

Centre for Human
Security and Social Change

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

*A Research Centre of the School of Humanities and
Social Sciences at La Trobe University*



LA TROBE
UNIVERSITY

Centre for
Human Security
and Social Change

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

La Trobe University acknowledges that our campuses are located on the lands of many traditional custodians in Australia.

We recognise their ongoing connection to the land and value their unique contribution to the University and wider Australian society.

We are committed to providing opportunities for Indigenous Australians, both as individuals and communities through teaching and learning, research and community partnerships across all of our campuses.

La Trobe University pays our respect to Indigenous Elders, past, present and emerging and will continue to incorporate Indigenous knowledge systems and protocols as part of our ongoing strategic and operational business.

The Centre also acknowledges the Indigenous owners and managers of the Northern Territory's lands and seas. We value our ongoing relationships with past, present and emerging Indigenous leaders, constituents and staff of the Aboriginal-controlled organisations that we work with in the Northern Territory.

We would also like to acknowledge the Indigenous peoples and local organisations who have generously shared their knowledge during the course of our ongoing research in the Pacific and Southeast Asia.

Cover photo: Participants of the Australia Awards Women Leading and Influencing program. Credit: esh photography

THE CENTRE ANNUAL REPORT

CONTENTS

About the Centre	4
Director's report	5
Highlights	6
Message from the Dean	7
Our Program	8
1. Grounding Social Change in Contextual and Political Realities	8
2. Measuring What Matters Through Locally Led MEL	10
3. Communication and Outreach	12
4. Higher Degree by Research, Teaching and Professional Development	13
Our Staff	15
Our Honorary Associates	17
Our Publications and other outputs	18
Our Funding	21
Our Governance	24
Our Partners	25

ABOUT

THE CENTRE FOR HUMAN SECURITY AND SOCIAL CHANGE

The Centre for Human Security and Social Change (the Centre) is a research centre based at La Trobe University in Melbourne. We conduct world-class research, evaluation, education and outreach that supports more locally led, inclusive and evidence-informed development practice.

We work collaboratively with researchers, evaluators, development practitioners, local organisations and international development agencies to better understand, support and enable the practice of social change. We see our role as connecting research and practice: bringing current thinking to social change work, while learning from and sharing emerging good practice from the contexts in which we work.

As outlined in our current [strategic plan](#), we aim to contribute to two goals:

- More locally led, inclusive development practice in which development actors collaborate as equals.
- More evidence-based, critically reflective and learning oriented development practice in which lessons endure.

We support social change initiatives with diverse partners in the Pacific, Southeast Asia and Indigenous Australia. Our work draws on our expertise in leadership and coalitions; governance, justice and accountability; gender equality, disability and social inclusion; Aboriginal-led development; and locally led monitoring, evaluation and learning.

We deliver research and evaluation in ways that are contextually grounded, politically informed and adaptive. Rather than providing one-off support to partners, we build long term relationships based on equity, mutual respect and solidarity.

Our approach is developmental and relational. We work with diverse world views and perspectives, amplify the voices of the people that projects are designed to benefit, build partner and participant capacity, and address cultural and gender diversity, race and power dynamics.

We extend our reach and influence beyond direct partners by turning research and evaluation findings into products and resources for different audiences and sharing them widely. We also share learning through conferences, workshops, seminars and professional development courses for practitioners and emerging leaders in the development sector.

Our interdisciplinary team includes Pacific Islander, Indigenous Australian and non-Indigenous Australian researchers and monitoring, evaluation and learning practitioners. We also work with an extensive network of researchers and practitioners in the Pacific, Southeast Asia and Indigenous Australia.

Our work is supported by La Trobe University and a range of external partners, including the Australian Research Council, managing contractors, not-for-profits, Aboriginal-controlled organisations, intergovernmental organisations and government agencies.

Through this work, the Centre contributes to research, practice and debate that supports more locally led, inclusive, politically informed and contextually grounded development practice. In Australia's development ecosystem, we occupy a distinctive role: working across research, evaluation, learning and practice, and in genuine partnership with local organisations, researchers, practitioners and international development agencies.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

LISA DENNEY

Welcome to our Annual Report for 2025.

2025 was a year of big change for the international development sector. The abrupt dismantling of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and large aid cuts by European donors fundamentally reshaped the international development landscape. While representing a turn away from internationalism and humanitarianism that has underpinned much development action, it offers an opportunity to fundamentally rethink 'international development' and better connect it with wider social change efforts.

We have known for a long time that there are many problems with the current model of international development. Despite reforms and adaptations, the fundamental model has remained resilient for 75 years. While certainly not how we may have wished change to be foisted upon us, the possibility for real transformation should not be missed.

At the Centre, we see great opportunity for transforming the way we think about and undertake 'international development' in three key ways. First, there is an opportunity to better connect with wider thinking and practice on social change. This includes connecting up work internationally with domestic social change work, including in Indigenous Australia, breaking down unhelpful siloes. Second, there is urgent work to be done to build more equitable partnerships and exchange that confront the neo-colonial and racist histories that continue to inform international development. Third, there is an opportunity for a stronger focus on meaningful impact and measuring that in locally relevant ways.

Throughout 2025, the Centre continued to contribute to new ways of working via two broad areas of work that structure this report: more contextually relevant and politically informed analysis driving social change programming; and more locally led monitoring, evaluation and learning.

Key highlights from this work in 2025 include:

- Supporting the establishment of a Community Justice Fund in Papua New Guinea to support local organisations working on gender-based violence, sorcery accusation-related violence, corruption and community safety.
 - Designing and implementing a locally led impact evaluation for the Australia-Indonesia Partnership Towards an Inclusive Society (INKLUSI) to understand how its work is contributing to the empowerment of marginalised people.
 - Supporting Aboriginal-led approaches to monitoring, evaluation and learning in Warlpiri communities in the Northern Territory that are grounded in local priorities, relationships and ways of knowing.
- Looking ahead to 2026, the Centre will develop a new Strategic Plan to guide our work over the next five-years, exploring new models for social change and more collaborative approaches to working with like-minded organisations.
- At the end of 2025, the Centre Advisory Committee Chair, Conny Lenneberg, stepped down after three years as Chair and six years on the Committee. We are immensely grateful to Conny for her many years of support and wise counsel to the Centre and wish her all the best with her next endeavours.

Lisa Denney, Director, CHSSC



HIGHLIGHTS

25

Projects



\$2.6 million

External
revenue



15

Partners

40



Industry conferences and
workshop presentations



10 staff (9 FTE)



14

Commissioned
research
reports

31

Other
research
outputs



16



Academic
publications



5

HDR students

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

PROFESSOR MATT MCGUIRE

I am pleased to introduce the Centre's Annual Report for 2025.

The Centre has once again demonstrated the vital contribution that humanities and social sciences research makes to addressing complex social challenges in Australia and across our region. As this report illustrates, the Centre's work advances more locally led, inclusive and evidence-informed approaches to social change through high-quality research, evaluation, professional development and partnerships. In doing so, it makes an important contribution to La Trobe University's commitment to social justice and to creating positive real-world impact.

Throughout 2025, the Centre delivered research and evaluation that informed policy and practice on issues including disability inclusion, gender equality, accountable governance, justice, leadership and community-led development. Its work with Aboriginal-controlled organisations and Warlpiri communities in Central Australia, alongside its partnerships across the Pacific and Southeast Asia, reflects the University's commitment to advancing Indigenous Australians while strengthening equitable partnerships and amplifying local knowledge and leadership.

The Centre also continues to exemplify La Trobe's ambition to deepen engagement with industry, government and community. During the year, the Centre worked with a diverse network of partners, securing more than \$2.6 million in external research funding. These partnerships ensure the Centre's research advances knowledge, strengthens organisational capability and supports meaningful change in the communities it serves.

The Centre's extensive collaborations across the Indo-Pacific make a significant contribution to the University's internationalisation strategy. Through research, professional development, higher degree supervision and knowledge exchange, the Centre continues to strengthen La Trobe's reputation as a trusted partner in addressing regional and global development challenges.

I would like to acknowledge the Centre's commitment to developing the next generation of researchers and practitioners, and to working alongside Indigenous, Pacific and Southeast Asian researchers.

The School of Humanities and Social Sciences is proud to support a research centre whose work so clearly demonstrates the value of humanities and social sciences research in advancing social justice, strengthening partnerships and delivering lasting impact.

I congratulate the Centre's staff, honorary associates, post-graduate students, contractors and partners on another outstanding year.

Professor Matt McGuire

Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences



OUR PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

In 2025, the Centre's work continued to focus on supporting more locally led, politically informed and evidence-based social change. Across Indigenous Australia, the Pacific and Southeast Asia, we worked with partners to generate research and learning, strengthen monitoring and evaluation practice, support professional development, and share practical insights with the wider development sector.

Over the year, the Centre delivered 25 research, monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL), and professional development projects in partnership with 15 organisations. These projects provided the basis for a wide range of research, learning and outreach outputs, including journal articles, commissioned reports, case studies, practice briefs, learning summaries, opinion pieces and newsletters. Many of these were co-authored, co-produced or delivered with locally engaged researchers, evaluators and partners.

The Centre also shared this learning widely through conferences, workshops, seminars and sector events, presenting at or chairing 40 sessions over the year. The examples below highlight some of the projects and outreach initiatives that shaped our work in 2025.

