



RDI NETWORK ANNUAL SNAPSHOT

December 2019



RESEARCH FOR
DEVELOPMENT
IMPACT NETWORK

A collaboration between
the Australian Council for
International Development
and Australian universities

Contents

Introduction	3
OUTCOME 1: RDI Network members are actively debating and synthesising current development thinking and ideas	3
OUTCOME 2: RDI Network members are identifying and addressing opportunities, incentives and barriers to the production and use of policy-practice-relevant research	7
OUTCOME 3: RDI Network member skills in research communication and uptake are improving	10
SECRETARIAT ACTIVITIES: A professional, sustainable, evolving network championing, shaping and providing leadership in effective development research, evidence and practice, as well as cross-sectoral partnerships	12
Appendix 1: Preliminary SORD Results	14
Acknowledgements	15

Introduction

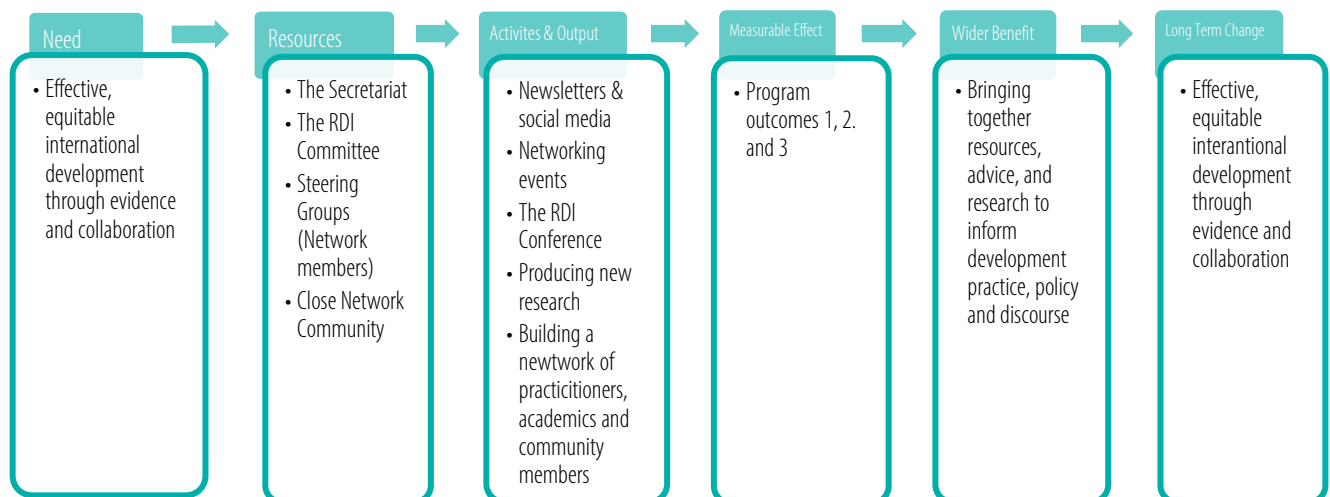
“Sharing and learning **is vital** for both the research and practitioner aspects of development work. Research informs development practice, and movements in practice directs the need for research. Both avenues **bring valuable strengths** to the table. It is a learning circle, and **everyone benefits**. The RDI Network **provides** this table ... [and] **enabled us** to share our local knowledge and relationships.”

- Bronwyn Spencer, Uniting World & Network member, October 2018

This snapshot offers an overview of the Research for Development Impact Network (RDI Network) program of work. The RDI Network has evolved from an informal group of academics to a formal network with over 2,000 members supported by a two-person secretariat, a governing volunteer committee, and supported by volunteer steering groups. The RDI Network’s unique program is funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) as “*Improving Cross-sector Engagement and Evidence-based Policy and Practice*”.

This outcome-level report highlights the key activities and achievements from the first year (November 2018 to October 2019) of the three-year program. There are three identified outcomes: **1)** RDI Network members are actively debating and synthesising current development thinking and ideas; **2)** RDI Network members are identifying and addressing opportunities, incentives and barriers to the production and use of policy-practice-relevant research; and **3)** RDI Network members are improving their skills in research communication and uptake.

Activities and outputs are guided by the RDI Network’s Theory of Change. Certain initiatives and activities intersect with multiple outcome areas. This review is produced by the RDI Network secretariat in consultation with the RDI Committee.



OUTCOME 1: RDI Network members are actively debating and synthesising current development thinking and ideas

“Like many academics of Development Studies, I have often been disheartened that my research does not always make a difference to development policy and practice. I joined the RDI Network **to develop networks and strategies** to **increase the impact** of my work. The Network has **amazing resources** that I draw upon often in my teaching. Their **tools on ethical research** for development are **very useful** for students and researchers alike.”

- Dr. Tanya Jakimow, UNSW & Network member, December 2018

The Network encouraged members to exchange ideas, views and current thinking in the development sector by:

Hosting the 2019 RDI Conference on 'Leadership for Inclusive Development'

