Induction plan for MPs

AUSTRALIA’s Centre for Democratic Institution recently sent a delegation to Port Moresby for an audience with Parliamentarians and other Government authorities. CDI Deputy Director, Quinton Clements, visited PNG from October 1 to 8. The primary purpose of Mr Clements’ visit was to discuss the possibility of CDI supporting a comprehensive induction program for Members of Parliament after the PNG national elections in June, 2007. Accompanied by CDI program manager Daniela Capaccio, Mr Clements met with a range of constitutional office holders, institutions, political parties and MPs, including the newly sworn-in Clerk of the National Parliament of Papua New Guinea, Mr Don Pandan, and his staff.

They also met with the Registrar of Political Parties, Mr Paul Bengo, and his deputy, Mr John Bishop; and the secretary general of the governing National Alliance Party, Mr Stephen Pokawin, and the party secretary, Ms Joyce Grant. The proposal for a CDI-sponsored MP induction program received enthusiastic support from all those Mr Clements spoke with. Mr Clements also held discussions on current and future CDI sponsored research projects with Transparency International PNG, the National Research Institute (NRI), and a number of academics at the University of Papua New Guinea. Mr Clements discussed with NRI Director, Dr Thomas Webster the possibility of holding a joint CDI-NRI symposium on the state of politics in Papua New Guinea in early 2007. The event is to cover politics five years on from the introduction of major political reforms, the Organic Law on the Integrity of Political Parties and Candidates and Limited Preferential Voting.