1. GROUNDING SOCIAL CHANGE IN CONTEXTUAL AND POLITICAL REALITIES

Working from a sound evidence base is key to effective social change work. Too often, however, that evidence base draws on externally derived, technical lessons that are a poor fit for local context. For evidence to be useful, it needs to be grounded in local realities, including the political dynamics that shape what is possible. Lessons from elsewhere can still be valuable, but they need to be tested against local experience and carefully adapted to context.

The Centre's research aims to generate and build on locally relevant evidence in a range of ways: working with local researchers and experts from design through to synthesis and writing; supporting local staff and organisations to undertake their own research; supporting the use of research to inform programming; and training development policymakers and practitioners in political economy analysis, so they can better understand the local context and what is politically feasible within it.

This requires a politically informed approach across our work, recognising that local knowledge and practices are shaped by power dynamics, relationships, interests and the "rules of the game". This helps ensure that "the local" is not romanticised, but is understood as reflecting particular viewpoints and excluding others.

The projects below show how the Centre and its partners are generating locally relevant evidence to support more grounded and politically informed social change work. Collectively, these examples demonstrate the Centre's commitment to supporting and profiling locally led research and evidence, and to showing how this can shape policy and programming.

Strengthening disability-inclusive responses to trafficking



Dr Elisabeth Jackson and co-researchers present their findings in Bangkok. Credit: ASEAN-ACT

Building on research collaboration that began in 2022, Centre researchers worked with the ASEAN-Australia Counter Trafficking Program (ASEAN-ACT) in 2025 on a second phase of research exploring the intersection between disability and trafficking in Southeast Asia. This phase extended the study to Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam, examining the experiences of people with disability and how counter-trafficking systems can better identify, support and protect them. Centre researchers worked closely with partners across the three countries to ensure the research reflected the realities people face and was useful to organisations working to address trafficking.

The research culminated in a final synthesis report that recommended ways to strengthen disability-inclusive counter-trafficking policy and practice, including through improved identification of victims with disability, more inclusive recovery and reintegration services, and better access to justice.

The study is informing policy and practice at national, regional and international levels. In Vietnam, the findings have been used to support the development of new disability inclusive resources to guide implementation of the country's 2024 counter-trafficking laws. In Indonesia, the research contributed to updates to trafficking guidelines and national action planning. In the Philippines, it helped connect agencies, contributed to disability inclusive guidelines for screening trafficking victims, and supported the review of police standard operating procedures.

Regionally, ASEAN bodies are progressing toward formal endorsement of a policy brief on disability and trafficking, which will give ASEAN governments a framework to strengthen accountability for disability-inclusive counter-trafficking policy. Internationally, the findings informed a Briefing Paper for the UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Girls, and the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Through this ongoing work, the Centre and its partners are helping ensure that people with disability are recognised in regional and global responses to trafficking, and that their rights and needs are placed at the centre of future reforms.

Supporting collective action within Pacific accountability ecosystems

Since 2023, the Centre has worked with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the Pacific to understand the political economy of accountability ecosystems across six countries. Centre researchers found that communities have established and sophisticated accountability systems that often look different from models used in donor countries. The research argued that these local systems need to be recognised and incorporated into efforts to strengthen accountable governance in the Pacific.

This work is helping shape how UNDP approaches accountability in development. Building on the research,



A woman does traditional weaving at Pepeyo Cultural and Educational Site in Port Vila, Vanuatu. Credit: Oratai Jitsatsue

UNDP has supported coalitions, or "Fellowship Schemes", of local accountability actors in Solomon Islands and Tuvalu. These coalitions are advancing governance improvements that reflect their cultural contexts and political realities. Throughout 2025, Centre staff and national researchers accompanied and documented their evolution, including their efforts to improve accountability in the use of constituency development funds in both countries.

In 2025, case studies capturing the stories of the [Solomon Islands](#) and [Tuvalu](#) coalitions were drafted, and a [synthesis report](#) drew out insights on how external organisations can support local collective action on accountable governance. The case studies and synthesis report provide practical lessons on how local accountability systems can be better recognised, supported and strengthened.

Making women's everyday leadership visible



Participants of the WLI program. Credit: Quince and Mulberry Studios

The Centre has been a learning partner to Women Leading and Influencing (WLI) since 2022. In 2025, this work focused on documenting diverse women's leadership across the Pacific. This is helping to build evidence of the many forms women's leadership can take, including forms often overlooked in conventional understandings of leadership.

The research was undertaken in collaboration with women researchers across the Pacific, who interviewed ten women leaders nominated by WLI participants and alumni. Case studies profiled each woman's approach to leadership, while a synthesis report drew out lessons across the cases, including the importance of leadership that is relational, collaborative, culturally grounded and oriented towards collective change.

The research has supported wider learning and dialogue on women's developmental leadership in the Pacific, including through a public learning event featuring women leaders from the study. Findings have also been integrated into WLI's flagship six-month online leadership development course for Australia Awards scholars and alumni from across the Pacific.

Supporting the reality of justice provision in Papua New Guinea

The Centre has been supporting the Australia-Papua New Guinea Law and Justice Partnership (APLJ) to better align its work with the realities of Papua New Guinea's plural justice system. The formal justice system is often inaccessible for many people due to geography, cost, language and familiarity. Instead, people often rely on customary, community and Church-based dispute resolution and support.

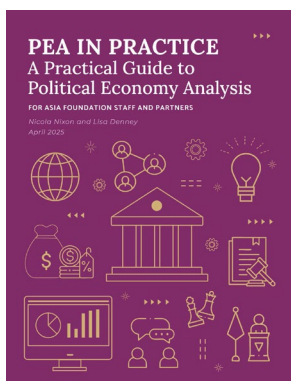
Centre researchers have supported APLJ to design, implement and learn from a [Community Justice Fund](#). The Fund provides support to front-line justice providers across Papua New Guinea working on issues of gender-based violence, sorcery accusation-related violence, and corruption.

The Fund is now supporting a range of initiatives, including safe houses for women fleeing gender-based violence, livelihoods and conflict prevention work, financial counselling, and community dispute resolution in cases of sorcery accusation-related violence or community conflict. Recognising that small, local organisations need more than just funding, the Community Justice Fund also supports organisations to plan, implement, and report on their activities, provides training, and connects organisations so they can share experiences and learn from each other.

In September 2025, the Australian Attorney-General, Hon. Michelle Rowland MP, [presented five new grants](#) to Papua New Guinean organisations, noting: "The Community Justice Fund grants show what partnership in action looks like, supporting our Pacific community leaders to drive real change in their communities."

The Fund demonstrates how development support can work with existing justice practices while strengthening the local organisations that are already responding to community needs.

Helping development practitioners think and work politically



Since 2022, the Centre has partnered with The Asia Foundation to design and deliver professional development on political economy analysis for staff at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. In 2025, this work expanded to include a new advanced course and the publication of a

[Practical Guide to Political Economy Analysis](#). This guide

brings together existing training material into step-by-step guidance, with a user-friendly framework, participatory tools, and practical case studies.

The training and guide are supporting development professionals to better understand the local contexts they work within, and the political nature of the changes they seek to support.

2. MEASURING WHAT MATTERS THROUGH LOCALLY LED MEL

Monitoring, evaluation and learning is often treated as a technical process. Yet decisions about what is measured, whose perspectives are heard and what lessons are drawn are all shaped by power and politics.

Across our work, the Centre seeks to make these dynamics visible. In line with our commitment to locally led social change, we aim to ensure that local and Indigenous knowledge, priorities and ideas of success shape how evidence is generated, interpreted and used. This requires communities and local organisations to be recognised as knowledge holders, decision-makers and users of evidence.

The Centre supports locally led MEL by co-designing MEL systems and evaluations with local partners; working with local researchers, evaluators and Indigenous knowledge holders; supporting community-led data collection and sense-making; and helping programs use evidence for learning and adaptation.

The projects below show how locally led MEL can be put into practice and demonstrate the Centre's commitment to shifting how evidence is defined, generated and used.

Understanding empowerment through lived experience in Indonesia

The Centre has been supporting the Australia-Indonesia Partnership Towards an Inclusive Society (INKLUSI) to understand how its work is contributing to the empowerment of marginalised people.

Between 2023 and 2025, Centre staff worked with researchers from Cakra Wikara Indonesia and Saraswati to undertake an impact evaluation focused on marginalised women, persons with disabilities, members of ethnic minorities and indigenous communities, and transwomen. Rather than beginning with pre-defined indicators of empowerment, the evaluation asked what empowerment means to marginalised people themselves, how this is changing over time, and how INKLUSI partners have contributed to these changes.

This required a locally led and participatory approach to measurement. The team undertook a scoping phase to

understand how different groups understood empowerment and used this to develop seven domains of empowerment, including self-confidence and self-acceptance, family and community support, meeting basic needs, safety, wellbeing, learning and skills, and having a say in decisions.

To make the process accessible, the evaluation team used visual tools, including a five-point scale based on the growth of a rice plant, which participants used to reflect on their own experiences of change.

The evaluation found that INKLUSI partners are helping improve the lives of marginalised people, particularly by building confidence, skills, social connections, and access to services and livelihoods. It also showed that change happens differently across groups and locations.

By centering the perspectives of marginalised people, the evaluation generated evidence that is both rigorous and locally meaningful, demonstrating how locally led MEL can shift measurement away from externally defined indicators towards understanding the changes that communities themselves recognise as important.