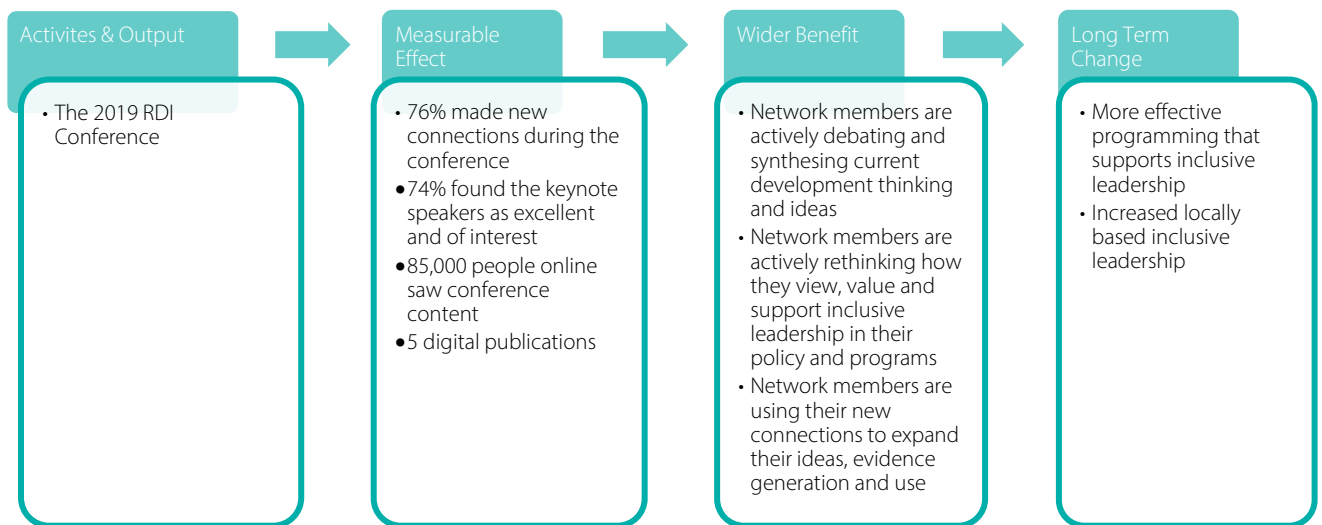
The conference is the Network's flagship event. On each occasion, the RDI Conference attracts engagement from a broad range of local and international thought leaders, researchers and practitioners around a chosen theme. Program content is developed through responses from an open call for submissions, as well as targeted invitations to key sector leaders and thinkers. The Conferences have produced a valuable series of published work through dedicated volumes of the Development Bulletin, published by the Australian National University.



"Had a **fantastic time** at the #RDIconf2019 ... it was brilliant to be surrounded by people from all walks of life all passionate about development and inclusive change. More than anything, it was **an opportunity** for us in the development space to openly **reflect on** our biases and beliefs, and how we might perpetuate the very discourses and systems we seek to address."

- Jeannette Chan, Melbourne Microfinance Initiative, 2019 Conference Delegate

This year's theme as *Leadership for inclusive development*, the selected keynote speakers were the Hon. Fiame Mata'afa, the Deputy Prime Minister of Samoa; Dan Honig, Assistant Professor of International development at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies; and Srilatha Batliwala, Senior Advisor, Knowledge Building and Feminist Leadership with CREA (Creating Resources for Empowerment in Action).



The Conference was promoted widely through media partner Pro Bono Australia, DevPolicy Blog, Translation Australia, and ACFID (Australian Council for International Development). This was seen in the form of five digital publications and various social media mentions.

The Network and conference were also mentioned by *The World* on ABC TV and on the radio channel, *Pacific Beats*. Thus, showcasing the Network's ability to influence the local media landscape, as well as the Australian news cycle. Including;

- [Time for less patronising Pacific talk and more climate action: Samoan Deputy PM](#), The Citizen, Centre of Advancing Journalism, University of Melbourne, 2019
- [IDM wins the inaugural RDI Conference video competition](#), Individual Deprivation Measure (IDM), International Women's Development Agency (IWDA), 2019

- [From Grassroots to Global: Catalysing community action for Disability Inclusive Development \(DID\)](#), CBM, 2019
- [Inclusive humanitarians – partnering for better disaster preparedness and response](#), CBM, 2019
- [RDI Conference 2019](#), Pro Bono Australia, 2019
- [The fate of leadership which aspires to leave no-one behind](#), Chris Roche, DevPolicy Blog, 2019
- [Community groups push for inclusive leadership](#), ABC Pacific Beat, 2019

The Network also influenced public discourse. As a result of bringing Dan Honig, Sirilatha Batiwala and the Hon. Fiame Mata'afa to Melbourne, other organisations used the opportunity to arrange side events. This included:

- an ANU seminar by Dan Honig, *Navigation by Judgement*
- a *Women's Leadership Initiative* networking breakfast, co-organised with DFAT, with the Hon. Fiame Mata'afa as special guest
- *WAVE Workshops* with Sirilatha Batiwala hosted by IWDA
- a series of meetings with DFAT and other aid organisations

Other feedback included; delegates experienced a 'stimulating, diverse and intellectually rich conference' and 'walked away with so many nuggets of wisdom and inquiry'. Delegates also felt 'connected to the conference theme of inclusivity and leadership' and were provided 'an excellent learning experience' with 'tangible takeaways that [they] hope to utilise'. In fact, several people; 'brought up the success of the conference without prompting. Two of those felt that they had not been to a conference before which had such consistently compelling and insightful speakers!'.

Conducting a Student Forum with students from La Trobe University and other side events at the Conference

The Student Forum held on the day before the main conference and was an opportunity for development students to learn and build connections before the main event. One hundred Australia Awards students from universities across Australia had their registration covered by DFAT in order to attend both events. These students brought new ideas and experiences to the conference. Seven students were able to present at the conference. Two students also published their work in the special conference edition of the Development Bulletin No. 81. A wrap-up of the Student Forum was published by Loop Lifestyle, [Sharing Lessons, Changing Lives](#).

Other side events to the conference included the Development Studies Association of Australia (DSAA) AGM and launch, and the [Communications for Development roundtable](#) (also previously held at RDI Conference 2015).

Building and Strengthening the Development Studies Association of Australia (DSAA)

The DSAA is expected to play a key role towards harmonising and strengthening curriculum on development studies across the country for future generations. After two successful symposia co-hosted by the RDI Network between 2015-2018, the community evolved into formally incorporating its' own association in 2019. The Network has continued to assist the DSAA since association by lending support and guidance in organising its inaugural conference for February 2020. Dr. Philippa Smales was also elected for a two-year appointment as a member on the DSAA committee as an industry representative.

