



**AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER
PORT MORESBY**

28 May 2021

Hon. Charles Abel, MP

Chairman

Special Parliamentary Committee on Gender-Based Violence & Member for Alotau

Dear Chairman

RE: Invitation to Parliamentary Committee hearing on Gender-Based Violence in PNG

On behalf of the Australian Government, thank you for your invitation to observe this important and seminal inquiry. Australia recognises that Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is a significant barrier to women's equality and full participation in the economy and society, and has a detrimental impact on development across the globe. We commend PNG for holding this inquiry and taking the initiative to explore this serious issue in such a transparent way.

Following the Committee's request, please find attached information regarding the Australian Government's contribution to addressing GBV in PNG, in support of the Government of PNG's National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender Based Violence (2016-2025), specifically through our gender equality, law and justice, and policing support programs.

The Australian Government has ensured that gender equality, including GBV, is addressed as an issue across all of our development programs in PNG. It can therefore be hard to calculate the exact consolidated contribution in monetary terms. The attached spreadsheet attempts to capture investments that specifically address GBV, and details of several of these programs are provided below.

Gender Equality Programs

Australia is investing more than AUD105 million over 10 years (2012-2022) (PGK290 million) in gender equality activities in PNG through Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development (*Pacific Women*), with the largest proportion of funding allocated to activities addressing family and sexual violence (FSV). Since 2016-17, we have invested AUD28 million (PGK77 million) towards activities that specifically address GBV, including:

- support to frontline services and development of integrated case-management systems for victim-survivors of violence;
- prevention and behaviour change programs;
- support for women human-rights defenders;

- programs addressing sorcery-related violence in the Highlands; and
- support for strengthening national coordination mechanisms such as the Family and Sexual Violence Action Committees (FSVAC) and Family Support Centres (FSC).

Prior to 2016, Australia was also pleased to provide funding through UNDP towards the original development of the National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender Based Violence (2016-2025) and piloting of the GBV Secretariats in Morobe, Milne Bay, East New Britain and the NCD.

Law and Justice Programs

In addition, a priority of Australia's law and justice support to PNG is ensuring survivors of GBV have greater access to justice, legal protection and support services. From 2016-17 to 2020-21, we have invested over AUD14.26 million (PGK40 million) in direct support to the sector through technical assistance, legislative and policy reform, capacity building and strengthening of front-line services to improve the response to GBV. Australia is supporting the review of the Family Protection Act (FPA) and the implementation of the Lukautim Pikinini Act, National Action Plan on Sorcery Accusation Related Violence (SARV) and FSV Survivors Advocate Toolkit.

We are helping improve the technical skills of, and collaboration between, public prosecutors, police investigators and medical officers to ensure GBV cases are adequately and appropriately investigated and prosecuted. Since 2016-17 we have invested over AUD1.87 million (PGK5.15 million) to support the Office of the Public Prosecutor (OPP) through a dedicated GBV Prosecutions Adviser and tailored support to improve investigation and prosecution skills, interview techniques and collection of evidence and witness statements. Additionally, we have provided over AUD4.38 million (PGK12 million) to enhance the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary (RPNGC) response to GBV, supporting the establishment and training of 26 Family and Sexual Violence Units (FSVUs) across PNG and the development of critical training to support the investigation of GBV cases.

Papua New Guinea – Australia Police Partnership

Through the Papua New Guinea – Australia Police Partnership (PNG-APP) we have provided AUD2.14 million (PGK 5.7 million)since 2018-19 to support the RPNGC GBV response. The program is focusing on upskilling RPNGC Police Prosecutors, via the implementation of a Police Prosecutors Qualifying Program. This is the only training program for police prosecutors that offers distance education in the Asia Pacific Region. There are currently 137 RPNGC prosecutors undertaking the Program which began in 2020, of which 54 are female. It is anticipated that with the delivery of the three year program an upward trend of prosecution rates will be realised, which will in turn deliver a safer community for PNG. PNG-APP together with RPNGC Trainers have designed and delivered a bespoke Sexual Offences Investigations program targeting GBV and FSV offences.

Broader support

In addition to support for addressing GBV, the Australian Government also provides support for women in leadership and decision making, and women's economic empowerment, which are crucial complementary areas that need to be addressed in parallel to GBV in order to see real progress.

