



# Callan Services News

Volume 7, Issue 2

April - June 2020

Callan Services News is a communication tool for the Network of Callan Services for Persons with Disabilities.

This quarterly Newsletter is about inspiring, sharing and advocating on behalf of Callan Services National Unit (CSNU), Callan Inclusive Education Institute (CIEI) and in particular the work of Inclusive Education Resource Centres (IERCs).

Through these kinds of services we reach out to the remote parts of PNG. Callan Services is present in 19 locations in 17 provinces.

They are: Aitape, Vanimo, Wewak, Madang, Morobe, Goroka, Mingende, Wabag, Mendi, Hagen, Rabaul, Kavieng, Lorengau, Kimbe, Buka, Daru, Kiunga, Alotau and Gerehu in Port Moresby.

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## ERMO appoints Benson Hahambu as new CSNU Director

THE Network of Callan Services for Persons with Disabilities National Unit (CSNU) has announced that the Board of Edmund Rice Ministries Oceania in partnership with the Oceania Leadership Team of the Christian Brothers (OLT), after an extended process of collaboration with the Board of CSNU has appointed Mr Benson Hahambu as the new Director of CSNU.

The announcement was officially made last month by Board Chair of Edmund Rice Ministries Oceania (ERMO), Helen Mahoney (OAM).

"It is with great pleasure that I write to you on behalf of the ERMO Board, the Oceania Leadership Team of the Christian Brothers and your own, CSNU Board to inform you of the appointment of Mr Benson Hahambu as the new Director of CSNU. I thank each of these entities for their involvement in the selection and appointment process."

Mrs Mahoney added that Benson is well known within the Network of Callan Services in Papua New Guinea. He has been in the position of Deputy Director of CSNU since September 2017.



New CSNU Director Benson Hahambu (L) with outgoing CSNU Director Br Kevin Ryan (R)

He also held the position of Acting Director for a short period in 2018. Benson comes with experience in both the public and private sector in the fields of education and development in PNG, as well as a postgraduate qualification in Developmental Studies. These are just some of the skills that Benson brings to the directorship.

"I wish Benson well in his new post as Director, and trust there will be time to show our deep gratitude to Br Kevin Ryan for his work with CSNU over many years," Mrs Mahoney said.

Br Kevin officially retired from CSNU on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2020. Before that, there was a transition time where the duties of the outgoing director were gradually progressed to Benson who officially took up the post on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020.



## Message from the Outgoing Director



Br Kevin Ryan

**Hello everyone**

**While this farewell communication from me as the Outgoing Director of Callan Services for Persons with Disabilities National Unit (CSNU) will highlight some key matters from the last 11 and half years, the period for which I have been in this role, I am not attempting to provide you a detailed 'transition report'.**

**1. Strategic Plans for CSNU and The Network of Callan Services:** The development of a strategic plan for CSNU (2009 -2014) and then later a plan for The Callan Services Network (2015 – 2020), with significant consultation with a wide range of people within and outside of The Network provided a guide for all other decision making about priorities for funding applications, personnel, training, continuing conversations with Government Departments and as a daily guide for all aspects of our work.

**2. Results Diagram:** The Results Diagram (sometimes called intervention logic by others involved in project development and implementation) was developed within the Strategic Plan and has been a wonderfully helpful, transparent and brief statement of what The Network of Callan Services is trying to achieve and **why we have been doing what we are doing** . It is the basis of our activities, our monitoring and evaluation, our planning for the future and also our funding partnerships.

**3. Statement of Purpose, inclusive of Values:** The best of these kind of statement try to communicate to the members, those who are to be served and other interested groups and individuals \*Who the organisation (in our case Network) is, \* What the Network is trying to do, and \*How the Network is trying to do it (its Values). We have such a statement which has been a wonderfully practical, moral and spiritual guide and it is the opening statement of Strategic Plan for 2015 – 2020.

**4. Quality of Services:** When the Results Diagram developed in 2015 stated in a Medium-Term Outcome that students with disabilities not only were to be enrolled in education settings, **they need to make 'academic progress'**, our work within The Network of Callan Services began to change. That outcome had enormous challenges which led to such developments as:

- Individual Education Plan: Template and Guide
- Case Management Plan for persons with disabilities: Template and Guide
- An Assessment Process (Template and Guide) based on the Community Based Inclusive Development way of working alongside children and adults with disabilities
- The need for more detailed knowledge and skills, and so training workshops are being developed (e.g. for working alongside children and adults with cerebral palsy, with visual impairment, or with pre-school children, and those multiple and severe disabilities etc.)
- And so on....