Members of the team involved in the impact evaluation of the INKLUSI program at a workshop in Jakarta.

Supporting learning and adaptation in Papua New Guinea

Since 2023, the Centre has worked with the Local Leadership and Collective Action Program (LLCAP), an initiative that supports Papua New Guineans to engage in participatory democracy by supporting developmental leaders and networks, and by creating space and resources for reform coalitions to act on key public policy issues.

LLCAP is delivered by The Voice Inc. (TVI), a local development organisation, and supported by the Australian Government. LLCAP complements TVI's long-standing mission of "building a movement to equip citizens to use their power to create sustainable change." The Centre has worked alongside TVI to refine its monitoring, evaluation, research, learning and adaptation practice, with the goal of ensuring these processes are owned and led by TVI and its coalition partners. This has included acting as a sounding board on tools and approaches, supporting six-monthly

Pause and Reflect sessions, and supporting the translation of learning into accessible knowledge products and practice.

In 2025, the Centre and TVI co-designed a series of case studies exploring LLCAP's contribution to collective action on youth opportunities, sorcery accusation-related violence, and the use of Problem Driven Iterative Adaptation to support coalitions. These case studies were developed collaboratively, drawing on TVI's monitoring data, staff reflections, interviews with key partners, and iterative sense-making with partners and stakeholders.



Village map and complexity. Photo credit: Shutterstock

Through this partnership approach, the Centre is supporting TVI to generate credible evidence, reflect on what is working, adapt its strategies, and tell its own story of change.

Supporting community-led learning in Central Australia

The Centre's work in Indigenous Australia supports Aboriginal-led approaches to monitoring, evaluation and learning that are grounded in local priorities, relationships and ways of knowing. This includes long-term work with Warlpiri communities and organisations in Central Australia to strengthen community ownership of evidence and learning, with a particular focus on supporting community researchers.

In 2025, the Centre continued its work with the Central Land Council and Kurra Aboriginal Corporation to support implementation of the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust's tracking and learning approach across Yuendumu, Nyirrpi, Willowra and Lajamanu. This included an annual community researcher workshop, community-based fieldwork in which Yapa researchers helped set priorities and collected stories in Warlpiri and simple English, and mentoring and reflection sessions where researchers worked together to interpret findings and reflect on progress.

The Centre also supported the Lajamanu community and the Central Land Council on the Nguurju Kirri Palkakurlu (Good Life) Project. This involved analysing three years of data, working with Yapa researchers to make sense of findings,

and sharing learning back with community members, organisations and decision-makers.

Yapa-led presentations at the Lowitja Institute International Indigenous Health and Wellbeing Conference and the World Indigenous Peoples Conference in Education helped share this work more widely.

This work is supporting Aboriginal researchers and decision-makers to define what matters, interpret evidence on their own terms, and use learning to strengthen programs and advocate for change.

Building a community around locally led MEL

The Centre also shares learning about locally led MEL with the wider social change sector. This work focuses on practical questions about how evidence, learning and accountability are understood, and how they can be shaped more directly by local priorities and knowledge.

A key platform for this is the Centre's MEL Community of Practice, a monthly forum that brings together local evaluators and practitioners for peer learning and exchange. The Community of Practice supports Indigenous Australian, Pasifika and Southeast Asian practitioners to share approaches, test ideas and learn from each other's experience.

In 2025, the Centre also shared learning through external sessions, including a DevIntel Lab-CHSSC session on locally led MEL. The session introduced a conceptual framing for locally led MEL and drew on practical examples from the Centre's work to explore how communities can define impact, interpret evidence and use learning for change.



Members of the Centre's MEL COP at a MEL conference

3. COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

The Centre's communication and outreach work extends the influence of our research and evaluation beyond individual projects. We share findings through our website, newsletter and social media, and engage with practitioners, academics and policymakers through conferences, seminars, workshops and inquiries.

This work is also an important part of how the Centre contributes to sector debate and learning. It creates opportunities to share insights from our work, test ideas with others, and provide platforms for partners in Indigenous Australia, the Pacific and Southeast Asia to share their own experience and learning.

The future of aid

In the wake of the dismantling of USAID and cuts to aid budgets globally, the Centre contributed to sector discussions on the future of aid and development assistance.

Centre Director Lisa Denney was featured in an [Asia Rising podcast](#) exploring the impact of these cuts across Asia, and published a [DevPolicy blog](#) reflecting on the opportunity to rethink development assistance. In both, she argued that international organisations need to accept a smaller footprint and that political consensus around aid needs to be rebuilt.

The Centre also co-hosted a public event with La Trobe Asia on the [Future of Aid in the Asia Pacific](#) with the UNDP Pacific Resident Representative as a keynote speaker. In addition, the Centre hosted the Australian Council for International Development CEO Forum at La Trobe University. Centre Director Lisa Denney spoke at the opening panel of the Forum.

Connecting research and practice at RDI Exchange 2025

The Centre contributed to sector learning and debate at RDI Exchange 2025, a major gathering of Australia's international development research and practice community.

Centre staff led and contributed to masterclasses, panels and facilitated discussions on supporting developmental leadership; using political economy analysis; and using research and evidence to change governance systems. Across these sessions, staff shared practical insights from the Centre's work at the intersection of research and practice, with a focus on how evidence can inform politically feasible, locally grounded approaches to social change.



Senior Research Fellow Mardi Grundy (far left) facilitates a panel discussion on leadership with alumni of the Women Leading and Influencing program. Credit: UTS Institute for Sustainable Futures

4. HIGHER DEGREE BY RESEARCH, TEACHING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Alongside our research, evaluation and outreach, the Centre helps build the capabilities needed for more locally led, politically informed and evidence-based social change. We do this through higher degree research supervision, teaching and professional development programs that connect scholarship with the practical challenges of development work.

Higher Degree by Research

The Centre contributes to scholarship by supporting higher degree research that engages with the practical and political challenges of social change. In 2025, Centre staff supervised or co-supervised five PhD candidates working on topics that closely align with the Centre's interests in leadership, locally led development, monitoring and evaluation, political economy and gender.



KOLAIA RAISELE

A critical realist exploration of youth leadership and civic engagement in Vanuatu

Supervisors: John Taylor (Social Inquiry) and Aidan Craney (co-supervisor)

Proposed completion - May 2026



MARÍA PAULA HERNÁNDEZ RUIZ

Datafying Gender: On Quantification, Statistics and Networks in the Data for Development Space

Supervisors: Jasmine-Kim Westendorf (Social Inquiry) and Aidan Craney (co-supervisor)

Proposed completion - November 2026



MAUD MUKOVA-MOSES

Monitoring and Evaluation Practice in Locally Led Development: Exploring Intersections and Impact

Supervisors: Amy Gullickson (Faculty of Education, University of Melbourne), Justin See (School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Melbourne) and Elisabeth Jackson (co-supervisor)

Proposed completion - February 2029



KIRK GIBSON

How can local organisations stimulate leadership that supports developmental outcomes in Papua New Guinea.

Supervisors: John Taylor (Social Inquiry) and Lisa Denney (co-supervisor)

Proposed completion - November 2027



JENNIFE BORONG

The making of water (in)security: A hydrosocial examination of the Philippine domestic water supply

Supervisors: Brooke Wilmsen (Social Inquiry) and Lisa Denney (co-supervisor)

Proposed completion - November 2027

Professional Development

The Centre's professional development work supports policymakers, practitioners and organisations to apply politically informed, inclusive and adaptive approaches in their own contexts. Programs are co-designed with partners and draw on the Centre's research, evaluation and practice experience. They translate emerging evidence and good practice into practical learning that helps participants think differently about social change and apply new tools in their day-to-day work. In 2025, this included courses for DFAT staff, political economy analysis training, and developmental leadership training for emerging Pacific leaders.

Building development capability through DFAT's Diplomatic Academy

The Centre is one of six providers contracted by DFAT to provide learning and development support to DFAT's [Diplomatic Academy](#). In 2024 the Centre successfully bid to co-design, build and deliver six training courses for DFAT staff in partnership with La Trobe's Education Services Team, the [Humanitarian Advisory Group](#) and the [Development Intelligence Lab](#). Over the course of 2025, the partnership delivered three courses: Introduction to

International Development, Core Concepts of Social Change, and Developmental Leadership, with three remaining courses to be delivered in 2026.

Building practical political economy skills

Since 2022, the Centre has partnered with [The Asia Foundation's](#) governance team to design and deliver regular political economy analysis training for DFAT staff. In 2025, the Centre developed a new, six-module, advanced course which was delivered over two days to DFAT staff in Canberra in May. In addition, the Centre designed and delivered bespoke PEA training to staff from the DFAT-funded PNG Incentive Fund in Port Moresby in July and delivered practitioner level PEA training to DFAT staff in Canberra in August.

Building developmental leadership in the Pacific

In 2025 the Centre once again delivered training on developmental leadership to emerging Pacific leaders as part of the DFAT-funded [Women Leading and Influencing](#) program. The four-session course was delivered online over March and April to Pacific Australia Awards participants and alumni.

OUR STAFF

CONTINUING AND FIXED TERM STAFF



Centre staff in 2025 from left to right then top to bottom: Aidan Crane, Mardi Grundy, Thushara Dibley, Serena Ford, Lisa Denney, Shane D'Angelo, Chris Adams, Eileen Christou, Elisabeth Jackson, Sarah Leslie, Alex Gyles. Credit: John Jiang, La Trobe.