Recognising an enabling work environment is key to the empowerment of women, our law and justice program is also supporting executive and women leadership initiatives and the establishment and operation of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Communities of Practice (CoP) in the sector.

Australia has also spent over AUD3.6 million (PGK9.9 million) since 2016-17 to help strengthen local justice mechanisms such as Village Courts and Land Mediators. This has included specific training to raise awareness of GBV, SARV, and the Family Protection Act and support women's access to justice and support services. In 2021 we are also providing AUD4million to the International Committee of the Red Cross who are providing vital protection and support to vulnerable groups including survivors of sexual violence.

The Australian Government is a strong advocate for ending violence against women, both at home and abroad. We look forward to the final report from the inquiry and stand ready to work with the Government and people of PNG to continue addressing this critical issue.

Yours sincerely



Jon Philp

Australian Government Support to Gender Based Violence Prevention and Response Activities

Gender Program including Pacific Women								
Support to GoPNG	Key activities	Prior to 2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	TOTAL in AUD
Support to Development of the National GBV Strategy	Strengthening FSV National Coordination (UNDP)	\$4,000,000.00						\$0.00
Support to reviewing the National Public Service GESI Strategy	Review of the Public Service GESI Policy						\$443,732.19	\$443,732.19
	Research on the impact of GESI in the Public Service						\$193,690.68	\$193,690.68
	Approximate spend on GBV per year	\$4,000,000.00					\$637,422.87	\$637,422.87
Contribution to implementing the National GBV Strategy 2016-2025 (Through Projects that Support GBV Prevention and Response)	Responding to Gender-based Violence and Sorcery-related Violence in the Highlands (Oxfam international)	\$100,000.00	\$1,181,135.00	\$780,122.72	\$745,334.50	\$475,052.30	\$399,977.18	\$3,581,621.70
	Family and Sexual Violence Case Management (Family PNG Inc)		\$577,086.58	\$254,913.64	\$994,245.30	\$994,656.11	\$1,747,403.06	\$4,568,304.69
	Building the Capacity of Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee (National Secretariat of the Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee through the Institute of National Affairs)				\$84,252.61	\$464,373.39	\$7,737.72	\$556,363.72
	Safe Public Transport for Women and Girls (UN Women and Ginigoda Foundation)				\$267,644.18	\$366,125.31	\$174,724.38	\$808,493.87
	Komuniti Lukautim Ol Meri (FHI360)			\$908,731.00	\$480,000.00	\$838,254.00	\$673,015.00	\$2,900,000.00
	From gender based violence to gender justice and Healing in Bougainville (IWDA in partnership with Nazareth Centre for Rehabilitation)			\$841,624.00	\$535,500.00	\$1,111,477.00	\$570,198.00	\$3,058,799.00
	Creating a Movement to End Violence Against Women and Girls in PNG: The SASA! (Population Services International)	\$358,949.00	\$120,051.00	\$800,000.00	\$323,283.00	\$1,000,000.00	\$203,694.05	\$2,447,028.05
	Mamayo (Care International)					\$610,000.00	\$526,592.00	\$1,136,592.00
	Kisim Family Plenin Strongim Komuniti (FHI360)			\$500,000.00		\$250,000.00		\$750,000.00
	Improving Services and Inspiring Leadership to address Family and Sexual Violence in Port Moresby (Bel isi) (Oil Search Foundation)			\$1,000,000.00		\$800,000.00	\$900,000.00	\$2,700,000.00
	Safe School Strong Communities (Equal Playing Field)				\$294,989.98	\$704,528.35	\$700,389.39	\$1,699,907.72
	Port Moresby: A Safe City for Women and Girls (UN Women)	\$1,413,041.00	\$286,959.00		\$324,290.00			\$611,249.00
