



INFORMATION SHEET
AUSTRALIA'S SUPPORT FOR GENDER EQUALITY
IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA
AS AT 7 MARCH 2014

- The Australian Government gives priority to gender equality and women's empowerment in our foreign policy and in our aid program for Papua New Guinea. We recognise that one of the best ways to achieve stronger communities, societies and economies is to empower women and girls.
- In Papua New Guinea, Australia supports women leaders, helps end violence against women, and ensures women and girls can access health services and an education. Importantly, we are working to improve economic outcomes for women.

Education and skills for economic participation

- Education and training give women the knowledge, skills and self-confidence they need to earn an income, including through higher paying jobs and by starting their own businesses.
- Australia is committed to providing at least 50 per cent of Australia Awards to women. Australia Awards provide Papua New Guineans with the opportunity to undertake full-time undergraduate or postgraduate study at Australian universities and technical and further education colleges. More than half of the 1800 Papua New Guineans who have gained an internationally recognised qualification from an Australian university through the program have been women.
- Additionally, Australia is providing around 1400 Australia Awards Pacific Scholarship from 2012 to 2015 for Papua New Guineans to study in PNG in the fields of midwifery, nursing, community health work and education. More than 70 per cent of recipients of the scholarships have been women.
- At the elementary school level, Australia builds double classroom kit-sets which include ablution blocks making it easier for girls to attend and stay at school. In 2012 Australia built 116 kit-sets.

- At the secondary school level, Australia's Incentive Fund has supported the refurbishment and construction of infrastructure at three of the four all-girl schools in PNG.

Better access to healthcare and participation in the health workforce

- Through the Australia Awards Pacific Scholarships program, Australia supports the training of up to 500 midwives which will result in an additional 8000 supervised births a year.
- Australia is refurbishing four midwifery schools and building a fifth school to expand capacity to train midwives in quality conditions. Australia also supports eight midwifery facilitators to work with the teachers and students to improve teaching quality and produce confident graduates.
- Through the Australia Awards Pacific Scholarships program, Australia supports increasing the proportion of women participating in health workforce training. In 2012, 41 specialist nurse graduates were female (66 per cent) and all 21 midwifery graduates from the University of PNG were female. In 2013, 101 community health workers scholarships (57 per cent), 111 nurse scholarships (74 per cent) and 94 midwifery scholarships (91 per cent) were awarded to females.

Ending family and sexual violence against women

- Australia is working with the PNG police, prosecutors and magistrates to improve legal protections, and support available to survivors of family and sexual violence.
 - Australia has supported the establishment of eleven Family and Sexual Violence Units in police stations across PNG. These Units provide support to people to report cases, receiving referrals for counselling or other support such as the issuing of interim protection orders or finding emergency accommodation. Over the past three years well over 20,000 survivors have received help from police in these Units.
 - Magistrates and district court clerks have received specialist training to improve the issuance of Interim Protection Orders - a short-term intervention to prevent further violence in the home or community.
 - A dedicated team of PNG prosecutors receive mentoring and specialist skills training in prosecuting these types of cases and the Office of Public Prosecutor has been encouraged to improve the support available to victims and witnesses, particularly in these types of cases.

- Australia supports the Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee (FSVAC) in Papua New Guinea to strengthen its male advocate's network through targeted training to reduce family and sexual violence in rural and urban areas. To date, around 140 males from East Sepik Province, National Capital District and Western Highlands Province have participated in the Male Advocacy Training.
- Australia supported the PNG government to host a Sorcery and Witchcraft related violence conference in Goroka in December 2013, to develop a national response and recommended actions for the Government to reduce the level of this violence and provide support for survivors.
- Australia is supporting a Family and Sexual Violence Case Management Centre in Lae. The centre will be staffed by case workers who will ensure women and children receive medical support as well as immediate shelter, legal support and other services they need. The team will train other service providers, and advocate for more effective services for survivors of family and sexual violence.
- Australia is supporting the Highlands Women's Human Rights Defenders' Network to provide support and assistance to victims of violence, including those accused of sorcery. While this violence affects many in communities, including men, we recognise it as a particular form of violence against women.

Supporting women business leaders

- Through the IFC, Australia supports the Papua New Guinea Business Coalition for Women as part of the Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development program. The coalition works with the private sector in Papua New Guinea to increase the number of women leaders in business to develop better policies and practices to enable women to succeed at work.

Improving women's livelihoods

- Australia funds UN Women's Safe Cities Programme to improve the livelihoods of women by making the markets in the capital, Port Moresby, safer for conducting business. UN Women works with the Port Moresby National Capital District Commission, the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary, women's grassroots organisations and civil society organisations, to strengthen the role of police at the markets; improve the collection of vendor fees; and improve market management of security, cleaning and maintenance services. Infrastructure changes such as renovation of bathrooms also help women at the markets.

- Australia supports local civil society organisations to run projects aimed at increasing women's economic empowerment and livelihoods, including microfinance and savings activities. In 2012, Australia trained nearly 3000 women in technical, vocational or life skills. Australia's Church Partnership Program also funded church-run activities which develop women's capacities and skills through education and training.
- Australia supports women in the coffee industry in Goroka through a partnership with CARE and the PNG Coffee Industry Corporation (CIC) to promote women's advocacy to reform aspects of the coffee industry and open up cash-cropping opportunities for women farmers in remote areas of Eastern Highlands Province. It will increase the number of skilled women extension officers directly supporting women farmers and improve their farming techniques.

Supporting women's leadership

- Australia is committed to helping increase women's representation in PNG politics, recognizing that empowering women to participate in Parliament is important for equality, bringing valuable perspectives and diverse experience to national decision making.
- Two of the three women elected to PNG's parliament benefitted from Australian- funded training for female candidates before the 2012 national election. Seventy-four of the 135 women who contested seats in the national election attended the training.
- Australia provides funds to support the leadership of women parliamentarians across the Pacific, including PNG, through the Pacific parliamentary program that provides mentoring, training, exchanges and learning workshops to increase women parliamentarians' skills and confidence.

Supporting male advocacy

- Australia has supported the development of Papua New Guinea's Public Sector Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Policy. This policy considers and supports the cultivation of male advocates as an essential part of a suite of measures and strategies for reducing gender based violence and changing behaviours and attitudes towards women and girls in PNG.
- Through PNG's Department of Personnel Management, Australia has supported the establishment and training of a network of 27 male advocates against gender based violence to act as role models and change advocates in the public sector and in their communities.

- Australia partners with the PNG Rugby Football League and Australia's National Rugby League to promote attitudinal change among men and boys to address the high prevalence of violence against women in PNG.

Australian High Commission
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