Associate Professor Lisa Denney

Centre Director and Principal Research Fellow

- PhD (International Politics), Aberystwyth University, UK
- Master of Science in Economics (Security Studies), University of Wales
- Bachelor of Arts (International Relations), University of Queensland
- Research Associate, Overseas Development Institute
- Research Associate, Developmental Leadership Program
- Committee Member, Research for Development Impact Network
- Member, Global Working Group on Customary and Informal Justice
- Expert, Westminster Foundation for Democracy Roster of Experts
- Member, La Trobe Research Centre Directors Forum
- Member, La Trobe University School of Humanities and Social Sciences Research and Industry Engagement Committee

Dr. Elisabeth Jackson

Senior Research Fellow

- PhD (Southeast Asian Studies and Linguistics), Australian National University
- Master of Applied Anthropology and Participatory Development, Australian National University
- Graduate Certificate (Evaluation), University of Melbourne
- Bachelor of Arts with Honours (Linguistics and Indonesian), University of New South Wales
- Board Director, Research for Development Impact Network
- Member, Australian Evaluation Society
- Member, Development Studies Association of Australia
- Member, Indonesia Council

Dr. Thushara Dibley

Senior Research Fellow

- PhD, University of Sydney
- Bachelor of Liberal Studies (Hons), University of Sydney
- Member, Indonesia Council

Mardi Grundy,

Senior Research Fellow

- Master of International Studies, University of Wollongong
- Graduate Diploma of Psychology, Monash University
- Bachelor of Arts (Community and Environment), University of Wollongong
- Member, Australian Evaluation Society

Sarah Leslie <i>Senior Research Fellow</i>	• Master of Evaluation, University of Melbourne • Bachelor of Arts (Hons), University of Melbourne • Member, Australian Evaluation Society
Dr. Aidan Craney <i>Senior Lecturer</i>	• PhD (Anthropology), La Trobe University • Master of Social Science (International Development), RMIT University, Australia • Bachelor of Social Work, The University of Melbourne, Australia • Member, Association for Social Anthropology in Oceania • Member, Australian Anthropological Society • Member, Australian Association for Pacific Studies • Member and Treasurer, Development Studies Association of Australia
Alex Gyles <i>Research Fellow</i>	• Master of Public Policy and Management, The University of Melbourne • Bachelor of Arts (Hons)(Anthropology and Politics), La Trobe University • Co-Convenor, CHSSC Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Community of Practice • Panel Member, Strategic Development Group
Shane D'Angelo¹ <i>Research Fellow</i>	• Master of Business Administration, Australian Institute of Business • Associate Degree in Management, Australian Institute of Business • Graduate Certificate in Population Health Practice, University of South Australia • Associate, Circa Research • Affiliate, Flinders Health and Medical Research Institute • Member, Lowitja Institute
Chris Adams <i>Business Manager and Senior Outreach and Learning Advisor</i>	• Master of Arts (Development Studies), Monash University • Graduate Diploma (Community Development), Philip Institute of Technology • Bachelor of Science (Hons) (Geology), University of Melbourne
Eileen Christou <i>Senior Administration Coordinator</i>	• Bachelor of Commerce, Deakin University

CASUAL STAFF

Napaljarri Rose, *Senior Research Advisor*

Serena Ford, *research and communication support*

Ujjwal Krishna, *research and communication support*

Louise Stanley, *research support*

Glenda Wayne, *research support*



Left to right: Napaljarri Rose, Serena Ford, Ujjwal Krishna, Louise Stanley, Glenda Wayne

VALE NAPALJARRI ROSE

We were deeply saddened by the passing of Napaljarri Rose in early 2026. Napaljarri was a Warlpiri woman who hailed from Lajamanu community in the northern Territory. She was a founding member of the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust which has been a driving force for Aboriginal-led development in the Northern Territory and beyond. During her time at the Centre, she played a critical role in bringing Warlpiri ways of knowing, being and doing into the work and was integral to the development of the Centre's approach to Indigenous-led monitoring and evaluation. Napaljarri lived a remarkable life as an educator, mentor, linguist, change maker, role model and researcher. She will be sorely missed.

¹ Commenced 30/06/2025

OUR HONORARY ASSOCIATES

**GUILHERMINA DE ARAUJO – ADJUNCT
RESEARCH FELLOW**

Independent Researcher, Dili, Timor-Leste

DR. GLENN BOND – ADJUNCT RESEARCH FELLOW

*Principal consultant, Glenn Bond Development Consulting
and Senior Lecturer in Development in Practice, University of
Otago, New Zealand*

**DR. TIM BUDGE – ADJUNCT SENIOR RESEARCH
FELLOW**

Independent consultant

**ROSALIND DAVID – ADJUNCT SENIOR RESEARCH
FELLOW**

Independent consultant

**ALLAN MUA ILLINGWORTH – ADJUNCT
RESEARCH FELLOW**

*Director, Mua'akia Consulting and monitoring and evaluation
specialist, Fiji.*

ROMITESH KANT – ADJUNCT RESEARCH FELLOW

*Independent research consultant and PhD candidate at the
Australian National University*

**DR. LINDA KELLY – ADJUNCT ASSOCIATE
PROFESSOR**

Director, Praxis Consulting.

DR. PAUL KELLY – ADJUNCT RESEARCH FELLOW

*Lecturer, Organisation Studies and Human Resource
Management Group, Essex Business School, University of
Essex, UK.*

DR. EKAWATI LIU – ADJUNCT RESEARCH FELLOW

*Researcher and development practitioner with experience in
community development, inclusive education and disability
policy.*

**DR. ABBY MCLEOD, ADJUNCT ASSOCIATE
PROFESSOR**

Director, Ideate Pty Ltd

**DR. CLAIRE MCLOUGHLIN – ADJUNCT
PROFESSOR**

*Associate Professor, International Development Department,
University of Birmingham*

**DEBORAH RHODES – ADJUNCT SENIOR
RESEARCH FELLOW**

Principal Consultant, Leadership Strategies Pty Ltd

CHRIS ROCHE – EMERITUS PROFESSOR

Independent consultant

JOPE TARAI – ADJUNCT RESEARCH FELLOW

PhD candidate, Australian National University, Australia.

**BARBARA THOMAS – ADJUNCT RESEARCH
FELLOW**

Senior Programs Manager, The Voice Inc, Papua New Guinea

**JASON TITIFANUE – ADJUNCT RESEARCH
FELLOW**

*PhD candidate, School of Geography, Earth and Atmospheric
Sciences, University of Melbourne, Australia.*

**DR. KAYLI WILD – ADJUNCT SENIOR RESEARCH
FELLOW**

*Associate Professor and Principal Research Fellow, Centre
for Child Development and Education at Menzies School of
Health Research, Charles Darwin University, Australia*

OUR PUBLICATIONS AND OTHER OUTPUTS

Centre staff, honorary associates and PhD students produce a wide range of books, book chapters, journal articles and other research outputs each year. Their combined research outputs are listed below together with the outreach activities undertaken by Centre staff. These outputs and outreach activities are often produced or undertaken in collaboration with our partners. The names of Centre staff, honorary associates and PhD students are in **bold** text.

JOURNAL ARTICLES (TOTAL: 13)

1. **Craney, A., Chamberlain, D. & Roche, C.** (2025) "Supporting 'Doing Development Differently' effectively: Analysing attributes, networks and impacts of donor-supported Pacific development coalitions." *Asia & the Pacific Policy Studies*, 12(2), e70013. <https://doi.org/10.1002/app5.70013>.
2. **Jackson, E., Liu, E.,** Salim, I., Saidah, C., Yulianto, J., Ramadhan, N. S., Sendjaya, S. (2025). "From disability identity to disability activism: leadership journeys of persons with disabilities in Indonesia." *Disability & Society*, 1–24. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09687599.2025.2479558>
3. **Romitesh Kant,** Vehia Wheeler & Mereoni Chung (08 Apr 2025). "The Pacific Ocean of peace: a promise or a paradox?" *Australian Journal of International Affairs*, DOI: 10.1080/10357718.2025.2488791.
4. **Kant, Romitesh.** (2025). "Bridging histories and horizons: Professor Brij Lal's contribution to Fiji's past and future." *Australian Journal of Biography and History*. 9. 147-158. 10.22459/AJBH.09.2025.09.
5. **Kant, Romitesh & Baker, Kerry.** (2025). "A Fiji (parliament) for all Fijians? The impact of gender-blind and race-blind electoral provisions in a divided society." *Democratization*. 1-22. 10.1080/13510347.2025.2531138.
6. Mangubhai, Sangeeta & Vave, Ron & Begg, Shereen & Chung, Mereoni & Vakaciriwaqa, Semaema & Golbuu, Yimnang & Gomese, Chelcia & **Kant, Romitesh** & Kitolelei, Salanieta & Rami, Ravinesh & Thomas, Nunia & Varea, Rufino & Whiteside, Andra. (2025). "Increasing Pacific Islander research and authorship in the academic literature." *Pacific Conservation Biology*. 31. 10.1071/PC25011.
7. **Kant, Romitesh.** (2025). "The contours of masculinity: leadership, ethnicity, and gendered power in Fiji's 2022 elections." *The Round Table*. 114. 1-23. 10.1080/00358533.2025.2547255.
8. Finau, Glenn & Rotuivaqali, Masilina & Michael, Sivendra & Delaisainiai, Aminisitai & Scobie, Matthew & Fukofuka, Peni & **Kant, Romitesh & Titifanue, Jason** & Ben, Chethna & Vunibola, Suliasi & Norris, Ellie. (2025). "Indigenous accounting as a duality: resistance and alternatives in Fiji's informal housing." *Accounting, Auditing & Accountability Journal*. 1-23. 10.1108/AAAJ-09-2024-7368.

