainable peace takes time. We provide practical support to help people affected by violent conflict achieve lasting peace. We draw on our shared experiences to improve peacebuilding policies and practice worldwide. PaCSIA works with Conciliation Resources' Pacific Programme with regards to peacebuilding work in Bougainville.

