

UPNG-ANU Partnership: H1 2018 Six Monthly Progress Report

Summary table

Name of Organisation	Development Policy Centre, Australian National University
Project title	UPNG-ANU Partnership
Project objectives	Faculty strengthening, collaborative research and outreach, faculty and student exchanges and partnership management
Reporting period	1 January 2018 – 30 June 2018

Table of Contents

Section 1: Overview	2
Section 2: Implementation progress	6
Section 3: Performance.....	12
Annex 1 2018 PNG Update evaluation.....	37
Annex 2 Research summary.....	42

Section 1: Overview

Summary of achievements from 1 January to 30 June 2018

- **Summer school & scholarships students**

The inaugural 2018 Summer School was a great success, with ten students from UPNG completing a six week intensive program of study at ANU. Two long-term ANU scholarship recipients continued their study at ANU in Semester 1 2018, and a third joined at the start of the semester. A fourth student has been selected to commence her scholarship at ANU in 2019.

- **PNG Update**

The sixth annual PNG Update took place on 14 and 15 June 2018. The theme for this year's Update was "PNG in the year of APEC". The conference showcased more than 70 papers and was attended by approximately 780 participants on Day One, and 560 participants on Day Two. Evaluations were positive, and it was generally agreed that this Update was the most successful yet.

- **Teaching**

ANU and ANU-supported academics taught 312 students (103 female, 209 male) in 13 courses. They received outstanding evaluations.

- **Research**

Research under the partnership grew, with the "Research Showcase" at the PNG Update, where five joint ANU-UPNG research projects were selected, a highlight of the event.

- **ANU-UPNG MOU extension**

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between UPNG and ANU was renewed on 16 May 2018. The Acting Vice-Chancellor of UPNG, Mr Vincent Malaibe, and the Dean of the School of Business and Public Policy, Professor Lekshmi Pillai, travelled to Canberra for the signing. During the visit they also met with key stakeholders and interested parties to discuss the future of the partnership between the two institutions.

Executive Summary

The ANU-UPNG partnership had very productive first half of 2018. ANU staff contributed significantly to undergraduate teaching and the Masters of Economics and Public Policy (MEPP) program, supported numerous research initiatives and co-organized the PNG Update at UPNG. Feedback from staff showed a positive impact of the partnership on the School of Business and Public Policy (SBPP). The project was extended to mid-2020.

Faculty strengthening

Eight ANU and ANU-supported staff members convened 13 courses, teaching 103 female and 209 male (312 total) students. Student evaluations show that our staff provided a very high standard of teaching in all undergraduate and postgraduate courses they convened in the period. The Masters of Economics and Public Policy ran into problems with very low enrolment. This is problem that is being addressed as a matter of urgency.

Collaborative research and outreach

The partnership supported significant PNG-related research in the first half of 2018 on a wide range of economic and public policy issues, across 23 projects. Apart from the flagship PNG Update held at UPNG in June, the Development Policy Centre/Crawford School hosted three PNG-related events at ANU and published 52 blogs on PNG-related research as part of our outreach effort. The UPNG Blog Incentive Scheme was also launched, which encourages UPNG staff and students to write submissions for the Devpolicy Blog.

Faculty and student exchanges

The inaugural Summer School was successfully held in January-February. Two UPNG scholarship holders undertook the third semester of their ANU master's degree in international and development economics during this period. A third student, selected as the 2018 scholarship awardee, undertook their first semester. Selection of a fourth student was completed. The UPNG Vice Chancellor and SBPP Dean visited ANU to extend the ANU-UPNG MOU. A sizeable group of Australian researchers presented at the PNG Update, and we succeeded in expanding the net of researchers working on PNG.

Partnership management

Partnership management was restructured. Progress was made towards a project extension to mid-2020, but unfortunately this is still not finalized. The ANU-UPNG MOU that underlies the project was extended. We put in place new health insurance arrangements that will save us about \$50,000 a year. We put in place a working cash advance/reimbursement system in Moresby.

Examples of innovative approaches / collaborations

2018 UPNG-ANU Summer School

The inaugural 2018 UPNG-ANU Summer School provided an opportunity for ten of the best third-year students from the Division of Economics and the Division of Public Policy Management to attend an intensive six week program of study at the Australian National University. The Summer School supported the learning and development of the top undergraduate performers in economics and public policy at UPNG and prepared them to achieve their highest potential in their final year of study. The positive results and feedback from the participants confirm the success of the 2018 Summer School and support the case for its repetition.

Community attitudes to gender-based violence

Collaborative research between Michelle Rooney (ANU), Dora Kuir-Ayius (UPNG) and Mary Aisi (Unitech) into community attitudes to gender-based violence, was undertaken in Lae settlements in April 2018. Initial results were posted to the Devpolicy Blog and presented at the PNG Update. This research was singled out by the UPNG VC and extensively reflected on by him in this closing address.

2018 PNG Update

The sixth annual [PNG Update](#) took place on 14 and 15 June 2018. The theme for this year's Update was "PNG in the year of APEC". The conference showcased over 70 papers and was attended by 780

participants on Day One, and 560 participants on Day Two. Evaluations were positive, and it was generally agreed that this Update was the most successful yet. A summary of the evaluations received can be found in [Annex 1](#).

Cross-cutting issues (gender, disability, child protection and equity)

Extensive research is being undertaken on gender as part of the program. This includes the following research projects:

Gender-based violence: This research looks at community perspectives on services related to family and sexual violence in the urban context with a focus on Lae. It examines women's perspectives, experiences and strategies in addressing family and sexual violence and the impact this has on maintaining children's school attendance. Fieldwork, including interviews, has been completed and data analysis has commenced. [A presentation was made at the PNG Update](#).

Gender and financial inclusion: This quantitative research examines the factors that affect female responsibility and participation in household financial decision making in PNG using data from two surveys conducted separately of 3000 households in remote and urban East Sepik and 680 households in Morobe Province. [The research was presented at the PNG Update](#).

In addition, a large number of papers at the PNG Update this year were on gender-related issues, eight out of approximately 70 papers. These included the following papers:

- *Human security perspective: a case study of working class women in Goroka*
- *Ethics and methods in researching gender-based violence*
- *A multi-disciplinary analysis of service access, community resilience and maternal mortality in Gulf Province*
- *The changing role of women in fresh food marketing: a case study from Port Moresby*
- *Family and sexual violence – impacts on education*
- *Improving rates of female financial inclusion at the household level*
- *Achieving effective financial inclusion for women in PNG*
- *What are some lessons that we can learn from experiences of women in the 2017 National Elections?*

Lack of female enrolment in the MEPP remained a serious concern during the reporting period, and is something we are actively working on.

As part of the contract extension, we have been asked to develop a child protection policy and will do that in the second half of the year once the contract extension is in place.

