

News from ANU Innovation's international projects – Canberra, Australia

Key highlights from September / October 2004 are:

Solomon Islands Team Leader and Community Engagement Adviser

We are operating a number of projects in the Solomons Islands and are seeking candidates for these roles. It is an advantage for both roles if you have prior Melanesian experience and local language skills. The positions will take place in an environment of changing local community structures which are affecting clan/line/tribes composition; extended family group's importance; patrilineal and matrilineal societies; and enduring land tenure/customary rules. Community governance is a key concern and engaging communities so that they can work with effective service providers (CBO, NGO, Prov/Nat government) is essential. As such both roles require more of a facilitatory approach rather than development. Having participatory skills, being able to use participatory techniques, having other communications skills, and being a mediator/facilitator and communication-support person are essential. If you are interested please send your CV to simon.cann-evans@anuinnovation.com.au

United Kingdom Criminal Restorative Justice Project

This project was extended by the UK Home Office in September 2004 for another 22 months. It is a series of randomised controlled trials now being conducted in the UK for which the objective is to investigate the effectiveness of restorative justice in reducing reoffending and increasing victim satisfaction when introduced at various points in the criminal justice system, both pre- and post-conviction. The project uses researchers from the Research School of Social Sciences.

Centre for Democratic Institutions

AusAID has awarded Phase 2 of CDI to the ANU. ANU also had Phase 1 which started in 1998. CDI responds to the needs of developing countries in the field of good governance and democratic institutions. Its geographic focus is the Asia-Pacific region. CDI will now be based in the Research School of Social Sciences and the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies. Currently ANU is looking for a Deputy Director for CDI who will be a respected academic with a working knowledge of Melanesia and considerable skills in applying this scholarship to governance issues in Melanesia http://info.anu.edu.au/hr/Jobs/Academic_Positions/PA2573.asp

Online Surveying

Utilising political and social science survey specialists from the Research School of Social Sciences (RSSS) and IT database and web skills from Wizard, we conducted a successful online polling project during the 2004 Federal Election and are now talking to a number of clients regarding conducting online survey projects to meet their needs <http://www.wizardpolling.com.au/index.html>. This work builds heavily on the extensive body of past and ongoing work conducted by RSSS researchers in survey methods and analysis.

Review confirms world-class status of ANU

The Australian National University's position as one of the world's top research-led universities has been confirmed by an independent external review. The assessors provided detailed feedback, including: Around 77% of assessors ranked the ANU as one of the top 50 universities in their field in the world - including 44% who rated ANU in the world's top 25 universities; Almost 30% of ANU research was rated in the top 5% in the world, covering a wide range of fields: astronomy and astrophysics; physical sciences; neurosciences; biochemistry and molecular genetics; information sciences and engineering; international relations, strategic and defence studies; demography; linguistics; and philosophy. For more information, http://info.anu.edu.au/mac/Media/Media_Releases/2004/pdf/Committee_Report.pdf