**5. Models of Education** for Children have evolved or are evolving as well for children with;

- Hearing Impairment accompanied by significant work on developing a PNGSL Dictionary and a Grammar Text
- Vision Impairment
- Multiple and Severe Disabilities,
- How to take inclusive education to remote areas in new and creative ways (as per the draft new Special (Inclusive) Education Policy)

### 6. Optical and Hearing Services

These services have expanded to new areas. While all are still in need of further training (clinical/technical and business / marketing skills) some good achievements are and will emerge for hearing services from our continuing relationship with EarsInc and a new relationship with Hear the World/Sonova: high quality hearing booths, improved equipment and skills for clinicians and two CSNU Hearing Services Educators with Diplomas of Audiometry by mid-2021.

As well as moving the optical services to new locations there are improvements evolving in the areas of low vision assessment, stock inventory management and financial management

### 7. Formalising workshops with NDoE/NTC and RTO status etc.

CSNU is close to achieving Registered Training Organisation status, to be issued by the PNG National Training Council.

### 8. The financial management and project management processes of Callan Services National Unit:

These are much improved, and CSNU is now undergoing a professional audit of both governance and management practices. The audit has been initiated by Edmund Rice Ministries Oceania, the body to which CSNU is responsible. In addition to that, the Australian Government via Palladium/Educational Capacity Development Facility (managers of the CSNU contract with Australian Government) are facilitating further staff training in Project Management through Queensland University of Technology.

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## From Page 2 - Outgoing Director's Message Continues

I wish to be very clear with you as readers, and anyone else you share this information with: From the last 11 and half years a long list could be created of dreams and specific plans that were not achieved. This could be due to a lack of finance, or we did not have the staff members, or we did not have the capacity (knowledge or skills) to achieve what was needed or planned.

One of these is fundamental to the future of Callan Services National Unit, and I think to a number of other in-country NGOs. While I believe that some gains have been made in the last 2 years there is still a long journey ahead of CSNU to win the confidence of some government departments and other key players at the national level about the important role CSNU does and can play in the inclusive education sector (broadly defined) and in the wider disability sector (disability related health services, assistive technology, rehabilitative services etc.). Whatever can be validly stated about limitations CSNU may have, the value of public-private partnerships, and of a 'local NGO' with a 30-year history in these sectors needs to be deeply considered in relation to establishing long term and sustainable gains in the delivery of services in these sectors within Papua New Guinea.

I use this final communication to acknowledge the Government Departments, and the personnel within them, with whom I have had helpful conversations and from whom I have received advice and valuable information. In particular I wish to note the Department of Education and within that Department, the Inclusive Education Unit with whom CSNU works very closely.

I acknowledge also:

- **PNG Assembly for Disabled Persons**, the voice of persons with disabilities in PNG,
- **Members of the executive of PNG Disability Sector Coalition** with whom I have worked closely.
- **International Development Partners**, all listed elsewhere in this publication, inclusive of contract managers, for your financial support, your technical advice and your personal care and concern for me and all of us at CSNU, Callan Inclusive Education Institute and Inclusive Education Resource Centres who have interacted with you.
- **Persons with disabilities and their families** for their courage and dreams, their questions and challenges
- **Colleagues in The Network of Callan Services with Disabilities** some of whom I have contacted regularly and many of whom I have never met. A very large dream which I did not achieve was ensuring more regular visits to Inclusive Education Resource Centres around the country, something I had clearly in mind at the time of my arrival in this role in 2009. As I have said often, most of you could find much easier places to work and I admire your dedication, your willingness to adapt and change and to learn.



Pic caption: Outgoing Director of CSNU Br Kevin Ryan (middle) with Executive Management staff of East Sepik Provincial Health Authority

- **Callan Services National Unit Colleagues:** With some of you I have had nearly a 10-year journey, and for others a shorter one. Many of you have experienced me at my worst as well as my best. Whatever our circumstances or crises, I have found the experience of working among you a source of energy, encouragement and inspiration, as well also of advice and guidance. Thank you so much.
- **My Brothers in the Congregation of Christian Brothers in Papua New Guinea:** Finally, I wish to name publicly acknowledge the Brothers who have supported, educated and challenged me since my time in PNG again. I particularly note those who have been located at Wewak and Erima since 2009. Your practical, personal and spiritual support have been invaluable.