Key challenges, gaps and lessons learned

Fiscal position at UPNG

The fiscal position is still very tight, and vacancies are not being filled.

Need for university reforms

Lack of progress on university-wide reforms (such as investing in PNG land, requiring lecturers to undertake evaluations) is undermining progress.

University-government conflict

UPNG-GoPNG conflict was evident on the issue of both 2018 enrolments and 2018 graduations. This undermines the enabling environment for the project.

Internal management arrangements

Management of this program has been restructured. We have learnt from our experience of the past two years, and put in place measures to improve reporting and financial management.

Case studies**Summer school**

The inaugural 2018 UPNG-ANU Summer School provided an opportunity for ten of the best third-year students from the Division of Economics and the Division of Public Policy Management to attend an intensive six week program of study at The Australian National University. The Summer School supported the learning and development of the top undergraduate performers in economics and public policy at UPNG and prepared them to achieve their highest potential in their final year of study. The positive results and feedback from the participants confirm the success of the 2018 Summer School and support the case for its repetition.

PNG Update

The [sixth annual PNG Update](#) took place on 14 and 15 June 2018. The theme for this year's Update was "PNG in the year of APEC". The conference showcased over 70 papers and was attended by approximately 780 participants on Day One, and 560 participants on Day Two. Evaluations were positive, and it was generally agreed that this Update was the most successful yet.

Section 2: Implementation progress

Implementation Progress: 1 January to 30 June 2018

Strategic output/outcome 1: Faculty Strengthening

Status of activity	On track
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Faculty changes

Associate Lecturer and Project Coordinator Tatia Currie left the project in February and was replaced by Dek Sum in the same position (though in economics rather than public policy). Lhawang Ugyel returned from leave to Port Moresby in early 2018. Once again, Associate Martin Davies joined the project for the May- August period.

Teaching

Five ANU lecturers and three ANU-supported lecturers taught 13 courses with 103 female and 209 male (312 total) students. A list of all courses taught is attached is provided below.

	Course	Lecturer	Year Level	Semester/Trimester	Students				Course evaluations		
					Female	Male	Disabled	Total	Response rate (%)	Ave. course score (/5)	Ave. lecturer score (/5)
1	Comparative Public Sector Management	Ugyel	UG4	S1	38	11	0	49	69%	4.7	4.8
2	Issues in Public Sector Management	Ugyel	PG1	T1	0	4	0	4	100%	4.5	4.6
3	Global Economic and Policy Issues	Ugyel	PG2	T1	0	9	0	9	89%	4.2	4.6
4	Econometrics 1	Pandey	UG4	S1	11	19	0	30	87%	4.4	4.6
5	International Economics	Sum	UG3	S1	7	26	0	33	67%	4.7	4.8
6	Quantitative Economics 1	Nguyen	UG3	S1	14	38	0	52	71%	4.4	4.6
7	Intermediate Microeconomics	Nguyen	UG3	S1	7	27	0	34	82%	4.5	4.6
8	Management Theory	Watson	UG3	S1	26	51	0	77	83%	4.5	4.7
9	Governance and Institutions	Watson	PG1	T1	0	5	0	5	100%	4.4	4.7
10	Quantitative Research Methods	Odhungo	PG1	T1	0	4	0	4	100%	4.4	4.5
11	Papua New Guinea Economic and Policy Issues	Ezebilo	PG2	T1	0	8	0	8	100%	4.5	4.7
12	Development Thinking and Policy	Watson	PG1	T2	0	3	0	3	NA	NA	NA
13	Macroeconomic Analysis and Policy	Davies	PG1	T2	0	4	0	4	NA	NA	NA
	TOTAL/AVERAGE				103	209	0	312	86%	4.5	4.7

Note: courses without evaluation were incomplete at the end of June. (These were second trimester Master's courses.)

The average course evaluation score was 4.5. By comparison, ANU College averages for learning experience at ANU range from 3.6 to 4.2. Every course returned a score of 4.6 or more for quality of teaching, which is an excellent performance. The evaluation response rate was 86%, which is satisfactory.

Initiatives to improve teaching

- **Curriculum development** All ANU-SBPP lecturers attended individual consultation sessions with Ms. Pauline Thimbu, a professional education consultant from PGF to improve their UPNG course outlines and delivery. All lecturers are using the new course outline model and template.
- **Textbooks and SBPP librarian** The project is funding SBPP to hire a librarian to establish a dedicated library. Progress is being made towards the opening of the library which is expected to open by the end of 2018.
- **CHELT workshop** At the request of the Dean of SBPP, planning was undertaken for the Director of the ANU Centre for Higher Education and Learning (CHELT) to hold a two day workshop for around 20-30 staff from UPNG centred on improving teaching and learning skills. The workshop will be held at the Pacific Institute of Leadership and Governance on 7-8 August.
- **Tutor induction workshop** For the second time, Rohan Fox conducted a tutor induction to first and second-year tutors in March 2018. The workshop was attended by 3 females and 5 males.

Engaging students and building links

- **Film discussion nights**
 - Dr Amanda Watson continued to host the 'UPNG Inspired' film nights during Semester One at UPNG. Five 'UPNG Inspired' nights were run, four with accompanying speakers. Unfortunately, due to technical difficulties in the lecture theatre used to screen the films, from April the film nights were postponed until the opening of the New Lecture Theatre. The first film night held in the New Lecture Theatre took place in June, as part of the PNG Update, with Dame Meg Taylor presenting a film featuring her. There continues to be interest in the film nights, with the [Facebook page](#) maintained by Rohan Fox, and student volunteers and UPNG staff placing posters up around campus each week.
 - One film night was held at ANU, organised with CARE Australia, Femili PNG, Buk Bilong Pikinini, PNG Canberra Student Association and Capital Wantoks, for the first international screening of the film 'Aliko and Ambai'.
- **Student associations** The partnership has allocated a budget of up to 5,000 Kina per semester for the Economics Student Society (ESS) and the Public Policy Association (PPA). As the PPA is dormant, funding is focused only on ESS. Funding is subject to the submission of a formal budget and the approval by the Dean SBPP. On 28 March, the UPNG's Economics Students Society (ESS) organized its inaugural orientation night welcoming newly elected ESS executives and farewelling outgoing ESS office-bearers. The ESS operates under the guidance of its patron Dr Albert Prabhakar (UPNG) and Dr Manoj Pandey (ANU). The orientation night was attended by all academic staffs from UPNG Economic Division. More than 70 undergraduate students attended the event. Five fourth-year economic students who attended the six-week Pre-Sessional Economics Program (summer school at Crawford School of Public Policy in early-2018 shared their study and living experience at ANU with

the crowd. On 23 April, ESS organised a book donation event in conjunction with World Book Day at SBPP.



President of ESS, Mr. Collin Nixon handed over all the donated books to Dr Manoj Pandey (ANU), Professor Pillay and Dr Prabhakar.