The RDI Network has also authored a blog piece on the association and provided space and a warm audience for DSAA's soft launch and AGM at the 2019 RDI Conference. The Network can embed the long-term change of effective, equitable international development through evidence and collaboration with DSAA by:

- Building relationships between current and future DSAA members and Network members;
- Collaborating with DSAA members on research and encouraging the use of Network resources and advice; and
- Guiding and influencing future curriculum on development studies

This will ensure that the RDI Network is collaborative, relevant and of interest to the wider sector. It will also grow the Network's foundation of supporters who are in a position of influence to 'spread the word' about the Network to colleagues, and students of future generations. This output consolidates the Network as a 'go-to' knowledge and networking hub for current, innovative and relevant international development ideas and practice.

Facilitating topical networking events across Australia

The Network continued to build debate and learning in the sector by hosting two events on the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Panelists; Maree Grinell (Resilient Melbourne), Leanne Marshall (Shelter Advisor, Australian, Red Cross and Co-Chair of the Australian Council for International Development Urban Community of Practice), and Professor Donald Henry AM (University of Melbourne Enterprise Professor of Environmentalism and former CEO of the Australian Conservation Foundation and WWF Australia) at the Melbourne event

The event in **Melbourne**, '*Partnering for Sustainable Urban Development: Achieving SDG 11*', attracted 45 participants. The key themes centred around food security, energy efficiency, and social housing. The **Canberra** event hosted by Australian National University (ANU), '*SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals*', also attracted many attendees across the sectors.

"I attended to hear more about what is happening in the SDG11 space. It is not easy to embark on SDGs if there is no common agenda among the stakeholders. So **it was great** to connect with people who have common interests, and **seek opportunities**"

- Melbourne participant, *Partnering for Sustainable Urban Development: Achieving SDG 11, 2019*

At both functions the Network facilitated a panel, structured activities and informal networking for the participants to boost discussions on meaningful, effective development outcomes. From the feedback, **100% of survey respondents said that they would recommend the event to a friend or colleague**. Therefore, this event strategically filled a need in the sector to inform development practice amongst practitioners.

Sparking discourse on new and developing ideas in international development across Australia

The Network collaborates with various organisations, including DFAT, CBM, ANU, UNSW and many more, to produce research to support evidence-based development practice and policy. As a result of this type of work, many of our members and consultants are requested to speak further on specialist topics.

Accordingly, the Network's work:

- **on urbanisation with DFAT**, *Development in the Urban Era (2019)*, resulted in a presentation at *Urban Resilience Asia Pacific Conference 2018* put on by URAP. Further work emerged on the topic as part of a request from a ACFID CoP. This further work was part funded by the Network; [Pacific Island Towns and Cities - A resilience agenda for urbanisation and urban growth in Pacific Island Countries](#), and [What Does Neighbourhood Level Urban Resilience Look Like In Honiara](#).
- **on research impact**, [From Evidence to Impact: Development contributions of Australian aid funded research \(2017\)](#), yielded a Research Programs Workshop delivered by Juliet Willetts for Centre for Health and Security. This workshop prompted another workshop on research influence and impact with our consultants, Associate Professor Nichole Georgeou and Dr. Charles Hawksley later in the year.

- **on research uptake**, [Research Communication and Uptake Snapshot \(2018\)](#), resulted in our consultant, Melissa Kemp being invited to speak on a panel at the AAC 2019 to discuss the findings



2019 AAC Panelists: Chris Roche and Andrea Babon (Institute for Human Security and Social Change, La Trobe University), Chair: Sakuntala Akmeemana (Principal Specialist – Governance, Development Policy Division, DFAT), Chris Adams (Institute for Human Security and Social Change, La Trobe University), and Melissa Kemp

- **on disability inclusive research guidance** - a member-led session on disability inclusive guidance with CBM and Nossal, at the 2019 ACFID conference; the Network also was asked to facilitate a pre- conference networking reception.

OUTCOME 2: RDI Network members are identifying and addressing opportunities, incentives and barriers to the production and use of policy-practice-relevant research

“The most valuable aspect of the Network is the **collaborative** work involving development practitioners, researchers and evaluators to develop guidelines and tools for the sector. Plus, I believe that the Network’s **greatest potential** is to help shift thinking around key international development thematic areas by featuring the latest thought leaders and stimulating debates.”

- *Dr. Saba Mebrahtu, Oxfam Australia & RDI Committee Co-Chair, Nov 2019.*

Under Outcome 2 there are several projects aiming to encourage Network members to explore the opportunities and challenges of using research (evidence) in everyday practice and policy by:

Mobilising research advocates to join the Action Research Project

“The ... partners are **all progressing** towards unpacking the enablers and constraints within their organisations and settling on action research projects. Of particular note, Abt Associates, the Fred Hollows Foundation, Plan and the University of Technology Sydney have **been especially proactive** and are moving ahead with projects with **the potential for highly relevant learning.**”

- Lisa Denney, Institute for Human Security and Social Change, La Trobe University, 2019

With the Network’s core goal to ensure that all international development practice is evidence-based, this six-month project encourages teams of three self-identified Research Advocates (originally referred to as champions) from 12 different organisations to investigate research use and production in their own institutions.

The program also includes workshops for Research Advocates to develop strategies for research communication, ongoing mentoring, and a self-identified action project. Participating organisations include DFAT, Fred Hollows Foundation, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

The first facilitated workshop, held in early October 2019, brought together over 40 individuals. This initial workshop had participants positively remarking on the diversity of people involved; from program, to policy and research staff. 100% strongly agreed or agreed that they went away with ideas for action within their organisation.

Regional events will be held in the new year and a second reflections workshop will be held in May of 2020.