As I come close to the end of this message, I wish to commend Mr Benson Hahambu to you. When I arrived in this role, many people (understandably) were not sure if our Callan Services National Unit would survive the departure of Br Graeme Leach from the role of Director. There were times when I had the same doubts! It is also understandable that similar questions arise around this transition from me to Benson.

Benson is a highly committed, hard-working person of wonderful values. His 'style' will be different, and over time he will lead innovation and change, which some will enjoy and some will find challenging. My observation after working with him for some considerable time is that he is consultative and has significant gifts in building relationships both within CSNU and also with people in other organisations and he is bringing gifts which I do not have.

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## Diana Ureta leaves a mark with Persons with Disabilities in PNG

### Diana Ureta of CBM: over 20 years of service to persons with disabilities in PNG

Diana Ureta worked for Christoffel Blinden Mission (CBM) which is an 'international Christian development organisation, committed to improving the quality of life of persons with disabilities in the poorest countries of the world.'

She worked for CBM for over 20 years in different capacities. When she joined CBM in 1998, Diana was the Programme Officer for CBM responsible for supporting projects in PNG and eight other countries (Malaysia, Timor Leste, Indonesia, Fiji, Vanuatu, Tonga, Samoa and Micronesia) until her appointment as Regional Programme Manager in 2010. Then she took a break in 2014 and rejoined CBM in 2015 on a consultancy assignment to assist the PNG project and then was appointed as a Country Coordinator in 2016.

"Basically, I have been dealing with the PNG projects since 1998 and finally as a Country Coordinator for PNG, and this was for 4 years from 2016 to 2019," she told Callan News Services.

When asked about the challenges she faced, this is what she said; "The PNG colleagues are lovely people, very friendly, warm, supportive and hospitable. Most of them really care for people with disabilities and I have seen their commitment and dedication which inspired and motivated me. If there were challenges, this would be on organisations compliance to reporting requirements which is crucial for accountability, not only to partner agencies, but more so to the people we serve. There are lots of training but not enough monitoring and mentoring. Probably, the biggest challenge is sometimes proposed systems and procedures, project implementation tools and templates (e.g. the use of IEP and CMP, Database, etc.) are seen as 'donors' or CSNU's requirements" rather than something that will truly help improve the organization's operation, programme implementation and quality of services. Without buy-in from IERCs leaders and Officers, these systems and procedures, tools and templates will not serve their purpose'.

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#### From page 3 - Outgoing Director's Message continues

Benson, I offer you my continuing prayerful best wishes. For all who read this: I commend Benson to you as a fine leader.

As I close this reflection, my underlying feeling is one of 'gratefulness'. Gratefulness for the privilege of living in PNG for over 11 years, and hopefully several more years yet. Gratefulness for the privilege of experiencing, at least to some extent, a cultural life that has deepened my understanding of my own culture, of me as a person and of different ways of 'living individually and communally'. Finally, I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the wonderfully inspiring and important work of Callan Services for Persons with Disabilities National Unit, the Inclusive Education Resource Centres and Callan Inclusive Education Institute.

All of these opportunities and all of you have been a gift to me, and I think all of you and I thank our God of Wisdom, Love and Creativity for the privilege of receiving these gifts.

Your brother, **Kevin P Ryan**

I have seen the growth of The Network of Callan Services, the expansion and improvement of rehabilitation services for people with disabilities, the establishment of ear and eye clinics/ services in different provinces, the development of inclusive education in PNG. Callan Services is well respected and regarded as the biggest provider of services to people with disabilities in PNG with support from the PNG Government Ministries and Departments, particularly the Education, Health and Community Development. There is improved consciousness on the rights of people with disabilities, child care and protection, the importance of statistical data and database. I noted better financial management, especially among CBM-supported IERCs. PNG has now a good number of Physiotherapists compared to only 1 overseas-trained Physiotherapist when I first started handling PNG projects in 1998. The Ponseti method of clubfoot treatment is practiced by many health professionals which prevent clubfoot disability. I believe in one way or another, CBM has played a role in these achievements and I am honored and humbled to be a part of CBM and Callan Services."