- **Guest lectures** Partnership staff gave or arranged 12 guest lectures.

Graduate outlook, outcomes and links

On 20 April 2018, UPNG held its 63rd graduation ceremony. SBPP produced the highest number of graduates with 418 graduands conferred. Of the 418, about 200 are estimated to have been taught by the ANU-UPNG academics over the past two years across the different courses offered by SBPP.



Dr. Manoj Pandey (ANU) attended the 63rd UPNG graduation ceremony

Rohan Fox completed his findings on the workplace results of UPNG graduates. The findings were distributed to colleagues at UPNG via email, discussed in person in a presentation at UPNG in March 2018, and published in a [blog](#) shortly after the end of the reporting period.

As of July 2018 the partnership's economics alumni Facebook page for recent graduates had 53 members, up from 51 in December 2017.

Strategic output/outcome 2: Collaborative Research and Outreach

Status of activity	On track
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The PNG Update

The Update was held on 14 and 15 June at UPNG and attracted over 780 people on the first day and another 560 plus on the second day. Over 70 presentations were made over the two days (including keynote presentations). There were 58 PNG speakers/coauthors, compared to 45 in 2017. There were 24 female speakers/coauthors compared to 28 in 2017.

The Update was widely covered in PNG print media and on social media, with video feed on the UPNG Facebook page.

We once again asked participants to evaluate the PNG Update; 251 evaluation forms were received over the two days of the Update. The overwhelmingly positive feedback is summarized in [Annex 1](#).

The PNG Project

The PNG Project is a program of research on PNG. In the first half of 2018, the breadth and depth of research further increased to cover 23 projects under the heading of: economics; governance and elections; service delivery, and gender. A summary of the research projects and progress made in the last six months is provided in [Annex 2](#).

Funding for PNG Project research comes from a variety of sources. In addition to the Moresby-based faculty, the Partnership currently funds 100% of the costs of Research Fellow Michelle Rooney; 30% of the costs of Research Fellow Dr Terence Wood; 50% of the costs of Dr Grant Walton); and 100% of a Research Officer (Rohan Fox).

PNG Project databases

- **PNG Elections Database website:** Updating of the Elections Database has been delayed due to difficulties in obtaining data from the PNG Electoral Commission, but is nevertheless progressing.
- **PNG Budget Database website:** The [PNG Budget Database](#) was updated for a third time in the first half of 2018.

Publications

Eight publications were supported by the partnership in the period.

Research, policy and training workshops

The Development Policy Centre organised or supported eight PNG-related research, policy and training conferences and workshops, four at UPNG and four at ANU.

Conference and seminar presentations

Project staff made 32 seminar and conference presentations, as summarized in [Annex Table 5](#).

Outreach

- **The Devpolicy Blog** Devpolicy.org is the online public outreach portal for the Development Policy Centre at the ANU. This website is used for communicating and discussing much of the development, economic and public policy research relating to PNG undertaken by ANU. The partnership grant supports editorial work on blog posts about PNG. In the first half of 2018, Devpolicy.org published 52 blog posts related to PNG, with 31 directly on PNG and 21 covering broader Pacific issues. 10 of these blogs were authored or co-authored by Papua New Guineans, and 24 by women. These blog posts are widely read in PNG, and often picked up by the PNG media. In June 2018, partnership staff completed a selection of the best PNG-related blogs for hard-copy publication. The [PNG: Devpolicy blogs 2017-18](#) book provides an alternative channel for disseminating information about economics and public policy issues affecting PNG and the region. The books were made available at the 2018 PNG Update in June.
- The **UPNG Blog Incentive Scheme** was launched to encourage blog submissions from UPNG staff and students. The scheme offers 200 Kina for blogs written by UPNG staff and students that are published on the Devpolicy blog. On July 16, the first blog accepted under this scheme was [published online](#).
- **Engagement with media and other public outreach.**
- **Other engagement** Project staff participated in a variety of other workshops and meetings with the government, donors, private sector.

Strategic output/outcome 3: Faculty and Student Exchanges

Status of activity	On track
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Masters students

Two long-term ANU scholarship recipients completed their third semester of study at ANU in Semester 1 2018, and a third completed their first semester. A fourth student has been selected to commence her scholarship at ANU in 2019. Performance of the three students was mixed, but we are confident that all will complete.

Summer school

The inaugural 2018 Summer School was a great success, with ten students from UPNG completing a six-week intensive program of study at the ANU. A separate evaluation has been completed and distributed and it is planned to re-run the School in 2019.

Staff exchanges

The UPNG VC and SPBB Dean visited ANU in April to renew the ANU-UPNG MOU. In addition, a number of ANU staff and other Australian researchers visited UPNG for research and the PNG Update. Various Crawford and ANU and non-Devpolicy researchers undertook PNG research and participated in the PNG Update (with the project only having to cover travel costs at most).

Strategic output/outcome 4: Partnership management

Status of activity	On track
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Partnership management arrangements

Following Dr Michael Cookson's departure, the Partnership Manager role was dissolved, and a new Partnership Officer position was created. Ms Shannon Young was appointed to the Partnership Officer position on 30 April 2018, having acted in the role since Dr Cookson's departure. Ms Husnia Hushang and Ms Cleo Fleming filled the Program Officer position via job sharing to replace Ms Young on a temporary basis, with Madeleine Flint subsequently appointed into that position (commencing in August). Associate Lecturer and Project Coordinator Tatia Currie left the project in February and was replaced by Dek Sum in the same position (though in economics rather than public policy). Lhawang Ugyel returned from leave to Moresby in early 2018. Once again Associate Martin Davies joined the project for the May-August period. Dr Manoj Pandey continued as Team Leader in Port Moresby, and Ms Ashlee Betteridge continued as Centre Manager. Terence Wood went down from 50% to 30% working for the project due to competing commitments.

Contract extension

The contract extension required across-the-board changes in project reporting and a large number of amendments. Due to an ANU administration error, the project size was reduced by \$127,273. It is now estimated that the UPNG staff will be funded to end-2019, with the rest of the project funded to mid-2020 or longer as required for reporting. An early decision will be needed on a second phase.

Management priorities

We changed health insurance arrangements with potential annual savings of some \$50,000. All but one staff member have now been shifted to the new arrangements. We also made a number of reforms to improve financial management and reporting. We streamlined staff guidelines.