9. **Titifanue, Jason.** (2025). "Justice washing extractivism: Pacific Island activist perspectives on just transitions and deep-sea mining." *Global Environmental Change*. 94. 103053. 10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2025.103053.

10. **Bond, G.,** Fahmy, H., Gunasena, A., & Razkaoui, H. (2025). "Claiming agency and creating change: shifting power in international non-government organisations." *Development in Practice*, 1–11. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09614524.2025.2544025>

11. Spencer, C.N., Ingham, X., **de Araujo, G.,** Amir, L., **Wild, K.** (2025). "Knowledge, attitudes, and preparedness of healthcare providers trained to respond to violence against women: evaluation of the adapted World Health Organization curriculum in two municipalities in Timor-Leste." *BMC Health Serv Res* 25, 770. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12913-025-12627-7>.

12. McNiell-Stowers, H., **Kant, R.** (2025). "The (in)security dilemma: Bilateral security agreements in the Pacific Islands region." *Journal of Interdisciplinary Research*. Volume 9. Issue 3. Special Issue 2025.

13. Leite-Soares, G., Wharton-Smith, A., **Wild, K.,** & Lokot, M. (2025). "We Are the Eyes and Ears for Them": A Qualitative Study on the Influence of Religious and Cultural Values on Service Providers' Response to Intimate Partner Violence in Timor-Leste." *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 0(0). <https://doi.org/10.1177/08862605251392273>

PEER-REVIEWED COMMISSIONED RESEARCH REPORTS (TOTAL: 3)

1. **Denney, L., Bond, G., Craney, A. and Illingworth, A.** (2025). *The Political Economy of accountability ecosystems - Charting a new course in the Pacific*. Synthesis Report. Melbourne: La Trobe University. https://www.latrobe.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/1653332/UNDP-Synthesis-Report_-_Political-economy-of-accountability-ecosystems_Feb_2025.pdf.
2. **Denney, L.** and Rocha Menocal, A. (2025). *We Must Think and Work Politically. Good Governance in National Security: Policy Brief 1 on Building Stronger Institutions that Deliver Genuine Security to All*. United Nations. https://www.un.org/ssr/sites/www.un.org.ssr/files/we_must_think_and_work_politically-3.pdf.

3. **Denney, L., McLeod, A. and Krishna, U.** (September 2025). *A conceptual framework for the CALL4Change Learning Journey*. Melbourne: La Trobe University and DFAT. https://www.latrobe.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/1756391/CALL4Change-Conceptual-Framework-Final.pdf.

OTHER COMMISSIONED RESEARCH REPORTS (TOTAL: 11)

1. **Denney, L.,** Rajalingam, G. and Soares, A. (2025). *Local Impact of Foreign Interests in Timor-Leste*. London: Cross-border Conflict Evidence Policy and Trends Research Program. <https://www.xcept-research.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Timor-Leste-case-study-FINAL.pdf>.
2. **Jackson, E. and Dibley, T.** (2025). *Disability and trafficking in persons in ASEAN: Protecting those who are vulnerable*. Regional Policy Brief. ASEAN Australia Counter Trafficking Program.
3. **Jackson, E., Dibley, T.,** Qoiriah, N., Un, V. and Than, M. (2025). *Exploring the intersection between disability and trafficking: Cambodia Country Brief*. ASEAN Australia Counter Trafficking Program.
4. **Jackson, E., Dibley, T.,** Qoiriah, N., and Chanthavong, P. (2025). *Exploring the intersection between disability and trafficking: Lao PDR Country Brief*. ASEAN Australia Counter Trafficking Program.
5. **Jackson, E., Dibley, T.,** Qoiriah, N., and Hoan, N. T. N. (2025). *Exploring the intersection between disability and trafficking: Vietnam Country Brief*. ASEAN Australia Counter Trafficking Program.
6. Davies, L. and **Stanley, L.** (2025). *Central Land Council Community Development Program - Monitoring Report July 2023 - June 2024*. Alice Springs. Central Land Council.
7. L. Davies and **Stanley, L.** (2025). *Central Land Council Community Development Program - The Matched Funds Initiative Monitoring Report July 2022 - June 2024*. Alice Springs. Central Land Council.
8. **Jackson, E.,** Phillips, S., Faleolo, R., Masta, M., Pitasua, L. and Hazelman, L. (2025). *Everyday leadership: How Pacific women drive change*.
9. **Leslie, S., & Gyles, A.** (2025). *Case Study: Sorcery Accusation Related Violence*. Papua New Guinea: The Voice Inc.

10. **Grundy, M., & D'Angelo, S.** (2025). *Case Study: Problem-Driven Iterative Adaptation*. Papua New Guinea: The Voice Inc.
11. **D'Angelo, S., & Grundy, M.** (2025). *Case Study: Youth Opportunities*. Papua New Guinea: The Voice Inc.

OTHER RESEARCH OUTPUTS (TOTAL: 31¹)

1. UNFPA and **La Trobe University**. (2025). *Papua New Guinea's Health Worker Gender-based Violence In-Service Training Curriculum*. United National Population Fund Papua New Guinea.
2. UNFPA and **La Trobe University**. (2025). *Papua New Guinea's Health Worker Gender-based Violence Pre-Service Training Curriculum*. United National Population Fund Papua New Guinea.
3. **L. Denney** and N. Nixon (2025). *PEA in Practice: A practical guide to political economy analysis*. The Asia Foundation, 12 May 2025, <https://asiafoundation.org/publication/pea-in-practice-a-practical-guide-to-political-economy-analysis/>.
4. **Centre for Human Security and Social Change**. (2025). *Invited Submission to Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development – Development Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC) Peer Review of Australia*. 2 May 2025.
5. **Centre for Human Security and Social Change**. (2025). *Submission to the Design Process of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Civil Society Partnership Fund*.
6. **Jackson, E.** (2025). *Discussion Summary: DFAT-RDI Network Sector Forum 'Making Evidence and Learning Count for Development'*. RDI Network.
7. **Jackson, E.** (2025). *Discussion Summary: DFAT-RDI Network Sector Forum 'Integrating Climate Resilience in Development'*. RDI Network.
8. **Jackson, E. Ford, S.**, Phillips, S and Hazelman, L. *Series of 8 WLI alumni leadership case studies*, July 2025. <https://www.wliprogram.org/news-stories/follow-the-leadership-journeys-of-8-wli-alumni-influencing-positive-development-in-the-pacific>.
9. Masta, M. and **Jackson, E.** *Practice Brief: How is WLI engaging with men?* Women Leading and Influencing, May 2024. 68a1518d79b23237332ef80f_04724 WLI Brief_Engaging_with_Men_03.pdf.
10. **Jackson, E.** and **Denney, L.** *Practice Brief: How does WLI support local leadership?* Women Leading and Influencing, May 2024. 68a150d579b23237332ecabb_04724 WLI Brief_Support_Leadership_03.pdf.
11. **Jackson, E.** *Practice Brief: How is WLI putting a locally-led approach into practice?* Women Leading and Influencing, May 2024. 68a15126b4d8935a28508a54_04724 WLI Brief_Local_Led_03.pdf.

12. **Jackson, E.** and **Denney, L.** *Practice Brief: Supporting women's developmental leadership in the Pacific*. Women Leading and Influencing, November 2024. https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/649226efa5faed5901e05da6/68a15384642cbd71761b63da_04724%20WLI%20Brief_Supp_Wom_Lead_Pac_03.pdf.
13. **Jackson, E.** and Liston, T. *How does WLI use coaching to support women to lead and influence change?* Women Leading and Influencing, May 2025. 68b4e483c847bea526a7bd2d_07072025 Ontological Coach Brief FINAL FOR PRINT.pdf.
14. Phillips, S., **Jackson, E.**, Faleolo, R., Masta, M., Pitasua, L. and Hazelman, L. *Series of 10 case studies on everyday women leaders in the Pacific*. Women Leading and Influencing.
15. **Denney, L., McLeod, A.** and **Krishna, U.** (September 2025) *'Briefing Paper – Support to Local Leaders and Coalitions as a Pathway of Change'*, CALL4Change-Conceptual-Framework-Brief-Final-27.11.25.pdf.