Developing a Scorecard on Research for Development (SORD)

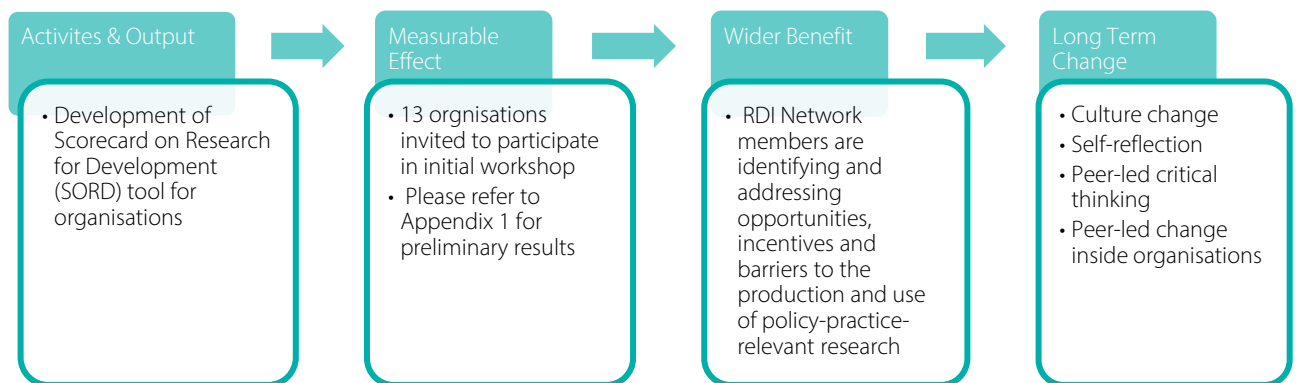
In advance of the Action Research Project, the SORD was developed as a bespoke tool for organisations to self-reflect on its use of evidence in practice and programming.

The SORD tool asks research advocates to assess and mark their organisation across six domains. These six domains have been determined as the necessary conditions for sustainable capacity development in research development impact.

1. **Vision:** clarity and authority of leadership in relation to prioritising the production and use of quality research evidence for development in policy and practice;
2. **People:** sufficiency and diversity of human resources to implement the *vision* of ethical research for development;
3. **Skills:** adequacy of academic/technical/management/political capabilities amongst the *people* to commission/conduct/translate/engage on/use ethical, quality and relevant research for development;
4. **Motivation:** adequacy of incentives and motivators to utilise the *skills* in research for development impact;
5. **Systems:** adequacy of structures and processes to coordinate and manage *motivated* and *skilled people* in development research impact;
6. **Resources:** sufficiency of resources to implement quality research for development *systems*.

During GY1, the initial workshop invited 13 organisations to participate in the program. This involved up to 4 research advocates from each organisation to discuss and capture their experience in drawing from research evidence and expertise. **Please refer to Appendix 1 for consolidated, preliminary results.**

This tool is anticipated to generate meaningful insights about the drivers and inhibitors of change within universities, Australian NGOs, managing contractors, consultancy firms and other actors in international development. In GY2 and GY3, the SORD will continue gather and provide evidence of changes of capacity within the sector. The tool will continue to be promoted to peer organisations for use as per workplan.

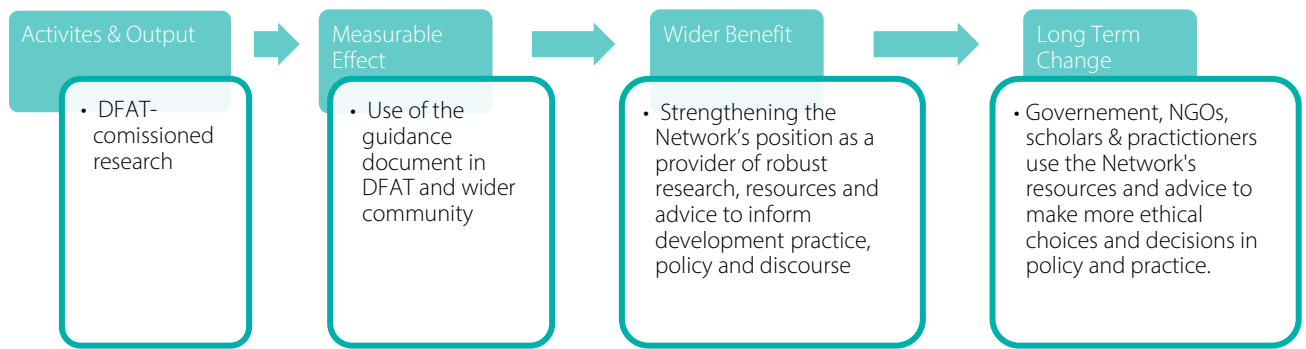


Researching on Civil Society Engagement and Climate Change in the Pacific

With the consultancy, Pacific Connections (Australia), the Network is developing (with DFAT) an internal working paper and technical guidance note on civil society engagement in infrastructure in the Pacific islands. Ten different organisations are actively involved in this project via the steering group. This includes members from Australian Council for International Development, Oxfam, DFAT, Save the Children, Australian National University, University of Technology Sydney and World Wide Fund for Nature Australia.

So far, two roundtables have been undertaken with DFAT and RDI Network, as well as consultations held in Samoa, Melbourne, Vanuatu, Fiji and online. These discussions and feedback have helped shape the direction of the research, internal working paper, and accompanying technical guidance note.

A public report will also be launched in the first quarter of 2020.



Producing guidance documents;

- a) *Making Development Research Inclusive of People with Disabilities*
- b) *How to Collaborate with Pacific Churches for Development Research*

Published right at the start of the grant year in November 2019, 'How to Collaborate with Pacific Churches for Development Research' arose from a request from a member for a consolidated guidance. With over 90% of the Pacific population adhering to the Christian faith, this publication addressed key considerations when partnering with local churches, including respect, reciprocity, ethics, and power dynamics. The guidance has been promoted widely by faith-based NGOs after the CEO of Caritas highlighted the publication during the Interfaith Breakfast at the ACFID Conference at the end of October 2018, and during the later Australian Church Agencies Network (CaN) CEOs meeting.