Section 3: Performance

1. Logframe / Theory of Change

- **The project takes a long-term approach.** Aid funding for this partnership may wax and wane (and we hope it waxes) but the project has been set up to be here for the long term, at least a decade. Of course, there is no guarantee it will last for a decade, but that is the intent: there is little point to setting up a shorter-term project.
- **The concept of partnership is critical.** Both parties have skin in the game. Both have made a long-term commitment to the partnership. Both are prepared to discuss and resolve issues in a transparent manner.
- **The benefits of the project are both direct and indirect.** Perhaps the most important, certainly the most tangible, benefits of the project are for the students who otherwise might receive no teaching, and certainly a lower quality of teaching. These are the future leaders of PNG after all. But there are also important indirect benefits – the systemic changes, the research and outreach. This dual approach serves as both a risk mitigation approach and as a way to maximize project value.
- **The project has and requires strong support from the highest levels.** Australia’s Minister for Foreign Affairs initiated the expansion of the project during a meeting in mid-2014 with the then ANU Vice Chancellor. It is strongly supported by ANU and UPNG at the highest levels. Given the difficulty of the project, this is critical for success.
- **The project has strong UPNG ownership.** The project is as much a UPNG initiative as an ANU one. It was the UPNG VC’s initiative to seek a new MOU with ANU, and it was his drive that brought that into fruition. The SBPP Dean plays a critical role in providing day-to-day support to the partnership and its various initiatives. Without this, the project would undoubtedly falter.
- **The project takes an adaptive, learning-by-doing, and adjusting-as-we-go approach.** This is the only approach that makes sense. We learn as we go, documenting what we learn along the way: for example, completing a “baseline report” in 2015 of the SBPP-Economics Division.
- **The project values continuity.** To develop good relationships, and to learn to be effective, staff need to be in place for as long as possible. Long-standing relationships between ANU and UPNG faculty are key to the success of the partnership. If project staff do well, we want them to stay for as long as possible.
- **The project is based on realistic expectations and seeks incremental gains.** It would be foolhardy to wish away the systemic challenges that UPNG faces in a range of areas. No external intervention can turn UPNG around, or even a part of the university. However, an external intervention can make a difference, and be judged a success, provided realistic expectations are maintained.

2. Reporting against Partnership Objectives

The partnership undertakes a number of M&E exercises. In this reporting period these included: 13 course evaluations (summarised in earlier table); summer school evaluation (separately circulated); PNG Update evaluation (summarized in [Annex 1](#)).

The SBPP staff survey was completed, but processing has been delayed.

Annex 1 2018 PNG Update evaluation

The 2018 PNG Update: PNG in the year of APEC was held on 14-15 June and continued to build upon the successes of previous updates. Over 1000 people attended the two-day conference.

The Update received considerable media attention, including a number of newspaper and online articles citing the ANU-UPNG PNG economic survey. There were 77 presentations in total, 10 of which were Australia-PNG collaborations, and of these, 8 were ANU-UPNG collaborations.

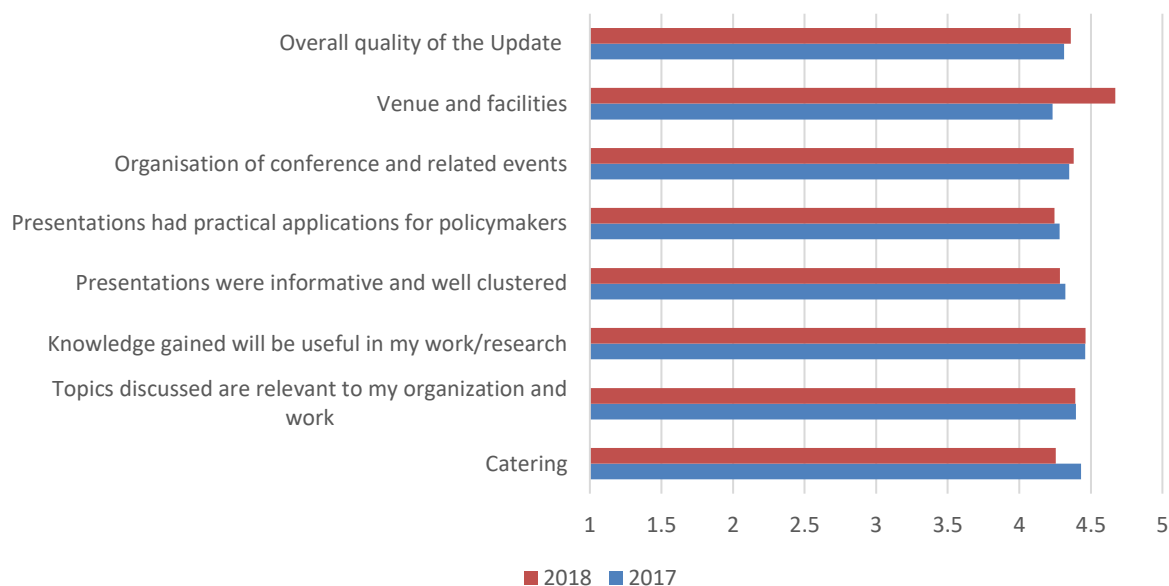
Keynote presentations were provided Charles Lepani Chairman APEC Coordinating Authority, Treasurer Charles Abel, Shadow Treasurer Ian Ling-Stuckey and Secretary-General of the Pacific Islands Forum Dame Meg Taylor. For the first time a film night was also conducted on Thursday night screening “My Father My Country”, which follows Dame Meg Taylor in the 1980’s retracing the footsteps of her father in the highlands.

Female submissions and participation in the Update has increased both nominally and as a percentage of total submissions and presentations since 2017.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
number of submissions		75	85	105	108
presentations	26	56	57	73	77
presenters + co-authors	43	103	89	113	99
PNG nationals (author/co-author)	19	54	39	60	61
main authors women	4	11	13	18	18
number women (author/co-author)	9	23	23	25	28
presentations by UPNG authors	6	11	14	17	14
number UPNG (author/co-author)	15	21	18	21	20

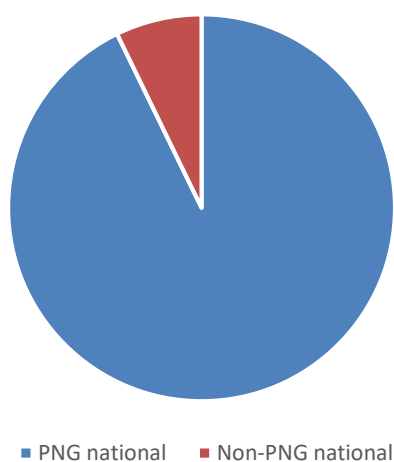
With funding from the partnership and the Precinct to fund video hardware, UPNG ICT were able to for the first time video record all sessions, and sessions in NLT and MLT were live-streamed via Facebook (NLT) and the UPNG website (MLT). Feedback from the NLT Facebook livestream were that the quality was very good, despite some minor glitches.

253 evaluation forms were received. The Update received excellent scores from the attendees, as it has in previous years. However for the first time satisfaction with venue and facilities was the highest ranked sub-component of the Update, compared with previous years where it was the lowest ranked sub-component. 2018 was the first time the Australian Aid funded “New Lecture Theatre” was used, and it was clearly noticed and appreciated.