INDUSTRY OUTREACH (TOTAL: 40)

1. Borle, L., Dakuidreketi, A., **Grundy, M., Jackson, L.** & Semos, I. (2025, 11 July). "The practice of everyday leadership and how to support it." Panel discussion at the 2025 Research for Development Impact Network Exchange organised by Women Leading and Influencing and the Centre for Human Security and Social Change.
2. **L. Denney**. (2025, 3 June). "Charting a new course for accountability ecosystems in the Pacific." Presentation to 2025 Pacific Update, Suva, Fiji.
3. **Craney, A.** (2025, 5 June). "Supporting the leadership possibilities of Pacific youth in practice." Presentation to Australian Association for Pacific Studies Conference. The University of Sydney.
4. **Gyles, A., Jigili, R., Wayne, G.,** Spencer, R. (2025, 17 June). "Warlpiri ways of assessing impact – How Yapa are defining, assessing and taking action for a good life in their community." Panel presentation at the Lowitja Institute 4th International Indigenous Health and Wellbeing Conference 2025.
5. **Dibley, T., Fleming, F., Jackson, E. & Kelly, L.** (2025, 19 September). "Real world impact evaluations." Panel presentation at the 2025 Australian Evaluation Society Conference.
6. **Craney, A. & Dibley, T.** (2025, 11 July). "Supporting Developmental Leadership as an outsider." Masterclass at the 2025 RDI Network Exchange.
7. Adhikari, B., Buggy, L., **Dibley, T., Karetji, P. & Kelly, L.** (2025, 10 July). "Taking the time to learn: Using research and evidence to change the governance systems underpinning complex development challenges." Panel presentation at the 2025 RDI Network Exchange.
8. **Jackson, E.** (2025, July 10-11). Co-Chairing of RDI Exchange Conference 2025, University of Technology Sydney.
9. Iese, V., Raisele, K., Thyna, C., Mercy, R., Tagi, E., Robinson, D. & **Craney, A.** (2025, 10 July). "Our future is in our past: Indigenous methodologies today." Panel presentation at the Oceanic Conference on International Studies. UNSW.
10. **Denney, L.** (2025, 3 December). Panellist at launch of PEA guidance, 'Navigating the Politics of Civic Spaces', Australasian Aid Conference, ANU, Canberra.
11. **Denney, L.** (2025, 4 December). Chair, 'NGOs, Civil Society and the State in Asia', Australasian Aid Conference, ANU, Canberra.
12. **Wayne, G.,** Wayne, B., Gormon, J., Rodgers, A., Graham, E. (2025, November). "Strengthening self-determination through Indigenous-led educational research and evaluation: the Yitakimaninjaku, warrinjinjaku, payirninjaku manu pina-jarrinjaku project." Presentation at 2025 World Indigenous Peoples Conference in Education, Auckland, Aotearoa.
13. **Craney, A.** (2025, 29 April). "Youth Activism in the Pacific - Mobilising Change Across International, Regional, and National Spaces." Moderator of Women Leading and Influencing Online Webinar. <https://hub.wliprogram.org/events/5718>
14. **Denney, L.** and Rocha Menocal, A. (2025, 24 April). 'We Must Think and Work Politically in SSR'. Presentation to UN Security Sector Reform Community of Practice. Online.
15. **Denney, L.** (2025, 29 April). Invited participant to Future of Development Discussion. Asia-Pacific Development, Diplomacy and Defence Dialogue (AP4D).
16. **L. Denney**. (2025, 14 June). 'Aid at a Crossroads: What the Global Reset Means for NGOs.' Invited Panellist, Australian Council for International Development CEO Summit, La Trobe University.
17. **L. Denney**. (2025, 19 June). Invited participant in 'Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development – Development Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC) Peer Review of Australia – Think Tank Roundtable.'
18. **Jackson, E.** (2025, April 3). Design and facilitation of DFAT-RDI Network Sector Forum 'Making Evidence and Learning Count for Development', online.
19. **Jackson, E.** (2025, April 4). Provision of expert input on disability and trafficking in ASEAN for a Briefing Paper prepared by Duke Law International Human Rights Clinic on the nexus between trafficking and the rights of persons with disabilities for the U.N. Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and girls, and the U.N. Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities to be presented at a side event during the 18th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (COSP 18).

1 This includes the 8 case studies referred to in output 8 and the 10 case studies referred to in output 14

20. **Jackson, E.** (2025, May 29). Design and facilitation of DFAT-RDI Network Sector Forum 'Integrating Climate Resilience in Development', online.

21. **Jackson, E.** (2025, April 30). Presentation to La Trobe University Politics, Media and Philosophy Seminar Series on 'Vulnerability to trafficking in Southeast Asia', online.

22. **Gyles, A., D'Angelo, S. Illingworth, A.** (2025, July). Delivering July MEL COP session 'Warrki Pina Nyanja-ku: Sharing the Story of Warlpiri Community Researcher Reflective Practice' in collaboration with CLC.

23. **Dibley, T.** & Hawes, J. (2025, 10 July). Cultural Diversity in the Australian aid sector. Meet-up at the 2025 RDI Network Exchange.

24. **Denney, L.** (2015, July). Presenter on security and relationship with justice and development, '(Dis)ordering Global Governance? New Directions in Law and Development,' Workshop run by Kent Law School, online.

25. **Denney, L.** (2025, 14 August) Speaker, 'Future of Aid in Asia and the Pacific,' La Trobe Asia/CHSSC event: <https://soundcloud.com/asia-rising/the-future-of-aid-in-the-asia>.

26. **Denney, L.** (2025, 10 September). 'Navigating Crisis with Insight: Why the future of development cooperation needs a PEA approach,' Asia Foundation Webinar: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dSNK33XvcjI>.

27. **Denney, L.** (2025, 11 September). Speaker: 'Does Australia have its house in order when it comes to conflict prevention?' In Dialogue on Conflict Prevent, hosted by Development Intelligence Lab and The Asia Foundation, Canberra, Australia. Event summary here: <https://www.devintelligencelab.com/analyses/conflict-prevention-dialogue>.

28. **Jackson, E.** (2025, 16 October). Provision of expert input into CBM Global mapping of the disability and research ecosystem in Indonesia for KONEKSI, online.

29. **Jackson, E.** (2025, 22 December). Provision of expert input for World Bank study on Global Skills Partnerships, online.

30. **Jackson, E.** (2025, November 13). Design and facilitation of RDI Network Exchange Insights 'Supporting Local Civil Society Organisations as Agents of Change', online. <https://rdinetwork.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Takeaways-from-Exchange-Insights-Civil-Society-LinkedIn-Post.pdf>

31. **Denney, L.** (2025, 5 November). Invited expert input. Expert Group Meeting on the Social Institutions and Gender Index: 'Rethinking the Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI)', Paris: OECD (joined remotely).

32. **Denney, L.** (2025, 28 November). Invited speaker, 'Three Decades of Justice Reform,' TAF TALKS series, The Asia Foundation, online event.

33. **Gyles, A.** (2025, February). Facilitation of MEL COP meeting. Fiji community researcher reflections.

34. **Gyles, A.** (2025, March). Facilitation of MEL COP meeting. Putting culturally responsive evaluation into practice.

35. **Gyles, A.** (2025, April). Facilitation of MEL COP meeting. Adapting MEL in the face of change.

36. **Gyles, A.** (2025, May). Facilitation of MEL COP meeting. LLCP on trust and relationships.

37. **Gyles, A., D'Angelo, S. Illingworth, A.** (2025, July). Delivering July MEL COP session 'Warrki Pina Nyanja-ku: Sharing the Story of Warlpiri Community Researcher Reflective Practice' in collaboration with CLC.

38. **Gyles, A.** (2025, August). Facilitation of MEL COP meeting. Presentation by Balance of Power.

39. **Gyles, A.** (2025, September). Convening of MEL COP gathering at Australian Evaluation Society conference.

40. **Gyles, A.** (2025, October). Facilitation of MEL COP meeting. Reflections on Australian Evaluation Society conference

TEACHING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (TOTAL: 31²)

1. **Jackson, E.** and **Dibley, T.** (2025). Design, delivery and facilitation of "Developmental Leadership" course for the Women Leading and Influencing LeadershipConnect 2025 program. Four online modules delivered over four days in March and April.

2. **Jackson, E.,** Greene, S and Hazelman, L. (2025). Guest lecture for 'How Social Change Happens' (DST5HSM) (Master of International Development subject) (pre-recorded). La Trobe University, Melbourne.

3. **L. Denney.** (2025, 15-16 May). Design and delivery of "Expert level Political Economy" course for Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, in collaboration with The Asia Foundation, Canberra. Six modules delivered over two days.

4. **Dibley, T.** & Tawake, P. (2025). Design and delivery of "Developmental Leadership" course for DFAT staff. Diplomatic Academy, DFAT. Five online modules delivered between 14 Aug - 4 Sept 2025.

5. **Denney, L.** with Mark Moran. (2025, 29 July). Design and delivery of 'Political Economy Analysis Training for Incentive Fund 5,' Bespoke training for Incentive Fund 6 Program staff, Port Moresby, PNG. 1 day course.

6. **Denney, L.** (2025, 12-13 August). Design and delivery of "Political Economy Analysis" training for DFAT staff, Canberra, Australia. Seven modules delivered face to face over two days.

7. **Dibley, T., Jackson, E., Gyles, A.** and **D'Angelo, S.** (2025, 12 November). Design and delivery of two-hour learning session on locally led monitoring, evaluation and learning for Development Intelligence Lab staff.

8. **Denney, L.** & **Dibley, T.** (2025, 2 December). Design and delivery of 'Core Concepts of Social Change' training course for DFAT staff. Diplomatic Academy, DFAT. Five modules delivered face to face over one day.

9. **Jackson, E.,** Ramadhan, N.S and Saidah, C. (2025). Guest Lecture on 'Disability inclusion in development in Indonesia' for DST5DIP/ DST3DIP, 5 September, online.

