

# MICHAEL CORNISH, B.Ec, LLB, GDLP, MPACS, MAIA

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## CORE SKILLS

Public Policy, Economic Policy, and Analysis  
Legislative and Legal Analysis  
Political Economy / Governance  
Advocacy and Negotiation  
Analytical Writing / Editing

Project Management  
Research Skills  
Mediation  
Teamwork and Communication  
Peace and Conflict Analysis

## COUNTRIES OF EXPERIENCE

Australia  
Bosnia-Herzegovina  
China  
Indonesia  
Italy

France  
Papua New Guinea  
Philippines  
Singapore  
United States

## RECORD OF EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

2021: Diploma in Sustainable Living, University of Tasmania (ongoing)  
2020: Graduate Diploma in Language (Indonesian), Flinders University (ongoing, deferred)  
2014: **Master of Arts in International Relations (with Honours), Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies** [GPA: 3.91];  
>> Majoring in **International Economics** and **Conflict Management**  
2013: Bologna Conflict Symposium, International Peace and Security Institute  
2012: **Masters in Peace and Conflict Studies (with Merit), University of Sydney**  
2008: Practitioner's Certificate in Mediation, Institute of Arbitrators and Mediators Australia  
2008: Certificate IV in Government (Investigations), Australian Forensic Services  
2008: Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice, Law Society of South Australia  
2007: **Bachelor Degree in Laws, University of Adelaide**  
2004: **Bachelor Degree in Economics, University of Adelaide**

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

2011: Australian Institute of International Affairs [Committee Member]  
2008: Institute of Arbitrators and Mediators Australia  
2008: **Admitted to the Supreme Court of South Australia**  
2007: Law Society of South Australia

## LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

English (native) Indonesian (intermediate low)  
German (intermediate low)

## WORK HISTORY [BY CATEGORY]

### POLICY EXPERIENCE

**Organisation:** Group of Eight (Australian universities) 2020 –

**Position:** Policy Adviser

- Strategic analysis, advocacy and liaison on research policy, higher education, and international education
- Prepared formal Group of Eight submissions to Federal Government and Federal Parliamentary Committees
- Prepared internal briefs for the Group of Eight Board of vice-chancellors on a wide range of strategic matters

**Organisation:** Office of Ms Rebekha Sharkie MP (Australian Federal Member for Mayo) 2016 – 2020

**Position:** Senior Policy Adviser

- Strategic analysis and advocacy on a wide range of issues of Federal, South Australian, & local importance
  - Reviewed and advised on majority of legislation in the House of Representatives (45<sup>th</sup> & 46<sup>th</sup> Parliaments)
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- Negotiated and liaised extensively on policy and legislation with Ministers and their offices, shadow Ministers, Parliamentarians, NGOs, community and lobby groups
  - Speechwriter for majority of Parliamentary speeches and questions; managed Parliamentary procedure
  - Campaign manager (2019 Mayo Federal election); co-campaign manager (2018 Mayo Federal by-election)
  - Constituent work on a wide range of casework and policy issues; composed Federal and State Ministerial correspondence on technical legislative issues and constituent matters
  - Project-managed a variety of community-level advocacy campaigns, events, and Government grant rounds

**Organisation:** **Independent Diplomat** 2013

**Position:** **Programme Assistant (Washington DC, United States)**

- Liaised with policymakers, academics, and think-tank experts, conducted research, and provided strategic diplomatic advice for major international clients, including the National Syrian Coalition, the Polisario Front in Western Sahara, Somaliland, South Sudan, USTPAC, and the Marshall Islands

**Position:** **Research Assistant to the Hon. Gareth Evans (Melbourne, Australia)** 2010

- Internship with former Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, President Emeritus of the International Crisis Group, Co-chair of the International Commission on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament
- Undertook research and drafting on various international relations policy issues, website management, and various administrative duties

#### ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE

**Organisation:** **Australian National University (ANU) / University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG)** 2015 – 2016

**Position:** **Partnership Manager; Lecturer; Visiting Fellow (Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea)**