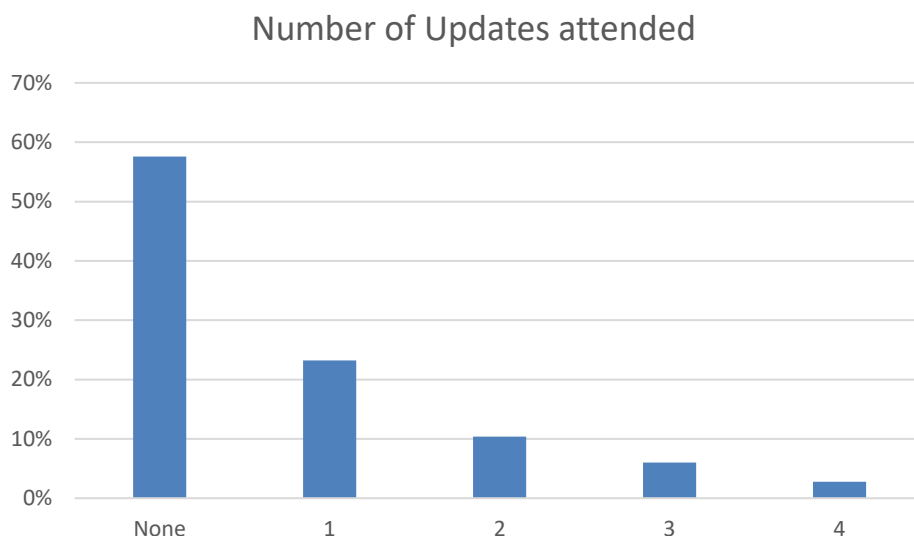


The evaluations reflected the high level of local interest, 93% of respondents on the evaluation forms Papua New Guinean.

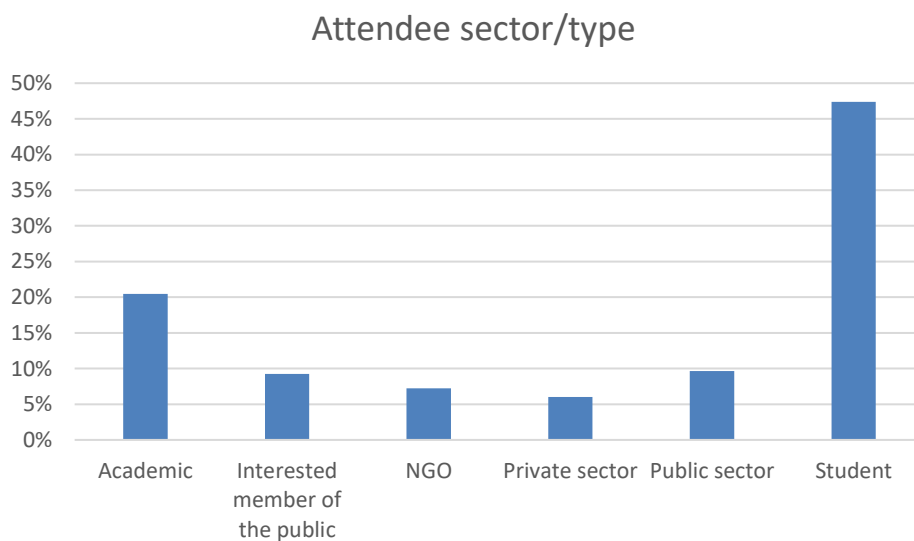
Attendee nationality



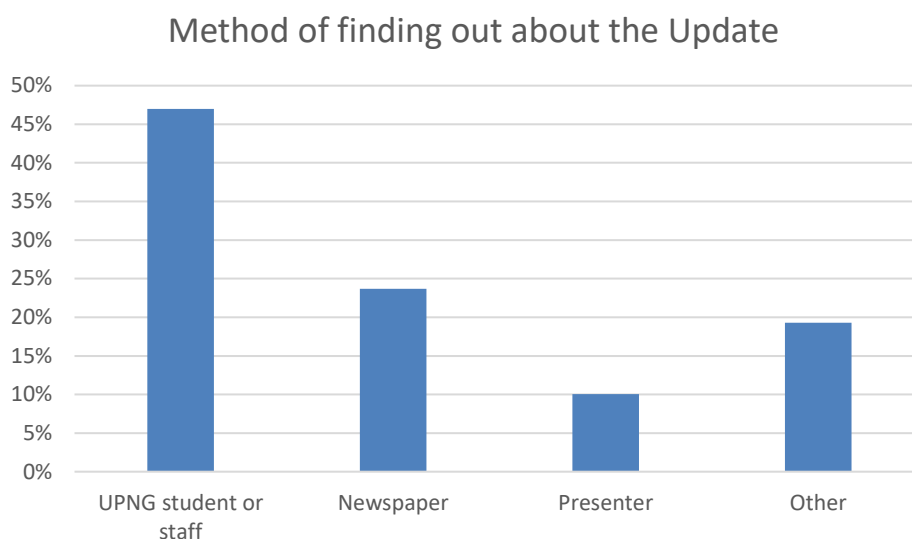
There was also new interest in the Update, 58% had never been to a PNG Update before.



Most attendees came from academic institutions as academics or students, but a considerable minority were NGO employees, from the private sector, government officials and interested members of the public. An exact break down is provided below.



Most attendees were informed of the Update through word of mouth through a UPNG staff member or student. 24% were informed through newspaper ads, and 10% by presenters. The rest found out some other way, including through social media, work contacts, radio, friends, Devpolicy blog or email list.



Feedback from PNG Update evaluations

Over 250 evaluations received, and the below summarises some of the commonly expressed feedback from attendees in response to the free text questions on the evaluation form.

What were the highlights of the conference for you?

“The plenary session particularly the first day when PM were in attendance and some presented / asked questions / made comments. Hon. Charles Abel, Hon. Ling-Stuckey and Dame Meg Taylor's presentations were the highlight for the conference (for me). The documentary (My Father, My Country) that was shown on Thursday night was moving, inspirational - highlight!”

“Platform an opportunity for participation of attendee to contribute to contemporary issues affecting PNG through questions / discussions”

“The highlights for the conference for me as an individual were getting to know the latest information especially from a number of researchers and scholars / lecturers and other intellectuals presenting findings about latest issues in Papua New Guinea. Topics of interest presented included governance, integration, inclusion and youth participation, health status and other relevant issues were well presented”

“It's really informative and helpful to be participating in this conference. I got / learned some basic hard facts regarding issues emerging in this country (PNG).”

“I learnt something important relating to my study at UPNG”

“Updates of the APEC, PNG, Pacific & the world. Well knowledgeable presentations.”

Do you have any comments or suggestions that would help us improve further conferences?