Rebekah Cochrane, the researcher who worked on the guidance, was also invited to present at the Islands and Oceans Pacific research conference in NZ in Nov 2018, to DFAT at a lunchtime seminar, and was accepted to present at the Australasian Aid Conference in February 2019.

Over 20 DFAT staff attended the lunchtime seminar, these seminars have been a proven approach to breaking down research into easy-to-understand, practical approaches in planning, programming and policy decisions. The publication was also sent to the DFAT PNG Church Partnership Program evaluator and used by DFAT in preparation for a meeting with head of the Pacific Church in February 2019.

The Network also identified another opportunity to produce policy-practice-relevant guidance on research that is inclusive of people with disabilities. Approached by CBM and Nossal Institute, the collaborative project has yielded a desk review and several informative consultations. Members from seven different organisations, including Tear, Deakin University, Plan International and University of New South Wales, have formed the steering group. The report is now in its final draft, due to be launched in 2020.

This output will provide a single guidance document to be used broadly in the sector.

Collaborating with Australia Council for International Development (ACFID)

"The collaboration was **valuable** in allowing us **to make evidence-based operational decisions** and planning. It helped us work more closely with ACFID members to understand their engagement with the SDGs. The insights that we received will be **useful and informative** for other ACFID projects."

- Jess Smith, Learning and Innovation Lead, ACFID, 2019

RDI Network collaborated with the ACFID Development Practice Committee (DPC) on an exploratory review project '*Planning and Measuring Effectiveness against the SDGs*', with Clear Horizon Consulting. The review had a two-fold purpose: firstly, to understand the relevance of the Effectiveness Toolkit for ACFID members and

secondly, to canvas approaches to measuring and reporting against the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across ACFID members and Australian universities, in particular.

Working with ACFID's Learning and Innovation team, the Network and consultants conducted a desktop review, member surveys and interviews to understand the uptake and utility of the Toolkit. This included consultations with Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP). The findings and insights allowed ACFID to make informed, data-driven decisions using practice-relevant research.

OUTCOME 3: RDI Network member skills in research communication and uptake are improving

"The **most valuable aspect** of the RDI Network is that it tries to **break down silos by linking** academia with the work of development practitioners. ...Creating active links and engagement opportunities **helps academics to engage** with practitioners and policy makers. It also **encourages and supports NGOs** to ensure their own work is evidence-based; by developing guidelines and organising conferences where **research can be accessed and shared.**"

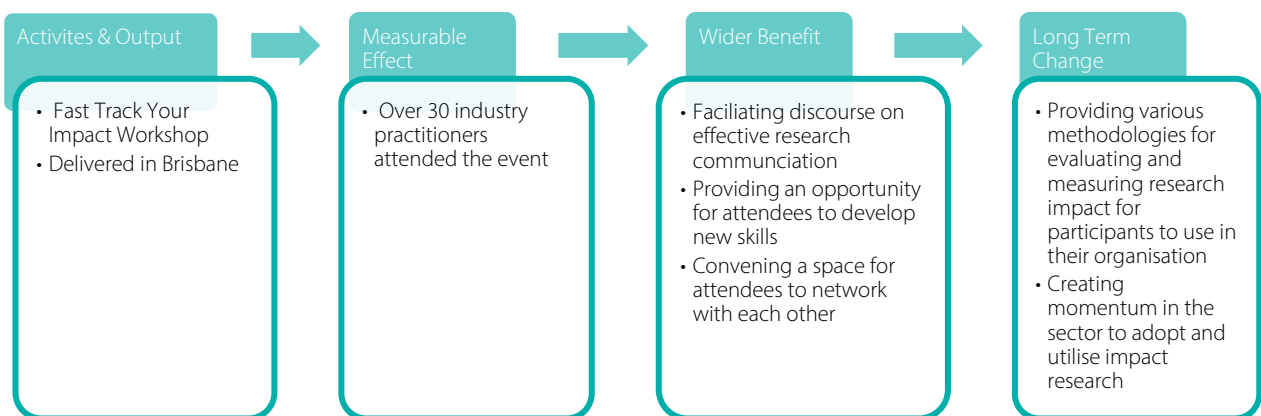
- Dr. Susanne Schmeidl, UNSW & committee member, June 2019

Under Outcome 3 several projects were initiated to up-skill Network members in research communication and uptake by:

Delivering a 'Fast Track Your Impact' workshop in Brisbane

"What a **great session!** Thank you so much for organising it - I think it will be **really useful** to the Institute's work going forward" - Susanne Newton, La Trobe University, participant

The *Fast Track Your Impact* workshop was co-hosted by Burnet Institute in Melbourne. It facilitated further learning for 30 researchers and practitioners to enhance their research impact. The workshop also attracted attendees from other sectors; community development practitioners and independent consultants. From the feedback, the Network filled a knowledge gap across several industries. The facilitator, Professor Mark Reed, is a recognized international expert in impact research with over 150 publications, and over 15,000 citations.



Producing a Toolkit for Enhancing Research Impact in International Development (ERIID)

Previous research, *Research Communication and Uptake Snapshot*, identified a framework that enabled academics and research producers to embed development impact into the research process.

This framework, *Enhancing Research Impact in International Development (ERIID)* will support research producers to plan ethical, relevant and community-led projects; ensuring best-practice is followed. This also ensures that the research produced can be easily disseminated, and practically used in the local community; improving the wider sector's skills in research communication and uptake.