OPINION PIECES (BLOGS, PODCASTS AND BRIEFS) (TOTAL: 9)

1. **Denney, L.** (2025, 24 February). "A Silver Linings Playbook for the Aid Sector in 2025." DevPolicy Blog, <https://devpolicy.org/a-silver-linings-playbook-for-the-aid-sector-in-2025-20250224/>.

2. **L. Denney,** Gobie Rajalingam and Aderito Soares, (2025, 13 May). "Unpacking the local impact of foreign interests in Timor-Leste," DevPolicy Blog, <https://devpolicy.org/unpacking-the-local-impacts-of-foreign-interests-in-timor-leste-20250513/>.

3. **Lisa Denney** and Mark Moran (2025, 26 May). "The Four Political Economy Fields of Development Programming," DevPolicy Blog, <https://devpolicy.org/the-four-political-economy-fields-of-development-programming-20250526/>.

4. **L. Denney** and **G. Bond** (2025) "The political economy of accountability ecosystems in the Pacific," Thinking and Working Politically Newsletter Article, May-June 2025, <https://twpccommunity.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/The-Political-Economy-of-Accountability-Ecosystems-in-the-Pacific-TWP-Community-of-Practice.pdf>.

5. Kabuni, Michael & Turia, Natasha & **Tarai, Joep.** (2025, 28 March). "Silenced nation: the unprecedented Facebook shutdown in PNG." DevPolicy blog.

6. **Denney, L.** (2025, 5 August). "Development cooperation needs to be reinvented. Is radical simplification the answer?," Intel Response, The Development Intelligence Lab: <https://www.devintelligencelab.com/intel/05august2025>.

7. Walton, G., McNeill-Stowers, H., Winn, T., **Denney, L.,** Kabuni, M and Rokonadravu, F. (2025, 3 December). "An Agenda for Anti-corruption Research in the Pacific." DevPolicy Blog, <https://devpolicy.org/an-agenda-for-anti-corruption-research-in-the-pacific-20251203/>.

8. **L. Denney.** (2025, 18 February). "What does Asia look like without USAID?" Asia Rising Podcast. <https://soundcloud.com/asia-rising/what-does-asia-look-like-without-usaid>.

9. **Kant, Romitesh** & Chung, Mereoni. (2025). *Keeping the Frame, Opening the Door: The Supreme Court's Take on Fiji's 2013 Constitution*. ConstitutionNet.

10. 1080/00223344.2023.2271124).

2 Includes 31 modules or sessions

OUR FUNDING

OUR PARTNERSHIPS

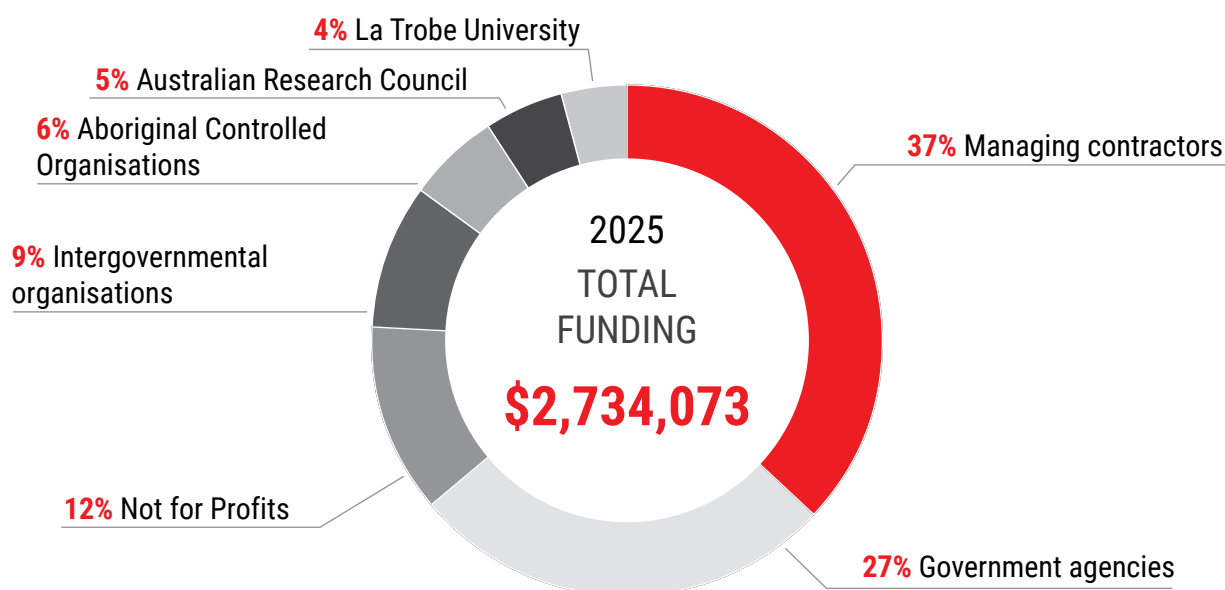
In 2025, the Centre worked with 15 partners, delivering 25 projects with a total value of \$2,608,799. Partners are listed in order of the total funding received in 2025, from largest to smallest.

Partner	Work undertaken with this partner in 2025	Active projects in 2025	Funding Sources	Total funding 2025	Status of partnership at end 2025
DFAT	- Designing, building and delivering five professional development courses for DFAT staff - CALL4Change research on supporting leadership and coalitions	2	DFAT	653,968	Continued
DT Global	Provision of monitoring, evaluation, research and learning support to five programs: - Australia Awards Women Leading and Influencing - ASEAN Australia Counter Trafficking program - Balance of Power program - Australia-PNG Law and Justice program - PNG Incentive Fund	5	DFAT	464,547	Continued
Cowater International	Impact evaluation of the INKLUSI program in Indonesia	1	DFAT	405,155	Continued
UNDP	Research on accountability ecosystems in the Pacific	1	European Union	220,308	Continued
The Voice Inc	Monitoring, evaluation, research and learning for the Local Leadership and Collective Action Program	2	DFAT	147,325	Continued
Australian Research Council	Research on youth leadership and civic engagement in the Pacific	1	ARC Discovery Grant and The Asia Foundation	143,163	Continued
The Asia Foundation	Research and training on behalf of The Asia Foundation	4	DFAT	173,340	Continued

Partner	Work undertaken with this partner in 2025	Active projects in 2025	Funding Sources	Total funding 2025	Status of partnership at end 2025
Central Land Council	Monitoring, evaluation and learning support for the CLC's community development program and the Lajamanu Good Life Project	2	Aboriginal Benefit Account and Newmont Corporation.	104,913	Continued
Bluebird Consultants	Strengthening DFAT's evaluation capability and practice in the Pacific	1	DFAT	86,694	Continued
Parks Australia	Evaluating joint management of the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park	1	Parks Australia	82,584	Continued
Warlpiri Education and Training Trust	Supporting tracking and learning.	1	Newmont Corporation via Kurra Aboriginal Corporation.	56,137	Continued
Palladium	Monitoring, evaluation and learning support for the Vanuatu Australia Policing and Justice program.	1	DFAT	42,389	Continued
The Pacific Community (SPC)	Preparing a Pacific Youth Development Framework	1	Pacific Commission	18,650	Completed
Westminster Foundation for Democracy	Governance assessments for Vanuatu and Tonga	1	FCDO	6,000	Completed
UNFPA	Supporting health system responses to violence against women in PNG	1	UNFPA	3,626	Completed
TOTAL EXTERNAL REVENUE				2,608,799	
La Trobe University	School of Humanities and Social Sciences – salary and non-salary support			123,874	
La Trobe University	School of Humanities and Social Sciences – Internal Research Grant Scheme			1,400	
TOTAL LTU REVENUE				125,274	
TOTAL REVENUE ALL SOURCES				2,734,073	