“I think there should be more time for Q&A sessions”

“Logistics - improve the quality and variety of food. What is provided is disappointing especially for Day 1
June 14/06/18”

“The people who make presentations must be provided with enough time so that the participants can grasp the full message they bring across.”

“I was very interested to attend topics discussed at parallel sessions; however I have to choose only one (1) which was disappointing. Maybe next time organize more than 2 days so that more options would be available to us to attend the parallel sessions.”

“They must go to other PNG provinces too!”

“Logistics would be preferable as some of us attending the conference are non-boarding (day) students and would require transportation home as the conference ends late in the evening.”

Annex 2 Research summary

PNG Project: Summary of research projects as of 2018, and progress made in the first half of 2018.

Contents

A. Economics (9)	43
Annual economic survey 2017-18.....	43
Budget database updating	43
Economic shocks and the PNG economy	43
Industrial policy.....	44
A new policy paradigm for resource-rich developing countries.....	44
Savings behaviour in PNG	45
Financial Inclusion in Papua New Guinea.....	45
Demographic changes and PNG's labour market.....	45
PNG data and development: key issues and challenges	46
B. Governance and elections (5)	46
Perceptions of corruption – public servants	46
Anti-corruption spending.....	46
Governance reform, leadership and support in PNG: evidence from experiments	47
Election database updating.....	47
Electoral quality, drivers of election outcomes and clientelism.....	47
C. Service delivery (7).....	48
Urbanisation research.....	48
Education case study research.....	48
Health case study research	48
Digital applications for development	48
The drivers of district-level development	49
Public service delivery: the interface between formal and informal institutions.....	49
Public service delivery: District Development Authorities	49
D. Gender (2)	50
FSV and school attendance.....	50
Gender and financial inclusion.....	50

In the descriptions below, a * indicates that the researcher concerned is a staff member under the ANU-UPNG partnership. All staff members are full time except for Grant Walton (50%) and Terence Wood (30%).

A. Economics (9)

Annual economic survey 2017-18

Rohan Fox*, Nelson Nema, Bao Nguyen*, Stephen Howes

Start of year statement: *The annual economic survey provides an update on the PNG economy. As in previous years, business and government leaders will be interviewed to discuss the economic and business climate, with the results informing a presentation at the PNG Update, and Development Policy Centre Working Paper to be published later in the year. UPNG collaboration involves coauthor.*

Half-year progress report: *ANU and UPNG staff met with members of government, NGO-sector and business community in Port Moresby and Lae and produced a [draft survey](#), which was presented at the PNG Update in June 2018. The draft has been reported on and cited in the local and international media, including [Loop PNG](#) and [The Sydney Morning Herald](#).*

Budget database updating

Rohan Fox*

Start of year statement: *The [PNG Budget Database](#) is a unique data source that provides a time series of budgetary data for PNG. It will be updated twice in 2018 (first in May to include numbers from the 2017 Final Budget Outcome, then in November to reflect the 2019 budget), and used as a basis for commentary. UPNG collaboration involves usage at UPNG.*

Half-year progress report: *The [PNG Budget Database](#) has now been updated to reflect the 2017 Final Budget Outcome, released in March 2018. The next Update will occur after the 2019 budget is released.*

Economic shocks and the PNG economy

Bao Nguyen* and Dek Sum*

Start of year statement: *This research project investigates the dynamic effects of various shocks including world commodity price shocks and exchange rate shocks on the PNG economy. UPNG collaboration involves presentation at PNG Update*

Half-year progress report: *This project now focuses on the PNG trade balance. It investigates the sensitivity of the trade balance to various macroeconomic shocks stemming from mining and non-mining sector, among other key macro variables. Data has been collected and a consistent database constructed. Benchmark model developed and sensitivity exercises undertaken. Preliminary results presented at the PNG Update 2018 conference (14 June 2018). Follow-up seminars planned at Arndt-Corden Department Economics – ANU (31 July 2018) and the Bank of Indonesia (30-31 August 2018). Plans to present our findings to macro policy institutions based in Port Moresby, such as IMF, World Bank, ADB and BPNG. The working paper is expected to be available by August 2018.*

Industrial policy

Grant Walton*, Imelda Deinla, Rohan Fox*, Maholopa Laveil

Start of year statement: *This research project looks at various aspects of recent efforts by PNG to promote domestic industries. With PNG and the Philippines recently agreeing to develop PNG's rice industry, it will examine the way economic and political actors have shaped rice policy and what this means for food security in both countries. This will involve fieldwork, starting in July 2018, with key stakeholders in both PNG and the Philippines. Another case study will be milk production and incentives to that industry, which will be studied from a historical perspective looking at the outcomes of similar support provided to other industries. UPNG collaboration involves authorship.*

Half-year progress report: *In June, Grant Walton and Imelda Deinla travelled to Manila and interviewed policy makers, NGO representatives, and those from the private sector about the growing relationship between PNG and Philippines rice industries. Interviewees provided fascinating insights into the reasons behind the Philippines promising to help make PNG self-sufficient in rice. Walton and Deinla have employed a research assistant to conduct follow-up interviews in July, 2018. During fieldwork Walton and Deinla met with DFAT Philippines to discuss initial findings. Rohan Fox and Maho Laveil presented on their findings on PNG's historical experience with infant industry protection to the PNG Update, and Laveil also presented it at the ANU Research Students Conference.*

A new policy paradigm for resource-rich developing countries

Martin Davies and Marcel Schroder

Start of year statement: *Resource rich developing countries are identified by the high share of resource exports in GDP or total exports, and low levels of income per capita. This project suggests two further identifying features: that resource sectors are enclaves, and that foreign ownership of the resources sector is high (net factor income is large and negative). It incorporates these new features into a simple model of internal and external balance, and using this framework develops a new paradigm for policy-setting in resource-rich developing countries. The project then estimates, using this new approach, the relationship between foreign ownership and the equilibrium real exchange rate for a panel of 43 resource-rich developing countries. This work was inspired by Papua New Guinea, and the policy predictions have direct applicability to PNG. UPNG collaboration involves presentation at PNG Update.*

Half-year progress report: *The theoretical modelling is now complete (at this stage anyway) and work is underway on the empirics. We have applied to the Bureau of Economic Analysis (a US Government Department) for access to confidential data on US firm ownership in RRDCs, which we can use to construct our measure of foreign ownership in RRDCs. This is a key variable in our theoretical and empirical analysis. The process is quite involved as I need to get security clearance to look at it. We expect it to take about 3 months to find out whether/when we can access the information. The paper was presented at the PNG Update in June 2018, and also at the Arndt-Corden Department of Economics, also in June 2018. We have been offered a place to present the paper at the Fiscal Affairs Department at the International Monetary Fund in November.*