Diana had an extra-ordinary high level of commitment to children and adults with disabilities in PNG. This commitment was not only a part of her work, it was a part of who she was as 'Diana Ureta'. Some of those among she worked have said this about Diana:



Diana with Keziah, an orthopedic patient who was successfully operated on by CBM Orthopedic Surgeon Dr. Steve Mannion

## Diana Ureta’s story continues .....

Dear Diana, we have just learnt that, you resigned and left. It is a surprise to us. You have your reasons to leave your work but, somehow, we are going to miss working with you.

For all those years, you have been an inspiring leader, who has guided us through thick and thin and always believed in us. We are thankful for everything you have done for us.

We are hopeful and heartfully pray that in the near future, we might get a chance to work together again. Personally from the initial stage of my work, I had great opportunity meeting this wonderful woman (Diana) and learnt a lot from Diana to where I am now. With all my heart, I again thank you Diana. ‘Fabulous Diana, has a big heart to Share, Guide, support, care, boosts, affirmation, decisive, and many more descriptive words that are to describe Diana. Your style and nature of work will be cherished by us in the work you left us to continue. Our prayers for your future and your health. Angela Mua, Program Coordinator Mingende IERC.

‘All children with disabilities as this attached photo show a few, who whole heartedly express their gratitude to your service in PNG particularly in Maprik’ (see pic below).

‘Personally, I believe Diana is an agent of change. Working along side her has taught me a lot. Writing long paragraphs won’t express what she has imparted, otherwise we will miss her compassion and presence. Thank you, Diana. Channel Luwe, Deputy Coordinator Maprik IERC, with CWDs and Maprik Callan staff.



Diana Ureta (right) with a local woman from Goroka



Photo courtesy of IERC Callan Maprik

### Our Values

The values that shape how we work are:

#### 1. Respect

Treat with dignity – ourselves, family, colleagues, work ethics, those we serve, community, partners, property and environment

#### 2. Presence

Attuned to God in the mystery of life and work.

#### 3. Compassion

Respond to our communities with an open heart and hand.

#### 4. Justice

Bring to life barrier-free and rights-based communities.

### CSNU receives Hearing Aids

HEARING impaired people in the country will be recipients of hearing aids, thanks to our partner, Hear the World (HTW) and Ms Donna Carkeet from EarsInc for making it possible.

The hearing aids arrived safely in Port Moresby last month after a lengthy process of going through Customs Clearance.

CSNU staff members Br Desmond Taboeya and Jane Saun are undergoing training supported by EarsInc. Both officers are doing a Diploma in Audiometry conducted by Technical and Further Education (TAFE) in Australia. Their studies are being paid for by Christian Brothers Oceania Province (CBOP) and Australian Aid.

Tutoring and practical training and assessment has been done by EarsInc volunteers and Hear the World (Sonova) will join EarsInc in this work after the COVID-19 States of Emergency in various countries are lifted.

Since 2006, Hear the World initiatives provided disadvantaged children access to sustainable audiological care and speech therapy. Founded by Sonova, the non-profit Swiss Foundation has supported over 80 projects in 30 countries with funding, hearing aid technology and expertise. CSNU began its partnership with Hear the World in April 2019, with the guidance and support of EarsInc, a small and generous group of Christian volunteers from Australia.

## Advocacy on COVID-19



Pic caption: Margaret Mikel, a deaf girl washing her hands at the water tap.

ADVOCACY and awareness on COVID-19 has continued at the IERCs throughout the country. It is part of disability inclusion during this COVID-19 response. Kiunga IERC has done a 'NEW NORMAL' Timetable which is in use now.

In May 2020, Kiunga IERC Officers visited families with PWDs. The Provincial SOE Controller who is also the Provincial Administrator and Catholic Bishop in Kiunga, Gilles Cote gave their approval for the activity to visit homes of PWDs.

A 'Rapid Review Template' that was distributed by CSNU to all IERCs was photocopied for each child/adult who is registered at Kiunga IERC. Kiunga IERC Coordinator Doris Amboman said: "we are using this during our visits. It is very useful and I am thankful for your (CSNU) assistance in giving all of us a copy."

So far, up to June 2020, Kiunga IERC and Ningerum Sub centre visited 113 homes getting parents/care-givers consent for services to be done centre-based, home-based or not until lock down period is over.

The mainstream schools in Kiunga have already started with new schedules by having one group of students in the mornings and the other half of the school in the afternoons and in others, one group of students for a day and the other half of the school the next day.

