VOICES OF BOUGAINVILLE
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(Our Land, Our Future)

Executive Summary
RESEARCH FINDINGS: RECONCILIATION AND ASPIRATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

Although not all respondents expressed their opinion on the peace process to date, those who did reported unanimous dissatisfaction. Nearly three-quarters felt that although there was now an end to the violence, the problems facing families have not yet been addressed. Related to this, a sizeable majority felt that lasting peace had not been restored and that more reconciliation was necessary. Smaller numbers reported variously that there had been peace but no justice; that the peace process has not been properly consultative; or that the process itself was an initiative to serve the needs of Australia/Papua New Guinea. All respondents felt that the ongoing fact of trauma present in their communities was a serious problem and that there needed to be more support services to address it.

When asked about the future of Bougainville, respondents identified a number of principles which they would like to be adhered to secure a healthy and prosperous life for their communities and their island. The most important among these were respect for the natural environment, a commitment to a ‘people-centred’ development, and a development process designed and controlled by Bougainvillean. A significant number rejected the attempt to link the issue of Bougainvillean independence with the reopening of the Panguna mine.
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