Savings behaviour in PNG

Martin Davies and Hugo Blunch

Start of year statement: *The objective of this study is to examine savings behaviour of individual workers around the economic expansion and following contraction caused by the investment boom during the construction phase of the LNG project in Papua New Guinea. The economic expansion associated with the construction phase of the LNG project took place over the period 2010-2012. During this expansion there was an accumulation of savings and following it there has been a corresponding decumulation. The primary goal of this research is to explain from individual level data the aggregate savings responses to changes in income across location, job occupation and experience, and education level. The proposed research would have implications in particular for policies to encourage and safeguard retirement savings in PNG. One of the objectives of the study will be to make policy recommendations to improve savings outcomes in PNG. UPNG collaboration planned.*

Half-year progress report: *Still waiting for data. Target now August.*

Financial Inclusion in Papua New Guinea

Martin Davies and Laura Nettuno

Start of year statement: *An examination of the determinants of financial inclusion can lead to a clearer understanding of the restrictions and bottlenecks that prevent access to financial services by poorer households. Using a World Bank dataset (based on a survey of 600 households in Morobe and Madang Provinces undertaken by the Institute of National Affairs), this research project studies the effects of individual and household characteristics on financial inclusion in Papua New Guinea using a probit model. More specifically, it examines the determinants of the use of formal and informal credit and savings services. For both credit and savings, education is the strongest predictor of all measures of financial inclusion, with a primary school education increasing the probability of inclusion by 15 per cent. Age is a significant predictor of savings, and income also influences whether an individual makes use of credit services. Surprisingly, in our current analysis, distance from a financial institution (bank or micro-bank) is not a significant predictor of financial inclusion. Further investigations are underway to explain this. UPNG collaboration involves presentation at PNG update.*

Half-year progress report: *This work was presented at the Institute of National Affairs in Port Moresby in June 2018, and also at the PNG Update, also in June 2018. Also discussed it with a number of different organization in Port Moresby (World Bank and US Embassy). Write up now to commence.*

Demographic changes and PNG's labour market

Manoj Pandey*

Start of year statement: *With little less than 5% ageing population (60 years and above), Papua New Guinea (PNG) is one of the youngest countries in the Pacific Islands. Recent estimates indicate that PNG's total labour force constitutes of over two-thirds of the country's nearly 58% working age population (15-64 years). Despite relatively lower unemployment rates, labour market in PNG has been facing numerous challenges. This paper aims to investigate key*

challenges and prospects of PNG's labour market considering changes in age structure of the labour, their productivity and wage structure. Our analysis provides some important policy insights and recommendations. UPNG collaboration planned.

Half-year progress report: Two papers are being drafted. The first is on demographic development and challenges in PNG and the other on the labour market in PNG. The draft of the first paper will be ready by end of this month for review and the second paper writeup is expected to be completed by September.

PNG data and development: key issues and challenges

Manoj Pandey*

Start of year statement: The work provides an overview of existing data on Papua New Guinea and to highlight common issues and challenges associated with PNG data. Over 25 surveys, administrative and other databases are reviewed. Evaluation of data is provided based on scope and coverage, frequency of collection, comparability with previous waves, quality of the data and contribution to SDG monitoring. Specifically, an attempt will also be made to evaluate progress and challenges in measuring and monitoring sustainable development goals in Papua New Guinea using several surveys, administrative and other existing databases. Data issues such as lack of availability, public access and openness, timely dissemination, data information sharing platforms, and utilisation are emphasised. UPNG collaboration involves participation in data workshop.

Half-year progress report: Findings presented at the Pacific Update Conference 2018. The draft of the paper will be ready by early 2018.

B. Governance and elections (5)

Perceptions of corruption – public servants

Grant Walton*

Start of year statement: This project will involve interviews with public officials across four provinces, as well as with those working for the national government of PNG. Research will highlight the ways in which PNG public servants perceive governance and how that relates to broader perceptions of corruption and public administration across the country. UPNG collaboration planned.

Half-year progress report: Fieldwork in four provinces is now complete (conducted May – June). Over 140 PNG public servants were interviewed. Qualitative data has been transcribed and quantitative data entered for three provinces. Analysis will take place from August, 2018.

Anti-corruption spending

Grant Walton* and Husnia Hushang

Start of year statement: This analysis of anti-corruption spending has already been written up ([here](#) and [here](#)) and will be presented to the 2019 PNG Update. The authors will conduct further analysis on anti-corruption spending in November 2018 as the 2019 budget becomes available. UPNG collaboration involves presentation at PNG Update.

Half-year progress report: Findings were presented at the PNG Update, June 2018.

Governance reform, leadership and support in PNG: evidence from experiments

Anthony Swan and Fiona Yap

Start of year statement: *The research project aims to evaluate conditions under which citizens in PNG are willing to provide support for governance reform, or undertake the role of leadership in generating broad support for governance reform. Specifically, the purpose of the research is to better understand how educated Papua New Guineans, and potential future leaders of the country, can peacefully and meaningful engage in policy debate around governance issues in PNG. The research, which is based on experimental methods engaging UPNG students, will inform policy makers, academics and students about how social norms can reinforce weak governance systems, and how peaceful and constructive collective action can lead to improved governance in PNG. The results will provide stakeholders with a better understanding of how different forms of leadership can help facilitate broad support for peaceful and constructive engagement on governance reform issues. UPNG collaboration involves presentation at PNG Update, and engagement with PNG students.*

Half-year progress report: *Presented project findings at the PNG 2018 Update conference at UPNG, June 14-15, 2018. Write-up of paper underway.*

Election database updating

Terence Wood*

Start of year statement: *The PNG [election results database](#) is the only comprehensive record of Papua New Guinea's post-independence elections. It can be used to access individual election results. It [also illustrates](#) how much elections have varied over time and how much they vary across PNG. This year, if data are released, Terence Wood will update it with full 2017 election results. If full results are not released it will be updated with available information. UPNG collaboration involves launch.*

Half-year progress report: *Obtaining full election results has not been easy. Results have not yet been formally, publicly released by the PNG Electoral Commission. However, through a process of ongoing interaction with the Electoral Commission, Terence has obtained full paper copies of the election results, as well as mostly-complete electronic copies of the results. He is now in the process of checking for discrepancies between the paper and electronic versions of the results.*

Electoral quality, drivers of election outcomes and clientelism

Terence Wood*

Start of year statement: *This work involves assessing electoral quality, and identifying the reasons why electoral quality varies both between different parts of PNG, and between different parts of the electoral process. The research also studies the linkages between voter choices, election outcomes, and political governance in PNG. One key focus of this work is clientelism (politics in which voters and politicians are linked by the direct provision of resources, rather than policy outcomes) and the impact of clientelism on governance and aid outcomes. UPNG collaboration planned.*

Half-year progress report: *Terence has undertaken preliminary research in this area. On 13 June he met with staff from the Australian High Commission in Port Moresby to discuss electoral issues, basing his comments on the research conducted to-date.*