Meanwhile, CSNU Port Moresby Team has reproduced COVID-19 health messages. The messages are from World Health Organisation (WHO) and the

work is being funded by the Australian Government. The work plan was approved by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT Canberra and funded by DFAT. POM Team is working in collaboration with the NDoE IE Unit to deliver the materials to the IERCs.

## Break & Enter at Gerehu IERC

AN ugly incident occurred at the Gerehu Inclusive Education Resource Centre during the COVID-19 lockdown in early May

According to newly appointed Director of CSNU, Benson Hahambu, NCD Food Bank Team visited Gerehu IERC on Saturday, May 09 2020 and delivered 70 bags of food packs for Children with Disabilities (CWDs).

"It was a surprise when Gerehu IERC Coordinator Belinda Sausi called me. I advised her to accept the items on behalf of our CWDs and their parents and acknowledged them as news reporters were also there to cover the story."

Mr Hahambu said it was unfortunate that in the early hours of Sunday morning (next day), thieves cut the lock of the main gate, opened the metal door (believed to be using a stolen key), knocked down the lock of the inside door and helped themselves to the food packs.

The thieves left the building with 17 bags after Belinda called out from her accommodation. The matter was been reported to police, Callan Services National Unit and NDoE Inclusive Education Unit.

## CBM NZ provides braille papers for curriculum development

THE CBM New Zealand purchased braille papers for curriculum development are now in Port Moresby.

And NDoE IE Unit has confirmed receiving 35 boxes which are now stored in the IE Unit Braille Production Room.

Arnold Koima, Inspector with the IE Unit has conveyed his appreciation to CBM New Zealand and to the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs from which CBM obtained funding saying: "On behalf of the persons with visual impairments and PNG as a whole, I sincerely thank CBM NZ, the NZ Government and all those involved in making this possible."

The Inclusive Education Unit and Callan Services National Unit will work on how they can make available NDoE – Standard Based Curriculum materials to our braille users in PNG schools.

Meanwhile, Karen Jack has been appointed the Pacific Regional Coordinator for the CBM NZ funded Phase 3 project partnership between CBM New Zealand and Callan Services National Unit. Karen replaces Diana Ureta from Manila in The Philippines who held that role for many years (see another article). Congratulatory messages have been flowing in for Karen from stakeholders and partners in the project.

Director of CSNU, Benson Hahambu congratulated Karen saying "we look forward to working closely with you in the upcoming CBM NZ funded Phase 3 project."

"Great news to know that Karen will be the Regional Coordinator for the CBM NZ Phase 3 Project," said Dr. John Pokana, Director Inclusive Education Unit with NDoE. "My congratulations to Karen and the CBM NZ Team. Great achievement and well-done. The IE Unit looks forwards to working with you all," he said.

Outgoing CSNU Director, Br Kevin Ryan congratulated Karen saying "I hope it is an enjoyable, challenging and fulfilling task."

Karen in response said "What a wonderful collaboration between all parties. I am looking forward to working with you all this year as the Braille materials are produced."

Once again, CBM New Zealand, CSNU and all stakeholders are greatly appreciative of the New Zealand Government decision to fund the Phase 3 project which will focus on the implementation of a Model for the Education of Children who are blind or have low vision.

### 14 women join 'ERMO Formation' Retreat

Zoom has opened up wonderful opportunities for networking and reflecting within the Network of Callan Services (NCS) and the family within the Edmund Rice Network of Oceania and the world.

Fourteen women from NCS have joined a Retreat "Take My Hand" Zoom Sessions with women in the Edmund Rice Ministry in Australia and New Zealand. Among the 14 women are two members of the CSNU Board, Michelle Hau'ofa and Jacqueline Garoau.

"Take My Hand" is a journey into the story and contemporary expression of Edmund Rice in search of the Feminine Divine. Women in NCS were invited to participate in a series of reflections and discussions via Zoom.

Cathy Harrison from the Christian Brothers Formation Team in New Zealand is coordinating this big gathering of women via Zoom.

"As I am hosting from New Zealand, we will welcome women in the Maori tradition. It is great to share our cultural diversity. We will then have a session facilitated by Mary Murphy who will introduce the founding women in the life of Edmund Rice – his mother, wife, daughter and others to make connections with them.