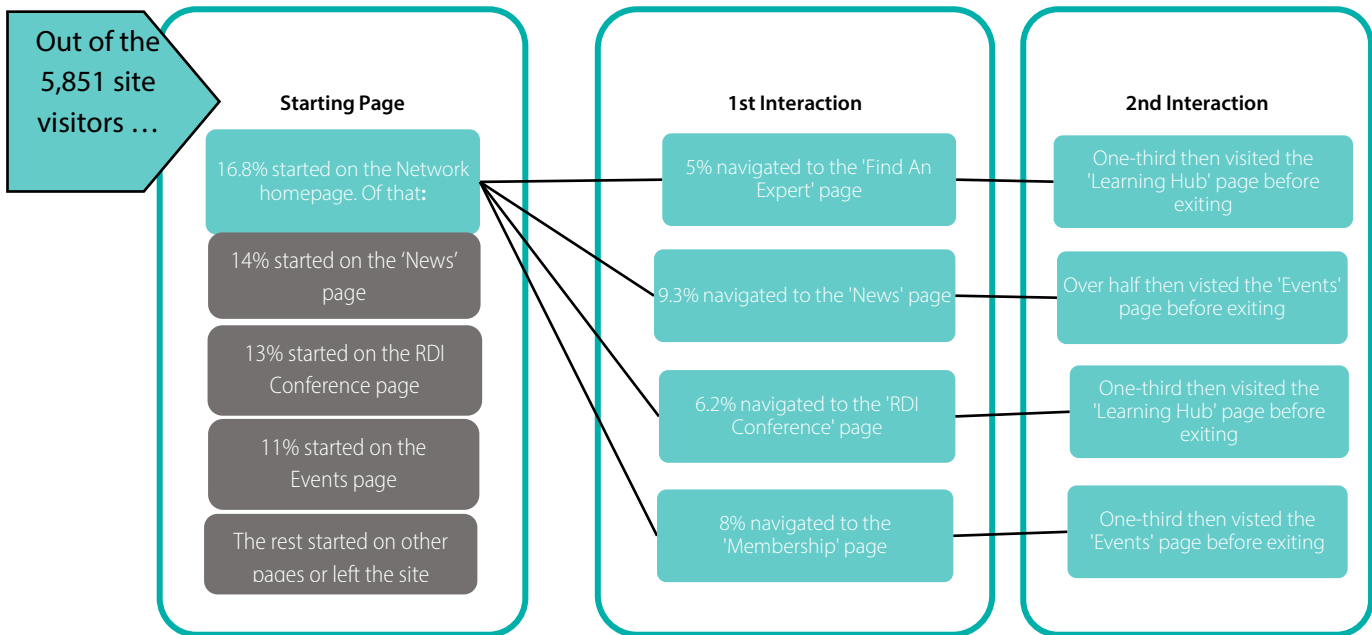
During November 2018 to October 2019, the Network and the consultants delivered two workshops to develop the ERIID. There was a public workshop held at Burnet Institute with over 25 attendees. The second workshop was held as a DFAT lunchtime seminar, inviting high-level government and policy makers. Both events were led by Associate Professor Nichole Georgeou, and her team, Dr Charles Hawksley and Dr Pamela Sitko.

ERIID is now in its final draft with a scheduled release date in the first quarter of 2020.

Increasing the use of Network resources and advice, including use of the website

The Network saw a record number of members utilising the website to increase their knowledge on ethical research and research communication. During November 2018 to October 2019, there were 5,851 site visitors. Of that, 4,174 were recorded as new users, and 1,677 were returning users. As for individual page views; the homepage accounts for 11.1% of all views, followed by 7.8% of traffic visited the ethical starter kit page, the Learning Hub and upcoming events follow with 3.52% and 3.43% respectively. The RDI Conference page registered 2.42% of traffic throughout the year.

Visitors are utilising the Network site as a source of current ideas and information. It also shows with the broad interest that exists for the RDI Network. This is supported by the recorded behaviour flows of user activity. User activity was as follows:



As for uptake of the RDI Network's resources and reports, a total of 2,994 PDF downloads for the period was recorded. 555 downloads were recorded in the 'Conducting Research In the Region' page. This page contains several reports, including [Ethics Approval Processes in Asia](#), [Ethics Approval Processes in the Pacific](#), and [Ethics Requirements for Research Publication](#). Coming in second with 400 downloads was the [Principles and Guidelines for Ethical Research and Evaluation in Development](#), and third, with 209 downloads of [Research Communication and Uptake Snapshot](#).

The collective knowledge of the Network was also utilised via the website's contact page. Enquires included:

- technical advisor for Plan International asking for guidance and resources on communicating research back to the community
- requests for a copy of the FPAR (Feminist Participatory Action Research) report from Plan International Australia as they had 'just finished the first draft of a report on a Solomon Islands solidarity project that uses FPAR principles'

- ASEAN Australia Strategic Youth Partnerships asked us to support their Young Leaders Forum through promotion
- RDI Network members reached out to experts (Find An Expert page) for support with reviewing of documents and mentoring requests
- University students reached to ask for recommendations for paper reviewers, guidance on ethical reviews in other countries (Malaysia, Indonesia and Tonga).

SECRETARIAT ACTIVITIES: A professional, sustainable, evolving network championing, shaping and providing leadership in effective development research, evidence and practice, as well as cross-sectoral partnerships

"I see the RDI Network as **a unique and highly valuable network** connecting academic research, applied research and accountability for development results. It's important to get the balance right ... The Network **helps** with that, by **bringing the development sector together to learn, innovate and evolve.**"

- *Katie Chalk, World Vision Australia & committee member, October 2019*

The secretariat continues to support the evolution of the Network by:

Governing and developing the Network

The RDI Network continues to receive strong responses to the requests for new academic and sector representatives on its Committee. Not only does this demonstrate the ongoing value that individuals, and institutions have in supporting the Network, but also the impact that it makes to the sector. It also ensures that the RDI Network is governed and lives by its principle mission of bringing together people from across the sector to actively information development practice, policy and discourse.

Through peer-selection, the Committee continues to have representation from the Australian Council of International Development (ACFID), the University of Technology Sydney (UTS), the University of Melbourne, Swinburne University, Murdoch University, Queensland University of Technology, University of New South Wales (UNSW), Oxfam Australia, Fred Hollows Foundation, World Vision Australia, Burnet Institute, Plan International Australia, and Family Planning NSW Research Centre.