- As a subset element of the Pacific Leadership and Governance Precinct funded by the Australian aid program, helped to develop the partnership between the ANU Crawford School of Public Policy and UPNG's School of Business Administration to expand capacity and improve quality in economics and public policy, particularly in economic research, teaching, and public outreach
- Undertook course restructure and curriculum review of the Economics Degree
- Jointly developed and helped negotiate the grant agreement for a broader program of ANU support for UPNG, including ANU faculty recruitment and placement at UPNG, staff and student exchanges, access to learning resources, scholarships, and other support
- On the organising committee for the PNG Update, the premier annual economics and public policy conference in PNG
- Co-authored '*PNG survey of recent [economic] developments 2014-15*'; presented as a keynote at the PNG Update
- Lectured in *International Economics*, *Development Economics*, and *Principles of Microeconomics*

**Organisation:** **University of Adelaide** 2010 – 2015

**Position:** **Lecturer; Research Project Manager (Adelaide, Australia)**

- Managed and undertook research for the following projects:
    - Economic Research Institute of ASEAN (ERIA)-funded project on '*Services liberalisation and Free Trade Agreements*'
    - AusAID-funded Public Sector Linkages Program on '*Structural reform, services and logistics – building policy making capacity in APEC*', culminating in a three-week workshop visit by academic and ministry officials from the Indonesian Ministry of Trade, the Beijing University of International Business and Economics, and the Chinese Ministry of Commerce
  - Managed four international economics workshops (including the 2011 Econometric Society Australasian Meeting with over 200 attendees) and two annual academic recruitment rounds
  - Lectured and/or coordinated the following subjects:
    - *Development Economics* (at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels)
    - *Managing Conflict in the Developing World*
    - *Economic Principles* (postgraduate)
    - *Business and Economic Statistics*
    - *Introduction to International Politics*
    - *State of the World: Poverty, Governance and Justice*
  - Tutored *Introduction to Development Studies*, *International Trade*, *Human Rights & Postcolonial Issues*
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**Organisation:** Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies 2012 – 2013  
**Position:** Teaching Assistant (Bologna, Italy)

- Teaching assistant in the subject of *Microeconomics* (intermediate level)

**Organisation:** University of Adelaide; and Deakin University 2006 – 2008; 2010

**Position:** Part-Time Teaching Lecturer (Adelaide and Melbourne, Australia)

- Tutored classes in *Microeconomics I*, *Macroeconomics I*, *Business Data Analysis I*, *Business and Economic Statistics I* [Adelaide] and *The Global Economy* [Deakin]

**Organisation:** Institute for International Trade, University of Adelaide 2006 – 2007

**Position:** Researcher (Adelaide, Australia)

- Undertook research and compiled presentations on many trade-related topics, including: e-commerce and its relation to Free Trade Agreements and the GATS (which were then used in preliminary negotiations with the Chinese for an Australia-China FTA); globalisation's effect upon world capital markets; and trade capacity-building in small Asian economies
- Assisted preparation of the Chinese Mayoral Tour, a visit of 22 provincial mayors with a focus on local governance, urban design, and business

**Organisation:** South Australian Parliament 2005

**Position:** Parliamentary Researcher (Adelaide, Australia)

- Undertook field-based research to compile a detailed report on the feasibility of a desalination plant on the Eyre Peninsula in South Australia for The Hon. Terry Stephens and Liz Penfold MP
- The final 9,000 word report now resides in the South Australian Parliamentary Library

#### CONSULTANCY EXPERIENCE

**Organisation:** CARANA Corporation (for CSIRO / Aust. Dept. of Foreign Affairs & Trade) 2014

**Position:** Consultant (Canberra / Sydney / Brisbane / Adelaide, Australia)

- Composed a situational assessment report for the Government of Australia on how aid-for-trade and donor-private partnerships ('PPPs') could be applied through the Australian aid program, especially within the issue areas of agriculture, rural development and food security
- Undertook a market assessment and entry strategy on the Australian aid sector for CARANA

**Organisation:** OECD 2012 – 2013

**Position:** Consultant (Paris, France / Bologna, Italy)

- Undertook research and writing for the OECD / WTO publication, *Aid for Trade at a Glance 2013*

#### PROJECT MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE

**Organisation:** World Wide Project Management Services 2010

**Position:** Project Manager (Adelaide, Australia)

- Project and business development manager for UNIFEM and AusAID international aid projects

