WORKING TO IMPROVE SOCIAL PERFORMANCE
IN THE RESOURCES SECTOR
Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining
The Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining (CSRM) is part of the Sustainable Minerals Institute (SMI) at The University of Queensland (UQ), one of Australia’s premier universities. SMI has a long track record of working to understand and apply the principles of sustainable development within the global resources industry.

We believe that effective collaboration is key to achieving successful research outcomes. Collaboration is at the heart of SMI’s approach. This means strong internal collaboration between SMI centres, research associations within UQ and external groups in Australia and overseas. SMI’s mission, to be a world leader in providing knowledge-based solutions to the sustainability challenges of the global minerals industry, relies on this collaboration. With approximately 350 staff across seven inter-related research centres and its commercialisation company JKTech Pty Ltd

SMI has a global presence and is developing rapidly – integrating research disciplines, generating new ideas, engaging stakeholders and delivering relevant outcomes. At CSRM we contribute to the SMI vision through research and participation in SMI’s key strategic initiatives, such as NextMine™, an initiative which will see SMI focus its activity on developing integrated approaches for the minerals industry to progress further towards a position of sustainability.
WORKING TO IMPROVE SOCIAL PERFORMANCE IN THE RESOURCES SECTOR

The Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining (CSRM) is a leading research centre, committed to improving social performance in the resources industry globally. CSRM works with companies, communities and governments in mining regions around the world to deliver better outcomes.

FOCUS

At CSRM, our focus is on the social, economic and political challenges that occur when change is brought about by resource extraction and development.

Our work spans a range of thematic areas, covering the interactions between resource projects, communities and other stakeholders. Across these themes, we conduct quantitative and qualitative social research; provide services including framework development and customised studies; and co-ordinate education and training activities. These three aspects reinforce each other, keeping CSRM in contact with stakeholders and at the forefront of policy and developments.

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT?
OUR PEOPLE, OUR APPROACH

We are a multi-disciplinary group of anthropologists, sociologists, political scientists, economists, engineers, and developmental, technical and natural resource specialists. We have in-depth knowledge of the minerals industry, at regional, corporate and operational levels, built from years of practical experience and direct engagement. Our multidisciplinary team collaborates across practice areas to: conduct rigorous, independent research within UQ’s ethical framework; provide strategic or specialist advice; develop policy; and deliver world-leading education and training.

Our position within UQ, and our ability to link research and practice across several disciplines, sets us apart and adds unique value to the work we do.

www.csrm.uq.edu.au
CAPABILITIES

Transparent, independent, constructive: our core values and ethical criteria underpin everything we do. From informal, one-off projects, to long term partnerships and collaborations, we engage in the following ways.

EMERGING RESEARCH
We undertake exploratory research in emerging areas such as cumulative impacts, social risk, governance and methodologies for assessing human rights. CSRM operates at the forefront by investing in these key areas for future learning and discovery. We also seek to deepen knowledge in more established areas such as conflict, impact assessment and resettlement.

MULTI-PARTNER RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS
Structured around specific research challenges, these collaborations involve partnerships with industry, other academic institutions and government.

INDUSTRY RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS
We partner with organisations to work on programs over a number of years. These are formal partnerships tailored to the needs of organisations.

RESEARCH-BASED CONSULTING
Generally short term; these can be specific projects (for example, a review of a company’s community development fund or advice for government on policy development) or multi-party collaborations around a specific topic (for example, procurement from small to medium enterprises).

EDUCATION AND TRAINING
Our education and professional development programs are suited to all stakeholders associated with resource projects from around the world.

POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMS IN COMMUNITY RELATIONS
These world-first programs focus on student work environments and draw from a wide range of expertise.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, SHORT COURSES AND WORKSHOPS
These courses are designed to build capacity across the industry. They are tailored to suit individual groups, from frontline community relations practitioners, to community representatives and industry executives. Recent programs have been delivered to companies including Rio Tinto, Anglo American and Newcrest Mining. We have also run open courses for community relations practitioners in Papua New Guinea and Australia.

POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH
Our Research Higher Degree students conduct their PhD and MPhil studies on a diverse range of projects. Our students, assisted by our Student Support and Scholarship Fund, have undertaken vital field work in places such as Brazil, Mongolia, Vietnam and Peru as a part of their studies.

Visit csrm.uq.edu.au/education for more information.
In this photo, Dr Nick Bainton, CSRM Industry Fellow, is on Malie Island (Lihir Group), New Ireland Province, PNG. He is taking genealogies and identifying people from Malie in archive photos.

RESEARCH

We look to anticipate emerging research areas and understand their implications. Our projects are formed around these themes together with companies and communities who are committed to improving social performance in the resources sector.
OUR PARTNERS
WE COLLABORATE WITH A DIVERSE RANGE OF STAKEHOLDERS

We work with government and industry via Australian Research Council Linkage projects, and we have collaborations with the Australian Coal Association Research Program (ACARP) and other peak industry bodies.

Our industry partners include some of the largest resources companies globally – Rio Tinto, BHP Billiton, Newmont Mining, Xstrata, Anglo American, BG Group and Vale.

We also work with small to medium-sized companies focused on improving their sustainability performance.

We collaborate with international organisations, such as the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank; as well as non-government organisations (NGOs) and civil society organisations, including Oxfam Australia and the Responsible Mining Initiative (Australia).

Working alongside is CSRM’s Advisory Board, with external representatives from industry, government, NGOs and UQ. The Board helps to identify research opportunities, shape our strategy and provide feedback on the quality of our work.
WHERE WE WORK
We undertake research, provide advice and deliver training throughout Australia, the Asia-Pacific region and other major mining regions across the globe.

IMPACT
Since 2001, we’ve contributed significantly to industry change through our research, teaching and consulting. Our key contribution: we help build capacity to manage change brought about by mining in more effective ways.

Our expertise spans the globe and we have:
> conducted research in diverse and complex communities across Australia and overseas, including the Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, and Peru
> assisted in the development and application of management systems to improve community relations practice – our work for Newmont Mining on its Community Relationships Review has led to a major research project on assessment frameworks for performance in social responsibility
> developed the world’s first professional qualification for community relations practitioners working in the resources sector, enrolling over 140 students in the first five years of operation from countries as diverse as Mongolia, Chile, USA, Papua New Guinea, Canada, Madagascar, Indonesia, and Trinidad and Tobago
> developed best practice guidelines addressing Indigenous issues, local procurement, cumulative impacts, gender, cultural heritage and community engagement and development for the Australian government, as well as multi-lateral organisations including the World Bank, the ICMM and multinational companies such as Rio Tinto
> influenced global norms, voluntary standards and new policy proposals through our work with our partners, including submissions to Australian Parliamentary inquiries and the United Nations Secretary-General’s Special Representative on Business and Human Rights ‘Guiding Principles’.