



The Network of Callan Services for Persons with Disabilities

Speech Notes

to be used by

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of

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(Callan Services National Unit)

1. Welcome

The Honourable Minister Nick Kuman, Minister for Education

To be added as needed....

Members of the official party, all guests invited to this day, conference people, staff and families of Callan SERC Gerehu.

Br Graeme Leach.....

Ms Jennifer Tamarua

Most importantly I turn now to the children of Callan SERC Gerehu. I hope you have a wonderful time here today. You represent all the children since 1991 until 2015 that The Network of Callan Services for Persons with Disabilities has served. With great respect to all of us sitting at the front here, and to all of you sitting in front of me, if we take seriously the Gospel of Jesus, the children with disabilities in this country are what this gathering is all about.

2. Key People in the 25-Year History of The Network of Callan Services for Persons with Disabilities



Br Graeme Leach receiving Award from Mr Mathew Lagar Callan SERC Leader, Mendi

Br Graeme Leach, we thank you for what you have done to found this Network. Some of what you have done is clear from the presentation of the 25-year history (and pre-history) of this Network. Clearly, what we have seen and heard does not tell the full story. I have only a small insight into the first 18-years, however, I know enough to know that while on the whole there was much support for what you were dreaming and launching, there was also some explicit and implicit opposition. One time you did share with me in the very early months or years you did receive a phone call that suggested something along the lines of, 'Graeme, you are wasting your time, you will never succeed, you need to get out of Wewak'.

The exact details of what you achieved cannot be listed here. Let us simply record, using the practices of good leadership we have reflected on over the last three days that you as a citizen of this country:

- Inspired people then and now with a wonderful vision of what could and can be achieved
- Challenged the current practices, ways of doing things and proposed alternatives, took risks and lead an adventurous life
- Modelled the new way, led by example, walked among the ordinary and in fact most excluded people of the country
- Encouraged the heart of the people who came to work with you and strengthened the hearts of the children and families that were being served. Of all the things you did that encouraged people the most important aspect was that you linked the new and challenging work with the life and teachings of Jesus who showed us 'the real face of God' and the story of Br Edmund Rice who started the Christian Brothers and inspired an Edmund Rice Network. Edmund showed us how the Gospel can be translated into action in new ways and in new lands.

And finally you enabled others to act. You directed them, supported them, walked alongside them and nurtured creativity and risk taking. Thank you!

Ms Jennifer Tamarua, your work (along with Br Graeme's work) has been acknowledged in the Strategic Plan document that Minister Kuman is invited to launch today. And there will be more storytelling about you and Graeme tonight. While others have and will speak to you individually about what they wish to acknowledge about your work in special education unit, I believe I can say on behalf of the total Network that you have done much to create the foundation for an ever- expanding service that will reach more and more children with disabilities in the future.

Thank you for your openness to the linking of the PNG National Department of Education with Faith-based groups such as The Network, Non-Government Organisations and Agencies of the Governments of other countries, in order to strengthen the response to a deep and widespread need within this country.

3. The strengths within Papua New Guinea in relation to services for children with disabilities

These are strengths that have been developed over the last 25 years

The strengths as contributed to by the Government of PNG

There is a special education policy and it includes community based rehabilitation which supports and makes possible the inclusive education outcome that all of use wish to achieve.

The special education policy mandates the development and existence of special education resource centres – SERCs (the role of the SERCs will be addressed shortly)

The National Department of Education pays for Teaching Services Commission positions in the SERCs and in Callan Studies National Institute (the role of this institute will also be addressed soon)

Special Education units in the pre-service training curriculum for Primary teachers and Secondary teachers

Callan Studies National Institute has been approved as an institute of higher education for teacher education – and is soon to be more fully accredited to accommodate degrees by the Board of Higher Education Research and Technology

Noted also is the increase in the funding for Special Education Resource Centres or SERCs by way of Tuition Free Funding

In the area of health is the establishment of the National Orthotics and Prosthetics Service (NOPS)

And provision of National Department of Health funding to SERCs for CBR work

And of course an enormous gift to persons with disabilities in PNG and for all of us in the country is the signing and the ratification of the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

This is leading to the launch (soon we all hope) of a reviewed National Disability Policy that further advances the issue of disability as not only of human rights but also a development issue for PNG.