Committee members guided the Network's secretariat with their sector knowledge and experience, while steering groups (Network members) volunteered their time and expertise to guide the Network's projects to ensure meaningful impact and representation. During the grant year (Nov 2018 – Oct 2019) there were almost forty voluntary steering group members from across the sector, plus 14 Conference Committee members.

The committee co-chairs and the secretariat met every third week throughout November 2018 to October 2019, engaging in key strategic discussions and planning for the current and future work areas of the Network. The full Network committee met quarterly throughout the year to engage in further strategic discussions and planning for the current and future work areas of the Network.

Growing Network recognition and engagement with peers and peer organisations

The secretariat utilises social media, Twitter and LinkedIn Groups, to informally share resources and advice, promote evidence-based practice, and bring together like-minded professionals in the digital space.

During the period, the Network reached an average of 16,225 people on Twitter with an average engagement rate of 1.3%. The industry average for Twitter engagement is 0.048%.¹ The top performing tweets (between 1,500 – 5,000 people have read the tweet) communicated the following information:

¹ Feehand, B. (2019). *2019 Social Media Industry Benchmark Report*. Retrieved from <https://www.rivaliq.com/blog/2019-social-media-benchmark-report/>

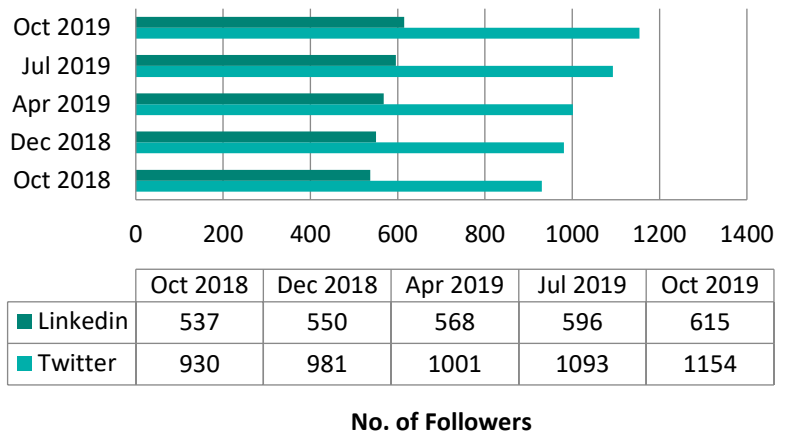
Change the RDI Network is trying to achieve	Topic of Tweet	% of our Top Performing Tweets in that topic
Promoting collaboration in the sector	RDI Network Conference ACFID Conference	33%
Encouraging active debate & synthesis of ideas in the sector	Asking followers, a themed question, followed by a link to the Network's resources, projects or website	33%
Encouraging informal sharing of knowledge across the sector	RDI Network events & networking	17%
Promoting participation with RDI Network	RDI Network Recruitment	17%

Currently, the Network's Twitter account has 1,154 followers and has an average one new follower per day.

With LinkedIn Groups, the Network brought together 636 activists, researchers, and students to synthesise current development thinking and ideas.

While there is limited analytics available for LinkedIn Groups, the Network has posted current thinking content, networking events and other relevant news weekly with a growth rate of 1-3 new requests to join per week (Chart 2).

Growth of Twitter & LinkedIn Following



More formally, the Network engages with its members and peer organisations through its monthly (e) newsletters, and the RDI Network website. The newsletter subscription has grown from 1,843 to 2,210 subscribers. The average open rate is 22.6% with an average click rate (clicking on a link) of 8.5%. This contrasts with the industry average of 21.76% opens and 3.99% respectively.² This high engagement from subscribers shows the Network's unique role in communicating and engaging curated content for the international development sector.

Offline, the Network has hosted and co-hosted many different workshops, launch events, networking events and DFAT lunch time seminars throughout the year. This has culminated with over 1000 sector members, from students, to entry-level professionals, to industry leaders attending at least one of the Network's activities. The Network offers international development professionals of all levels a unique, practical and social experience to share knowledge, learn and collaborate. This shows the Network as a unique bridging entity building professional community and identifying and tackling knowledge gaps.

² Mailchimp. (2019). *Email Marketing Benchmarks*. Retrieved from <https://mailchimp.com/resources/email-marketing-benchmarks/>

Appendix 1: Preliminary SORD Results

Consolidated Results: SORD for Research Users

Progress Domain	Basic capacity ('expect to see') (1)	Moderate capacity ('like to see') (2)	Strong capacity ('love to see') (3)	Average Score
Vision	Leaders are uninformed about, or resist, or do not value use of research evidence	Leaders passively or notionally support and value use of research evidence	Leaders overtly prioritise and value use of research evidence	2
People	Insufficient staff to carry any responsibility for use of research evidence	Adequate staff (women or men) with notional or shared responsibilities for use of research evidence	Enough staff (women and men) with dedicated responsibilities for use of research evidence	1.9
Skills	Staff lack skills in use of research evidence	Staff demonstrate adequate competency in use of research evidence	Staff with superior competency in use of research evidence	1.7
Motivation	Staff are unmotivated or confront disincentives for use of research evidence	Staff rely on intrinsic motivation for use of research evidence	Staff embrace overt incentives to prioritise use of research evidence	1.8
Systems	No structures or processes to manage use of research evidence	Informal structures and processes for managing use of research evidence	Explicit structures and processes to manage use of research evidence	1.4
Resources	Low level of resources allocated to use of research evidence	Adequate, albeit unreliable, resources allocated to use of research evidence	High level and dedicated resources allocated to use of research evidence	1.1