**Organisation:** Coffey International Development 2006 – 2010

**Position:** Knowledge Manager/Project Manager (Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea)

- Project-managed key components within six large AusAID PNG programs
- Managed the company's knowledge management initiative across all programs
- The knowledge management initiative was to share information and knowledge between the programs on successes, challenges and lessons learnt. Required strong relationship-building and mediating; tools included targeted research and writing discussion papers, inductions, website management, and coordination meetings

**Position:** Impact Analyst (Nias, North Sumatra, Indonesia)

- Undertook an impact analysis as component of the monitoring and evaluation of the AusAID-funded post-disaster Nias Reconstruction Program. The program involved the construction of sub-district offices and village-level infrastructure across the South Nias district, an area badly hit by both the Boxing Day Tsunami and Nias Earthquake
  - Presided over village meetings and interviews in dozens of geographically remote hamlets. Collected and analysed program data, compiled extensive case studies to provide support to analysis and drew final conclusions, all culminating in a written publication (see *Publications* below)
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**Position: Project Manager (Adelaide, Australia)**

- Project manager of the Philippines-Australia Human Resource Development Facility (PAHRDF), a facility-model program that aimed to build capacity within key institutions in the Philippines through targeted human resource development [contract value AUD 25 million+]
- Provided legal support to the Operations division with a focus on contract, corporation and labour law, including regular legal research and leading large contract amendments and extensions
- Project manager for Australian Assistance to the Iraqi Justice System, which included mobilising a criminal investigator to Baghdad to train Iraqi counterparts [contract value AUD 200,000+]
- Seconded to an internal knowledge management project for the company-wide rollout of Microsoft SharePoint 2007
- Provided logistical support both corporately and for other AusAID Asia-Pacific projects

**COMMUNITY SERVICE**

**Organisation: Trees for Life** 2020 –

**Position: Board Member**

- Trees for Life is a major South Australian not-for-profit conservation and revegetation organisation with over 7,000 active supporters and volunteers
- Provided legal, advocacy, financial and operational advice

**Organisation: Economics Students Society of Papua New Guinea** 2016 – 2017

**Position: Patron**

- Invited by the peak economics student association in Papua New Guinea to be their patron; I have made the role about seeking to support the students as much as possible in their studies, ambitions, and futures

**Organisation: Port Moresby (National) Arts Theatre** 2009, 2015 – 2016

**Position: Director, Treasurer, and Committee Member (Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea)**

- Jointly with the rest of the committee, ran the Theatre and its events, legal and monetary affairs, maintenance & repairs
- Directed *An Evening with Andrew Lloyd-Webber*, with a cast and crew of 30+ Papua New Guineans / expats (2009)

**Organisation: One Village** 2010 – 2012

**Position: Board Member (Australia)**

- One Village is an Australian-based charity improving the lives of Ugandans within Namwendwa and Butaaya villages in Eastern Uganda, modelled on the UN Millennium Villages approach
- Acted as an activity manager for One Village's charitable operations and provided legal and operational advice

**Organisation: South Australian Law Society Human Rights Committee** 2010 – 2012

**Position: Committee Member**

- Made submissions to the to the Aust. Law Reform Commission on legislation affecting human rights, including (amongst others) refugee law, anti-discrimination law, people-trafficking, and human rights frameworks

**Organisation: Campaign for the Establishment of a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly** 2010 – 2011

**Position: National Coordinator (Australia)**

- Head of campaign operations in Australia, advocating for a UN Parliamentary Assembly
- As Coordinator Emeritus, spoke at Australian Senator Bob Brown's last Senatorial public engagement on the topic of "*Is global governance possible?*"

**Organisation: Adelaide Legal Outreach Service [University of Adelaide / WestCare]** 2006

**Position: Legal Advisor (Adelaide, Australia)**

- Provided pro bono legal advice to clients who were homeless or otherwise socially disadvantaged