As contributed to by the Christian Churches



Br Kevin Ryan and
Bishop Rolando Santos CM

My brothers and sisters, in effect The Network is absolutely nothing without the Bishops setting up SERCs and the NDoE/TSC providing about 150+ teaching positions within the SERCs mandated within the Special Education Policy. That is, The Network of Callan Services for Disabilities can only exist on this platform.

This celebration of The Network is also the celebration of the Government of PNG and the Churches of this country and I wish to record that publicly.

The Catholic Bishops of PNG have been highly supportive of the establishment of SERCs under their Education Agencies (in fact 16 of the Catholic Education Agencies)

Other Churches have also been supportive – in particular the Lutheran and Anglican Churches – directly and indirectly of SERCs

4. The Network of Callan Services for Persons with Disabilities in 2015 – right now

Firstly, this morning many here present will have learnt, or are now learning that the institutions that come together to make up the current members of The Network are: 19 SERCs, Callan Studies National Institute and Callan Services National Unit. With this membership in The Network and with what it has committed itself to, it might be suggested and noted that:

- This Network is of national significance in relation to the provision of services for persons with disabilities, particularly for children, and
- The institutions have been established in such a way that increases the chance of in-country sustainability (i.e. all institutions except one are established under the Education Act of the country and therefore are NOT at risk of being ‘come and go’ non-government organisations). The members of The Network are not going away and if the Christian Brothers develop other priorities (as we are) we will NOT be simply abandoning Callan Services National Unit.

Secondly, the work conducted by all parties in this Network is implementing the special education policy of the Government of PNG. The work we do is not a ‘side issue’ – it is a core business of the government to nurture and develop the people of this country (the human resource of the country).

Thirdly, we are deeply appreciative of the Teaching Services Commission positions and the Tuition Free Funding and other sources of government funding.

However, what we do need to note is that many of the institutions in The Network also receive financial support from the Australian Government, CBM-New Zealand Aid, Christian Brothers Oceania Province, DKA Austria, Edmund Rice Foundation Australia, Light for the World and also other funding partners. These sources of funding are most important for CSNU, which receives very little funding from the Government of PNG. This overseas funding is also important for CSNI, which works very closely with CSNU, and has access to a high percentage of the funding received by CSNU.

Fourthly, it is important to note the essential work of each of the members of The Network.

The essential work of each SERC as wonderfully demonstrated in the displays and demonstrations this morning is to:



- Awareness raising about disabilities and the rights of persons with disabilities (especially the right to health and educational services),
- Identification of persons with disabilities by screening,
- Field treatment for health problems if that is possible,
- Provision of or referral for assistive devices,
- Referral for health treatment if that is needed, and
- Preparation for and placement of children in education and
- Long term support of the child in education, the child's family and the teachers involved with educating the child.

For Callan Studies National Institute, the key work is:

- Training of in-service teachers (SERC and mainstream) in the knowledge, skills and attitudes for special (inclusive) education, and
- Training SERC teachers in how to support mainstream teachers who include children with disabilities in their classrooms, and
- The follow up of these SERC and mainstream teachers to ensure that children are receiving education services that is inclusive and effective
- Supporting, where possible, the provision of special education training to pre-service teachers.

The work of CSNU has many dimensions including:

- Training in community-based rehabilitation (particularly the health skills aspects in line with the WHO CBR Guidelines and Child Care, Safety and Protection), and
- The monitoring of the quality of the CBR services delivered by SERCs,
- Conducting training in leadership skills for current and potential leaders in the SERCs and governance processes (for Boards of Governors/Governing Councils), and
- Facilitating the development of sustainable models of education for all areas of disability in PNG, and also,

- Providing overall monitoring and evaluation of the services provided within The Network and
- Advocating with relevant Government and Non-Government agencies for the needs of The Network, seeking financial and other partnerships for the long-term sustainability and expansion of the work.