Consolidated Results: SORD for Research Producers

Progress Domain	Basic capacity ('expect to see') (1)	Moderate capacity ('like to see') (2)	Strong capacity ('love to see') (3)	Average Score
Vision	Leaders are uninformed about, or resist, or do not value ensuring development research impact.	Leaders passively or notionally support and value ensuring development research impact.	Leaders overtly prioritise and value ensuring development research impact.	2.25
People	Insufficient staff to carry any responsibility for ensuring development research impact.	Adequate staff (women or men) with notional or shared responsibilities for ensuring development research impact.	Sufficient staff (women and men) with dedicated responsibilities for ensuring development research impact.	1.5
Skills	Staff lack skills in ensuring development research impact.	Staff demonstrate adequate competency in ensuring development research impact.	Staff with superior competency in ensuring development research impact.	2
Motivation	Staff are unmotivated or confront disincentives for ensuring development research impact.	Staff rely on intrinsic motivation for ensuring development research impact.	Staff embrace overt incentives to prioritise ensuring development research impact.	2.5
Systems	No structures or processes to manage and ensure development research impact.	Informal structures and processes for managing and ensuring development research impact.	Explicit structures and processes to manage and ensuring development research impact.	1.5
Resources	Low level of resources allocated to ensuring development research impact.	Adequate, albeit unreliable, resources allocated to ensuring development research impact.	High level and dedicated resources allocated to ensuring development research impact.	1.5

Acknowledgements

Former RDI Secretariat members:

Jenny Vaccari (Network Communications Coordinator 2016-18)
Rebecca Fitzgerald (Network Communications Officer 2019)
Hansika Bhagani (Network Communications Coordinator 2019)

Interns and volunteers:

Alitzel Valadez Todoberto
Nicole Hutchison

RDI Committee (Current)

Prof. Juliet Willetts	Institute of Sustainable Futures, University of Technology, Sydney
Dr Saba Mebrahtu	Oxfam Australia, Melbourne
Sarah Burrows	Australian Council for International Development (ACFID), Deakin, ACT
Dr Elise Klein	School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Melbourne
Gareth Beyers	Plan International Australia, Sydney
Jane Estoesta	Family Planning NSW Research Centre, Sydney
Katie Chalk	World Vision Australia, Melbourne
A/Prof. Kurt Seemann	Centre for Design Innovation, Swinburne University of Technology, Melbourne
Mary-Ann Nicholas	Burnet Institute, Melbourne
Dr Peter Westoby	School of Public Health & Social Work, Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane
Dr Rochelle Spencer	Centre for Responsible Citizenship and Sustainability, Murdoch University, Perth
Dr Susanne Schmeidl	School of Social Sciences, UNSW Sydney
Dr Yadira Hazel	Fred Hollows Foundation, Melbourne
Tom Sloan (Observer 2019)	Sustineo, Canberra

RDI Committee (Former members 2018/19)

Prof. Mike Toole	Burnet Institute, Melbourne
Jo Crawford	International Women's Development Agency, Melbourne
Dr. Robyn Mildon	Centre for Evidence and Implementation, Melbourne
Dr Sumera Jabeen	World Vision Australia, Melbourne
Dr. Tessa Hillgrove	Fred Hollows Foundation
Thomas Soem	Office of DVC (Research), The University of Sydney

RDI Conference Committee

Caitlin Leahy	ISF, University of Technology Sydney
Chris Adams	La Trobe University
Chris Roche	La Trobe University
Caralene Moloney	La Trobe University
Diana Heatherich	La Trobe University
Eleanor Jackson	Oxfam / Oxfam Monash Partnership
Jak Hardy	CSO (WorldChangers Global) / Consult.
Kearrin Sims	James Cook University
Keren Winterford	ISF, University of Technology Sydney
Rachel Nunn	Ernst and Young
Richard Geeves	ChildFund Australia
Robyn Eversole	Swinburne University
Saba Mebrahtu	RDI Committee / Oxfam / Oxfam Monash Partnership
Sumera Jabeen	RDI Committee / World Vision Australia
Thomas Soem	Asia Society
Vivian Chordi	Macquarie University
Yadira Perez Hazel	Fred Hollows Foundation
Robyn Eversole	Swinburne University
Saba Mebrahtu	RDI Committee / Oxfam / Oxfam Monash Partnership
Sumera Jabeen	RDI Committee / World Vision Australia

Steering group members and special thanks

Alexei Trundle	University of Melbourne	Kearrin Sims	James Cook University
Amrita Malhi	Save The Children/ANU	Keren Winterford	ISF, UTS
Anne Gero	ISF UTS	Laisa Vereti	Pacific Disability Forum
Anne Fitzpatrick	ALWS	Leanne Dowse	UNSW
Ashlee Betteridge	ANU	Mai Linh Huynh	DFAT
Ben Clare	Consultant	Mary-Ann Nicholas	Burnet Institute, Melbourne
Bill Walker	WVI/Deakin	Nat Burke	WWF
Bridi Rice	ACFID	Nazanin Zehed-Cummings	Deakin University
Brooke Vandenberg	Burnett Institute	Nichole Georgeou	HADRI
Bronwyn Spencer	Uniting World	Peter Baynard-Smith	Consultant
Chris Adams	La Trobe	Peter Westoby	QUT
Chris Roche	La Trobe	Rochelle Spencer	Murdoch University
Christian Nielsen	Live and Learn	Saba Mebrahtu	Oxfam
Dermot O'Gorman	WWF	Sarah Burrows	ACFID
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Ellen Shipley	Uniting World	Simon Bradshaw	Oxfam
Federico Davila Cisneros	UTS, ISF	Stephen Tasker	ADRA
Gareth Beyers	Plan International	Susanne Schmeidl	UNSW, Sydney
George Goddard	EWB	Tamas Wells	University of Melbourne
Helen Fernandes	Tear	Juliet Willetts	ISF-UTS
Jackie Robertson	Consultant	Tanya Fenwick	FHF
James Cox	Peacifica	Tari Turner	Monash
Jane Hutchison	Murdoch University	Kate Kinsela	DFAT
Jane Kennedy	Uniting World	Kearrin Sims	James Cook University
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Juliet Willetts	ISF-UTS	Tom Sloan	Sustineo
Kate Angus	ACFID	Valentina Bau	UNSW
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