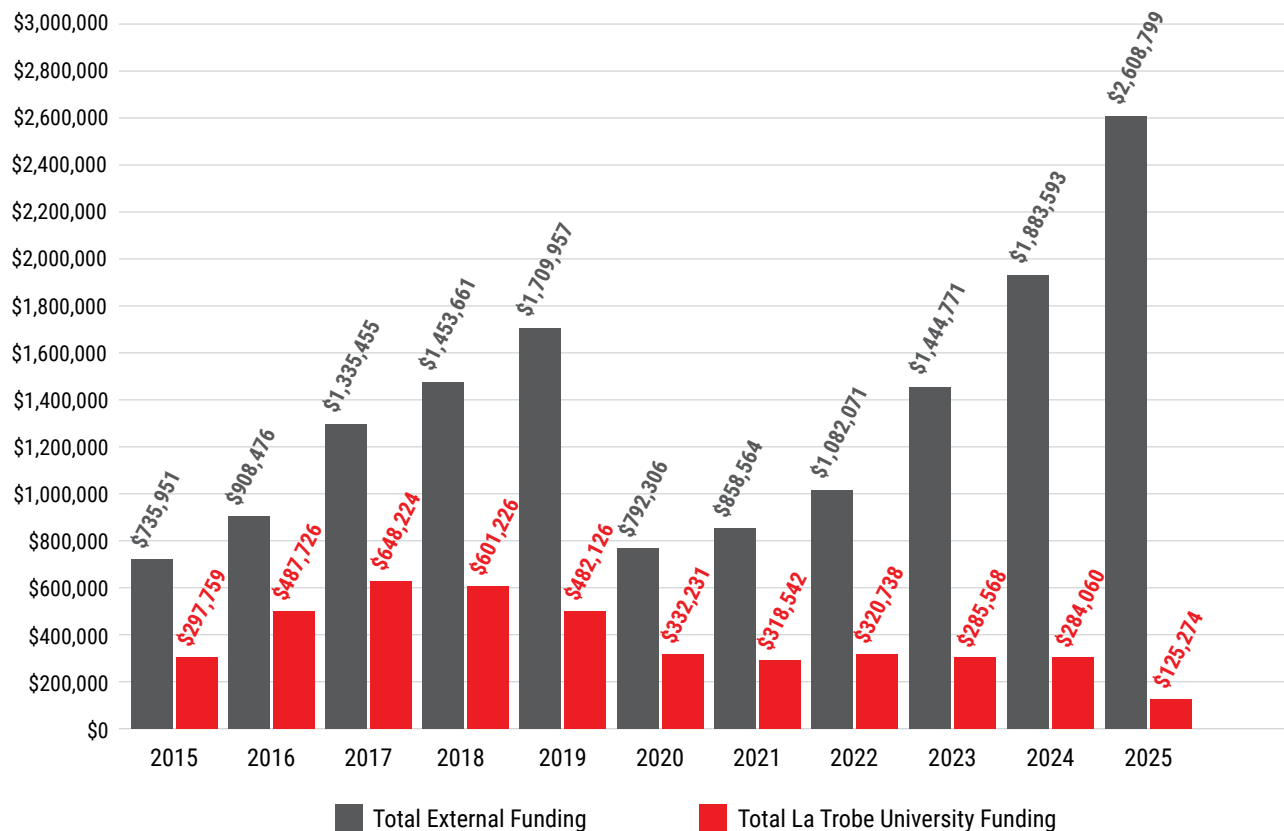
CENTRE FUNDING – BY PARTNER TYPE

The Centre works with a diverse range of organisations, including managing contractors, government agencies, intergovernmental organisations, not-for-profits and Aboriginal controlled organisations. Our funding by partner type is illustrated below.



CENTRE FUNDING 2015-2025

The Centre's funding grew strongly between 2015 and 2019. It fell sharply in 2020 following completion of two large DFAT-funded projects, a reduction in University funding and the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since then, the Centre has expanded and diversified its project portfolio with external funding in 2025 at its highest level since the Centre was founded in 2013.



OUR GOVERNANCE

Management Committee

Name	Position Title
Professor Nick Bisley	Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences and Professor of International Relations, La Trobe University.
Lorraine Ward	Senior Manager, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, La Trobe University.
Associate Professor Lisa Denney	Principal Research Fellow and Director, Centre for Human Security and Social Change, La Trobe University.
Chris Adams (Chair)	Business Manager and Senior Outreach and Learning Advisor, Centre for Human Security and Social Change, La Trobe University.

Advisory Committee

Name	Position Title
Conny Lenneberg (Chair)	Consultant and Non-Executive Director on the Gardiner Dairy Foundation and Good Shepherd, Australia / New Zealand Boards.
Professor Bec Strating	Director La Trobe Asia and Professor of International Relations, La Trobe University.
Professor Andrea Carson	Associate Dean Research and Industry Engagement, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, La Trobe University.
Anna Naupa	PhD candidate at the Australian National University, social political researcher and senior development practitioner.
David Poulton¹	Principal Consultant Climate Resilience at Sustineo and President of the Association of First Nation Australians for Development.
Associate Professor Lisa Denney	Principal Research Fellow and Director, Centre for Human Security and Social Change, La Trobe University.
Dr. Elisabeth Jackson	Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Human Security and Social Change, La Trobe University.

¹ Commenced 17/04/2025

OUR PARTNERS

The Centre partners with a diverse range of organisations that are contributing to social change in Indigenous Australia, the Pacific, Southeast Asia and Timor-Leste. These include Aboriginal-controlled organisations, not-for-profits, higher education institutions, managing contractors, government departments and intergovernmental agencies. The organisations that we partnered with in 2025 are listed below.



Abt Associates

[Abt Associates](#) is a mission-driven consulting and research firm which aims to be an engine for social impact, fuelled by caring, curiosity and cutting-edge research that moves people from vulnerability to security. Abt's approach centres on equity and inclusion, is politically informed and adaptive and prioritises sustainable, locally led solutions.



Balance of Power

Balance of Power is a multi-country, locally led investment that works to increase the legitimacy of women's leadership in the Pacific, particularly in the political sphere. Funded by the Australian Government through Pacific Women Lead, it engages with local powerholders and norm-influencers to shift perceptions and behaviours around gender equality in leadership and decision-making.



Central Land Council

Founded in 2007 by Jess Kenway, [Bluebird Consultants](#) aims to help create social change that lasts. It provides design and evaluation services to the Australian aid program, international development partners and local organisations.

The [Central Land Council](#) (CLC) is an independent statutory authority which represents Aboriginal people in Central Australia. The Council is made of 90 Aboriginal women and men elected by their communities to represent them, fight for their rights, help them reclaim and manage their land and realise the opportunities that come with recognition of property rights.



Cowater International

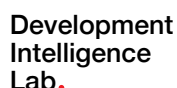
[Cowater International](#) is a global development consulting company headquartered in Ottawa with corporate hubs in Brussels, London, Montreal and Nairobi. Cowater works with governments, private sector actors and communities implementing projects that support socio-economic development, institutional strengthening, environmental improvements and advance equal opportunities for all.



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) promotes and protects Australia's international interests to support our security and prosperity. DFAT works with international partners and other countries to tackle global challenges, increase trade and investment opportunities, protect international rules, keep our region stable and help Australians overseas.



Development Intelligence Lab

The [Development Intelligence Lab](#) (the Lab) is a think tank working on development cooperation in the Indo-Pacific. The Lab aims to inspire ideas and debate and to solve live development challenges through undertaking analysis, developing policy proposals, convening Chatham-house style dialogues and contributing to public debate. .



DT Global

DT Global is a global international development firm which is majority owned by a charitable trust. It works in partnership with local stakeholders to foster inclusive prosperity, social equity and environmental stewardship. It works in over 90 countries to solve complex problems in the peacebuilding, governance, economic development, environment, and human development sectors.



Humanitarian Advisory Group

The [Humanitarian Advisory Group](#) (HAG) is an ethically driven business which combines humanitarian passion with entrepreneurial agility to think and do things differently.

It provides a unique space for thinking, discussion and testing new ideas and works with organisations on improving programming, strengthening policies, providing an evidence base on which to make decisions and reviewing how responses have impacted the most vulnerable.



Parks Australia

[Parks Australia](#) is responsible for the management of six commonwealth national parks, 60 marine parks and the Australian National Botanic Gardens. This includes the Uluru-Kata Tjuta and Kakadu National Parks in the Northern Territory and the Booderee National Park on the New South Wales south coast, all of which are owned by Aboriginal people, leased to the Director of National Parks (DNP) and jointly managed by the DNP and the Traditional Owners.



United Nations Development Programme

As the United Nations lead agency on international development, [UNDP](#) works in 170 countries and territories to eradicate poverty and reduce inequality. UNDP helps countries to develop policies, leadership skills, partnering abilities, institutional capabilities, and to build resilience to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Its work is concentrated in three focus areas: sustainable development, democratic governance and peace building, and climate and disaster resilience.



Pacific Community

The [Pacific Community](#) (SPC) is the principal scientific and technical organisation in the Pacific region. The SPC is owned and governed by its twenty-seven country and territory members. It supports sustainable development by applying a people-centred approach to science, research and technology across all the Sustainable Development Goals.



The Asia Foundation

[The Asia Foundation](#) (TAF) is an international non-profit organization working to solve the toughest social and economic challenges in Asia and the Pacific. Informed by decades of experience and deep local knowledge, TAF works with partners across more than 20 countries to improve lives and expand opportunities. Its programs focus on improving governance and economies, upskill workers, promote peace and stability, counter human trafficking and strengthen resource management.



Warlpiri Education and Training Trust

Warlpiri teachers and traditional owners of the site of Newmont's Tanami gold mine set up the [Warlpiri Education and Training Trust](#) (WETT) in 2005 to use royalties from the mine to improve education and training outcomes for Warlpiri people in the Tanami region. The Kurra Aboriginal Corporation, whose members are traditional owners for the mine site, is the Trustee for WETT.



Palladium

Palladium works with governments, businesses, and investors to solve the world's most pressing challenges.

Palladium believes that systemic approaches involving local knowledge and global expertise is the way to achieve progress and success.



The Voice Inc

[The Voice Inc.](#) (TVI) is a leading civil society organization in Papua New Guinea. It was formed in 2007 by a group of law students at the University of Papua New Guinea who recognized the need for citizens to be active agents of change in their communities. TVI has now has Centres for Leadership delivering programs on multiple University Campuses across the country.



Westminster Fund for Democracy

The [Westminster Fund for Democracy](#) (WFD) is a UK public body dedicated to strengthening democracy and open societies around the world. It helps countries to make their political systems fairer, more inclusive and more accountable by working with parliaments, political parties, electoral bodies and civil society.

General enquiries

Centre for Human Security and Social Change
La Trobe University
VIC 3086
Australia

T +61 3 9479 3061
E socialchange@latrobe.edu.au
W www.latrobe.edu.au/socialchange