**REFEREES**

**Senator Rex Patrick**

Independent Senator for South Australia

**Professor the Hon. Gareth Evans AC QC**

Former Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs

*All contact details available on request*

**Professor Christopher Findlay**

Former Exec. Dean, Faculty of the Professions  
The University of Adelaide

**The Hon. Rev Dr Lynn Arnold AO**

Former Premier of South Australia

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## PUBLICATIONS

### POLITICS AND PUBLIC POLICY

- Essential Liberty*, Policy Forum, Australia and the Pacific Policy Society, Australian National University, 25 Mar 2015
- Real liberals search in vain for a political party to call their own*, The Age (& Fairfax syndicates), Jun 2014
- Debt crisis? The real crisis is in giving up on this country's future*, The Age (& Fairfax syndicates), May 2014
- When Exceptionalism meets Insularity*, The SAIS Observer, Nov 2013
- Quest è il mio giardino!*, The SAIS Observer, May 2013
- Global Governance - What would it look like, and do we want it*, The SAIS Observer, Nov 2012
- PROOF-READER: Claudia Kissling, *The Legal and Political Status of International Parliamentary Institutions*, Committee for a Democratic U.N., Jan 2011
- Parliament for Humanity* [GHOST-WRITER], The Canberra Times, 27 Sep 2010
- What's in the Pipeline? The Water Quandary Facing the Eyre Peninsula*, South Aust. Parliamentary Library, Nov 2005

### ECONOMICS AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- What future for PNG economics students Findings from a graduate exit survey?*, Devpolicy Blog, The Development Policy Centre, Australian National University, 8 Feb 17
- Papua New Guinea economics graduate exit survey*, Development Policy Centre, Australian National University, Jan 2017
- PNG survey of recent developments, 2014 - 15*, Development Policy Centre, Australian National University, (with Rohan Fox, Stephen Howes, Win Nicholas, and Ani Rova), Sep 2015
- Economics at the University of Papua New Guinea, 2015*, Devpolicy Blog, The Development Policy Centre, Australian National University, 3 Jul 2015
- Situational Assessment on Aid for Trade, Public-Private Partnerships and Inclusive Business Opportunities in Australia* (with D. Jacobson and S. Sedaca), CARANA Corporation [for DFAT, CSIRO & ACIAR], Dec 2014
- Core team: *Regional Perspectives on Aid for Trade*, The Development Dimension, OECD, Nov 2014
- Market Assessment Report - The Australian Aid Market*, May 2014
- The Politics of Economic Reform in Contemporary Indonesia*, East Asia Forum, Australian National University, Nov 2013
- Core team: *Aid for Trade at a Glance 2013: Connecting to Value Chains*, WTO & OECD, Jul 2013
- Moving forward on regional integration in trade in services*, East Asia Forum, Australian National University, May 2012
- Services Liberalization in the 'ASEAN Plus' Free Trade Agreements* (with Prof. Christopher Findlay), ASEAN+1 FTAs and Global Value Chains in East Asia, Research Project 2010 No.29, Economic Research Institute of ASEAN, Apr 2012
- Aid money should be concentrated in the region we know*, The Weekend Australian, Jul 2011
- Cause and Effectiveness – assessing the report of the Independent Review of Aid Effectiveness*, Inside Story, Jul 2011
- Why does AusAID rely on technical assistance so heavily?*, Interpreting the Aid Review, The Lowy Institute, Feb 2011

### PEACE AND CONFLICT

- No country indeed* [Trump in Asia], *The Globe Post*, 19 Nov 2017
- Syria bombing risks a deadly escalation of conflict*, Policy Forum, Australia and the Pacific Policy Society, 17 Oct 2016
- Australia should not bomb Syria*, The Age (& Fairfax syndicates), 25 Aug 2015
- Moral dilemmas of war against Islamic State lack easy answers*, The Conversation, 1 Oct 2014
- The Lesson from Iraq: Never Again*, New Matilda, 4 Jul 2014
- Managing Conflict in the Developing World - Essays from Emerging Scholars* (ed.), Vol. II, Univ. of Adelaide, Dec 2014
- Contemporary Politics of Conflict in Aceh*, Peace and Conflict Monitor, United Nations University for Peace, Jan 2014
- Managing Conflict in the Developing World - Essays from Emerging Scholars* (ed.), University of Adelaide, Dec 2013
- Causes and Catalysts of the Civil War in Syria*, Peace and Conflict Monitor, United Nations University for Peace, Oct 2013
- The Role of Mediation in International and Intra-national Conflict*, Institute of Arbitrators and Mediators Journal, Nov 2011
- The Bougainville conflict: A classic outcome of the resource-curse effect?*, Peace and Conflict Monitor, United Nations University for Peace, Oct 2010
- Nuclear Horizons*, South Australian Law Bulletin, Aug 2010
- The Responsibility to Protect*, South Australian Law Bulletin, Mar 2008
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