"The response from PNG is overwhelming and so gratifying. We are delighted to have Zoom technology connecting us from many places. And how wonderful to have two Board Members – Michelle and Jacqueline join the group. This is highly significant and symbolic as we gather from varying roles and responsibilities from around Oceania all drawn into a life-giving Vision."



Photo shows polio immunization taking place at Kavieng Callan Inclusive Education Resource Centre (IERC). Photo courtesy of Kavieng IERC

More than 28 years of Respect, Presence, Compassion & Justice

## IERC staff attend Braille Literacy Training



**Pic Caption:** These Early Childhood teachers [Project staff] CBR volunteers and persons with disabilities are practicing their alphabets using the Cell Sheet. Photo provided by Cecilia Bagore

### Statement of Purpose

We, the Network of Callan Services for Persons with Disabilities, inspired by the life of Jesus and the work of Edmund Rice, express the liberating heart of God, so that persons with disabilities in Papua New Guinea participate and contribute meaningfully in an inclusive society.

As part of Edmund Rice Ministries Oceania in the Christian Brothers Oceania Province (CBOP), and in partnership with Catholic Dioceses, other Churches, government, international and PNG based non-government organisations and local communities we:

- Provide inclusive education and community based inclusive development services to help children access inclusive and effective education
- Work with children and families to develop their full potential
- Provide quality community based rehabilitation services to persons with disability for improved health and functioning to participate in local communities
- Provide and facilitate the development of higher level skills in education, health and support services personnel
- Create new policies, positions and services to promote an inclusive society
- Enable appropriate responses by researching emerging needs related to those at risk in society, especially persons with disabilities, and
- Provide sustainable, quality services with effective leadership, governance, and monitoring and evaluation.

Any comments, queries, contributions in story and photos, please send them to Baeau Tai at Tel: 675 71994536

Email: baeau.tai@callanservices.org or baeautai3@gmail.com



'BRAILLE Proficiency Training" for IERC staff and partners is continuing. Prior to the outbreak of COVID-19, Braille training took place in Vanimo and Lae and two units of the Applied Diploma in Special Education in Lae. This training is the first of its kind for Inclusive Education Resource Centre (IERC) staff in Lae and their partners. All the training activity took place in March 2020.

Facilitator, Cecilia Bagore, from Callan Inclusive Education Institute (CIEI) said this follow up visit was a competency check on IERC staff and other partners who can proficiently read, write and transcribe braille after the 2019 training while support is given to Early Childhood Education through developing Pre-braille Skills e.g. Tactile Discrimination activities.

The competency checks involved 2019 participants, inclusive of nine Primary School staff members, 17 others [volunteers, guardians, a hearing-impaired person, and one person with visual impairment [blind].

Vanimo IERC staff who attended the training on Grade I Braille, found the sessions interesting through practice and fun activities.

The lessons were broken down to beginner sessions with an introduction to TACTILE DISCRIMINATION activities. This is important to the development of Braille Literacy at an early age before teaching braille literacy.

"Through a lot of practice, the participants have shown some confidence, competency and proficiency in Gr I Braille Literacy. They gained confidence and are competent in reading, writing and transcribing braille," said Ms Bagore.

She wants to see continued training of Braille Literacy in future.

She acknowledged funding partner Australian DFAT for its contribution to the development of Visual Impairment Education in PNG, and Morobe IERC, Baro Primary school and Vanimo IERC for making 'RIGHTS REAL'.

### About Callan Services Network

The Network of Callan Services is the largest provider of services to children and adults living with disabilities in Papua New Guinea. It's a leading disability rights, advocacy and representative Network of, and for, all people with disability in PNG. We are a national, cross-disability Network – we attempt to respond to the needs of people with all kinds of disability.

Callan Services National Unit is a non-profit faith-based development non-government organisation. CSNU joins with 19 Inclusive Education Resource Centres and Callan Inclusive Education Institute, all established by Church or Government Education Agencies under the Education Act. We aim to share 'the liberating heart of God' through the values of 'Respect, Presence, Compassion and Justice'. The agencies in the Network aim to ensure that persons with disabilities are equipped to participate equally in the cultural, educational, social and economic settings of their local communities, and aim to guide communities to facilitate the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all of those settings.

The training, monitoring and evaluation and local level services that are delivered may ultimately call us to act and speak alongside persons with disabilities as they strive for justice, and for the ideals described in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which aims to provide all of them with the privilege and gift of living a rich and full life.

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