	Parenting for Child Development (UNICEF in partnership with Catholic Archdioceses)	\$1,787,760.00	\$2,165,231.58					\$2,165,231.58
	End Violence Against Children Campaign (UNICEF)	\$1,995,000.00						\$0.00
	Approximate spend on GBV per year	\$5,654,750.00	\$4,330,463.16	\$5,085,391.36	\$4,049,539.57	\$7,614,466.46	\$5,003,730.78	\$26,983,591.33
Support to GBV Service providers to keep services open during COVID-19 Pandemic	COVID Protection Work (UN Women)						\$1,000,000.00	\$1,000,000.00
	Support to the 1st GBV Summit (UN Women)						\$10,710.10	\$10,710.10
	Approximate spend on GBV per year						\$1,010,710.10	\$1,010,710.10
Law and Justice Program								
Support to GoPNG	Key activities		2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	TOTAL in AUD
Overall Law and Justice Support to Gender Based Violence Prevention and Response	Technical Assistance		\$1,221,996.29	\$1,219,560.16	\$1,328,466.77	\$1,112,344.16	\$874,952.83	\$5,757,320.21
	Activities		\$1,116,748.31	\$1,796,220.90	\$1,983,370.64	\$1,537,048.15	\$1,818,660.27	\$8,252,048.27
	Research and Evaluations					\$250,000.00		\$250,000.00
	Approximate spend on GBV per year		\$2,338,744.60	\$3,015,781.06	\$3,311,837.41	\$2,899,392.31	\$2,693,613.10	\$14,259,368.48
Law and Justice Support to the Office of the Public Prosecutor on Gender Based Violence Prevention and Response	Technical Assistance		\$143,535.50	\$159,896.06	\$128,721.76	\$137,243.47	\$337,541.86	\$906,938.65
	Training and Capacity Building		\$133,274.18	\$243,812.77	\$287,544.58	\$163,621.58	\$81,615.00	\$909,868.11
	Referral Support		\$27,960.00	\$1,631.44				\$29,591.44
	Infrastructure and Equipment		\$23,711.52	\$1,642.73				\$25,354.25
	Approximate spend on GBV per year		\$328,481.20	\$406,983.00	\$416,266.34	\$300,865.05	\$419,156.86	\$1,871,752.45
Law and Justice Support to Royal PNG Constabulary on Gender Based Violence Prevention and Response	Technical Assistance		\$143,535.50	\$159,896.06	\$128,721.76	\$137,243.47	\$74,328.40	\$643,725.19
	Training and Capacity Building		\$426,105.89	\$245,777.95	\$515,722.91	\$431,965.63	\$492,081.52	\$2,111,653.90
	Referral Support		\$53,960.16	\$29,947.38	\$13,029.64			\$96,937.18
	Infrastructure and Equipment		\$18,141.47	\$786,841.47	\$427,034.34	\$224,849.85	\$70,754.63	\$1,527,621.76
	Approximate spend on GBV per year		\$641,743.02	\$1,222,462.86	\$1,084,508.65	\$794,058.95	\$637,164.55	\$4,379,938.03
Australian Federal Police								
Support to GoPNG	Key activities				2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	TOTAL in AUD
Assistance to RPNGC - Support to Family and Sexual Violence Units	FSVU Training				\$5,036.97		\$5,908.06	\$10,945.03
	FSVU Logistical Support						\$18,127.90	\$18,127.90
	Sexual Offences Training					\$14,644.70	\$1,106.71	\$15,751.41
	Gender Advisor / Technical Assistance				\$18,019.40	\$139,892.00	\$34,161.00	\$192,072.40
	Champion of Change Program					\$54,928.60		\$54,928.60
	Infrastructure - Kwikila FSVU						\$26,447.20	\$26,447.20
	Infrastructure - Waigani FSVU						\$49,575.70	\$49,575.70
	Approximate spend on GBV per year				\$23,056.37	\$209,465.30	\$135,326.57	\$367,848.24
Assistance to RPNGC - Support to Police Prosecutors Training	Police Prosecutions Training and Engagement					\$139,455.00	\$99,672.00	\$239,127.00
	Technical Assistance				\$2,338.00	\$464,872.00	\$473,832.00	\$941,042.00
	Prosecutions Textbook					\$176,700.00	\$189,147.00	\$365,847.00
	Prosecutions Conference						\$223,799.00	\$223,799.00
	Approximate spend on GBV per year				\$2,339.00	\$316,155.00	\$512,618.00	\$1,772,154.00

Summary	
Total Funding by Australian Government from 2016-2021	\$51,282,785.50