C. Service delivery (7)

Urbanisation research

Michelle Rooney*

Start of year statement: *This ongoing research project, which incorporates Dr Rooney's PhD thesis, examines urban land and housing, urban services, incomes and employment, violence and crime, and migration. As a next step, an urbanization workshop is planned at UPNG in June 2018 to bring together researchers and policy actors working in the urban space to share research, discuss international and regional trends in urbanisation and identify research needs to enhance policy making as well as teaching at UPNG. UPNG collaboration involves presentations at UPNG.*

Half-year progress report: *Presented on urban land issues at the Asia Pacific Week conference in Canberra. Book proposal on women and urban land and housing has been accepted by ANU Press. Commenced preparation for ethics clearance for new research fieldwork.*

Education case study research

Grant Walton*, Tara Davda and Peter Kanaparo

Start of year statement: *This research on implementation of PNG's Tuition Fee Free (TFF) policy examines two provinces in detail (East New Britain and Gulf). It has already been [written up](#) and [published](#). Follow-up work will analyse PNG grade eight data. UPNG collaboration involves co-authorship.*

Half-year progress report: [Published](#). *This document was provided to DFAT and circulated to interested staff. A second paper examining the role of community engagement in PNG's Tuition Fee Free policy has been written up and sent to the Journal of Pacific Affairs for review.*

Health case study research

Colin Wiltshire, Amanda H A Watson*, Denise Lokinap and Tatia Currie

Start of year statement: *PNG's health policy and financing context presents major challenges. This case-study research aims to find out why performance differs so significantly between provinces, reporting on visits to government and church-run health clinics in East New Britain and Gulf Provinces. UPNG collaboration involves co-authorship.*

Half-year progress report: *This research was presented at PNG Update 2018 and a detailed report is currently being prepared.*

Digital applications for development¹

Amanda H A Watson and various co-researchers

Start of year statement: *Dr Watson and her collaborators evaluate various digital-for-development applications. UPNG collaboration involves co-authorship.*

Half-year progress report: *Research on public-service health phone services in PNG (joint with Ralph Kaule of UPNG) was presented at the Australasian Aid Conference 2018 and at PNG Update 2018. A small number of additional interviews are planned, before write-up into a paper. Research on a digital market fee payment system at two fresh food markets in Port Moresby is also underway in collaboration with Nisa Fachry and Christina Cheong. Preliminary findings were*

¹ This project has been broadened in scope since the start-of-year statement was written, and the write up has been revised accordingly

presented at PNG Update 2018, and further analysis is now underway. Research on a Bougainville Peace Agreement phone information hotline is commencing with Jeremy Miller and Adriana Schmidt. The research proposal is currently with the human research ethics committee of Australian National University.

The drivers of district-level development

Terence Wood*, Colin Filer and Jon Fraenkel

Start of year statement: *This quantitative project seeks to explain why levels of development are much higher in some parts of rural PNG than parts. The project seeks to identify the different roles of geography, culture, and natural resources. UPNG collaboration involves presentation at PNG update.*

Half-year progress report: *Terence has now compiled a full initial dataset and conducted preliminary statistical analysis of the data. He presented preliminary findings from this analysis at the PNG Update on 15 June. Terence is now working on adding additional variables to the dataset and on improving data quality.*

Public service delivery: the interface between formal and informal institutions

Lhawang Ugyel*

Start of year statement: *This research examines the interface between formal and informal institutions using the experience of the Bougainville Healthy Communities Program (BHCP) in the delivery of public health services in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, Papua New Guinea. The research describes the process of implementing the BHCP activities. It highlights the roles of various institutions and actors who operate within both the formal and informal spaces of the BHCP. Using a 2x2 matrix to illustrate the relationship between formal and informal institutions on one hand, and on the other hand, governmental and non-governmental systems, the experience of the BHCP shows that these activities do not operate in rigid quadrants. The fluid relationships demonstrate the type of integration that has led to the successful implementation of the BHCP. UPNG collaboration involves presentation at PNG Update.*

Half-year progress report: *Presented the findings of the study at the PNG Update 2018, and Pacific Update 2018. The paper has been published as a [Development Policy Centre Discussion Paper](#), and a [blog](#) that summarises the paper has also been published.*

Public service delivery: District Development Authorities

Emmanuel Groea, Lawrence Sause and Lhawang Ugyel*

Start of year statement: *To its framers, the DDA concept holds the real promise of strengthening service delivery at the district and the ward levels. Like any institutional reform, there is an implicit and optimistic assumption that the concept will work and deliver. This optimism becomes more important in the light of the DSIP and PSIP funding arrangement. To the politicians, the DDA concept must work. Two and half years after inception, our understanding of the DDA performance is sparse: how are they faring? What are the consequences or likely consequences emanating from the DDA institutional design, and what are the implications on the overall performance and governance of the DDA? This research seeks to answer some of these questions, based on field visits and discussion with staff of two DDAs and the provincial administration in East New Britain. The research analyses how the DDA is working by focusing specifically on the dynamics of power relations among the different actors in the DDA setup brought about by the DDAs' institutional design through the DDA Act 2014. It uses the theoretical lens of*

decentralization and agencification literatures to examine the DDA and the factors that affect their effectiveness. It analyses the inherent tensions (and constraints) arising from the relations among actors and show how they are affecting or are likely to affect the performance and governance of the DDAs. UPNG collaboration involves co-authorship.

Half-year progress report: Presented the findings of the study at the PNG Update 2018. The paper will also be submitted for presentation at the State of the Pacific conference scheduled for September 2018.

D. Gender (2)

FSV and school attendance

Michelle Rooney*, Miranda Forsyth, Dora Kuir-Ayius, Mary Aisi

Start of year statement: This research looks at community perspectives on services related to family and sexual violence in the urban context with a focus on Lae. It examines women's perspectives, experiences and strategies in addressing family and sexual violence and the impact this has on maintaining children's school attendance. Fieldwork, including interviews, has been completed and data analysis has commenced. UPNG collaboration involves co-authorship.

Half-year progress report: Presented emerging findings at PNG Update conference. Published blog article on emerging findings. Participated in one day workshop with other ANU experts with DFAT, AFP, and ONA to shape the upcoming policy proposal to the Government of Australia and inform the upcoming programme design process for Australian Government support to the Royal PNG Constabulary.

Gender and financial inclusion

Rohan Fox*, Chris Hoy

Start of year statement: This quantitative research examines the factors that affect female responsibility and participation in household financial decision making in PNG using data from to surveys conducted separately of 3000 households in remote and urban East Sepik and 680 households in Morobe Province. UPNG collaboration involves presentation at PNG update.

Half-year progress report: Initial results of this research were presented at the Pacific Women Annual Learning Workshop in April 2018 and at the PNG Update in June 2018. A draft will go out for comment shortly, which will lead to the publication of a discussion paper.