5. Partnerships, Collaboration and Sustainability of The Network



Ritual Opening Dancers drawn from Callan Services Network

The work of The Network has always been, and will in the future continue to be, in line with the Health, Education and Disability Policies or Plans of the country. The work done by the institutions of The Network aligns fully with Pillars 1, 2, 3, and 6 PNG Vision 2050.

While there are specific and detailed dreams for each institution in The Network, the fundamental dream that is held by The Network, is the deepening and formalising of the collaboration of The Network with Government agencies. This collaboration will be to continue to assist the Government of PNG to fulfil the dreams it has recorded within the National Disability Policy, and the Education and Health Policies or Plans.

Key needs for The Network:

These need, we believe, overlap with the needs of many other services providers in the area of disability services.

We seek.....

- Regular and systematic discussions with the three (3) key Departments which have mandates with which our work aligns and with which we need to collaborate closely: Education, Health and to use the short term – Community Development. These discussions also need to involve Disabled Persons Organisations.
- Contractual arrangements between Government Departments and The Network as a whole, or selected institutions within The Network, that detail the services

required and involves annual reporting to Government.

- Immediate attention to critical staffing matters in particular funding for the salaries of: Deaf Assistant Teachers who are critical for the education of deaf students and the development of PNG Sign Language, Community Health Worker and Nurse positions, Physiotherapy services, and interpreter services for children who are deaf in schools/for health consultations and in many other activities.

Over time some of the other matters in our Plan that will become the focus of discussions with government include: Housing for staff members of SERCs, Callan Studies National Institute and Callan Services National Unit staff members, buildings for the work of these institutions and SERC sub-centres and their new outposts, vehicles to assist service delivery, technical equipment some of which you have seen in action today. And a jointly agreed new model of funding for the training and other services provided by Callan Studies National Institute and Callan Services National Unit, and also for the services provided by the special education resource centres. And finally, the provision of salaries for the staff members of Callan Services National Unit all of whom are not on Teaching Services Commission positions.

Ultimately the Disabled Persons Organisations, the Service Providers and the three (3) relevant government departments need to propose effective models of service delivery to children and adults in places not yet reached by the 23 special education resource centres in the country. Great as our work is, we may now reach between 10 – 20% of the children in this country who need specialised health and education support.

While short term funding would be helpful and can be used by any or all of the institutions in The Network, it is a longer term and sustainable process that would be of most value for The Network. And in deed it is what is needed for all service providers in disability sector and is a high priority in the National Disability Policy.

6. And To Conclude.....

All of what is proposed is, we believe, within the policy of the Government of PNG that relates to seeking partnerships with institutions within the faith based and private sectors. Over time these partnerships with Government PNG **must** assist The Network to lessen the dependence of the institutions on overseas funding partners. This will allow the development of more SERCs and perhaps a new model(s) of service to children and adults with disabilities in PNG and to allow the delivery of services to thousands more children with disabilities

Honourable Minister, we deeply, very deeply appreciate your presence among us to both celebrate the last 25 years and to help us move in the next 5 years of our life as a Network.

We believe your presence amongst us is a sign of your personal appreciation as well as for and on behalf of the Government of PNG, to the work of those who were the heroic pioneers of what is now known as The Network of Callan Services for Persons with Disabilities.

Thank you.

We also believe your presence among us is a sign of what can now be achieved by deepening the already wonderful collaboration among all of us in The Network and with Government Departments.

And we humbly seek your support in developing the collaboration between the Department of Education, Health, Community Development and Religion and the member institutions of The Network.

And finally we invite you also to launch The Network of Callan Services for Persons with Disabilities Strategic Plan 2015 – 2020.