

ANU Crawford - UPNG SBPP Partnership

Six-monthly Report (January – June 2016)



Note: This is the second six-month progress report required under the grant agreement signed between the ANU and Palladium International Pty Ltd in August 2015. It follows the format specified in the grant agreement.

This report was submitted on 1 August 2016.

Cover photograph (by Michael Cornish): The first cohort of Economics students taught under the partnership at their graduation ceremony at UPNG, 7 April 2016.

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Acronyms

ANU	Australian National University
BPW	Business and Professional Women's Association (PNG Chapter)
CHELT	Centre for Higher Education, Learning and Teaching (ANU)
CHRD	Centre for Human Resource Development (UPNG)
CSPP	Crawford School of Public Policy
DDA	District Development Authority
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
ECDF	Education Capacity Development Facility
ECLRC	Early Career Lecturer and Researcher Committee
EFT	Equivalent Full-Time
ESS	Economics Students Society
ICT	Internet and Communications Technology
LMS	Learning Management System
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MBA	Masters of Business Administration
MEPP	Masters of Economics and Public Policy
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NRI	National Research Institute
PGF	Papua New Guinea Governance Facility
PNG	Papua New Guinea
PNG-IPA	Papua New Guinea Institute of Public Administration
SBPP	School of Business and Public Policy
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SoTP	State of the Pacific (ANU Pacific regional Conference)
UN	United Nations
UPNG	University of Papua New Guinea

1. Project description

The University of Papua New Guinea School of Business and Public Policy's partnership with Australian National University's Crawford School of Public Policy commenced in 2012. In its latest scaled-up manifestation, it follows the MOU drawn up between ANU and UPNG in March 2015, and the grant agreement between ANU and Palladium International Pty Ltd signed in August 2015 (Palladium is contractor for the Education Capacity Development Facility, which is funded through the Australian High Commission in Port Moresby). This agreement provides the funding to enhance cooperation between these national universities over the next three years, under the auspices of the Pacific Leadership and Governance Precinct, a new initiative between the governments of Papua New Guinea and Australia that aims to strengthen leadership, governance and public sector capacity in PNG.

The partnership has four key components: faculty strengthening, collaborative research and outreach, student and faculty exchanges and partnership management.

- Faculty strengthening involves the deployment of ANU staff to assist with an immediate shortage of qualified staff in SBPP and to help build teaching capacity in the school over time.
- Collaborative research and outreach builds research capacity among academics at SBPP and strengthens research capacity on PNG at the ANU, through the PNG Economics and Public Policy Project (PNG Project) in the Crawford School.
- Student and faculty exchanges are central to the efforts to strengthen faculty at SBPP and PNG-related research and outreach at SBPP and ANU under this scheme. This component includes workshops, scholarships, training and other visits all aimed at enhancing teaching and research capacity for SBPP students and faculty.
- Effective management of the partnership includes planning, monitoring, evaluating and reporting, the provision of administrative support to all staff, assistance with project-related activities, liaising across all stakeholder groups, and communication and promotion of the partnership and its activities and outputs.

Within the ANU Crawford School of Public Policy, the Development Policy Centre takes the lead on this project. Within the School of Business and Public Policy, there is a particular focus on the Economics and Public Policy Divisions, but all Divisions of the School have opportunities under – and are expected to benefit from – the partnership. For more information about the partnership, refer to the 2015 Annual Report.

2. Executive summary

The Crawford ANU-SBPP UPNG Partnership continued to build momentum into 2016 with the addition of new staff, new programs of collaborative research and promising student exchanges. Regrettably, a student boycott at UPNG that began 2 May 2016, brought disruption and security concerns to the university and caused an immediate cessation of student teaching; related security concerns made it impossible for classes to resume or for our partnership staff to attend the UPNG campus. After several months of uncertainty and upheaval at the university, and in response to continuing insecurity on campus, Nicholas Mann, the Acting Chancellor of UPNG issued a press release on 5 July 2016 stating that the university would terminate its teaching and learning activities, effective immediately. These unexpected events have disrupted our project in a major way, and required a significant reorientation of our planned activities.

Faculty strengthening. First semester 2016 began strongly with the return of Michael Cornish and Rohan Fox to UPNG and the recruitment and deployment of two additional ANU academic staff to UPNG in first semester 2016 (Tatia Currie and Manoj Pandey). These four ANU academics ran a total of five courses across the Divisions of Economics and Public Policy in first semester, teaching a total of 186 male and 103 female students (up from 81 male and 37 female students in 2015). They also assisted with guest lectures in other courses (reaching another 184 male and 125 female students) and received excellent student evaluations. Working with SBPP counterpart staff, they undertook a range of initiatives to improve the quality of teaching and research. Working with UPNG students, they implemented a number of measures to deepen engagement with students and to link students with employers. In June, Michael Cornish and Rohan Fox completed their deployments to PNG and in late July Dr Lhawang Ugyel arrived in Moresby to join ANU colleagues and UPNG counterparts in Public Policy. In mid-August, Dr Marcel Schröder will join the team in the Division of Economics, SBPP.

Collaborative research and outreach. In the first half of 2016, the partnership supported significant PNG-related collaborative research projects in roads/infrastructure, education and health, and the PNG economy. This research was only slightly affected by disruptions at UPNG and was able to proceed with only minor changes to schedule. By way of contrast, The PNG Update (the partnership's flagship research collaboration) scheduled for mid-June 2016 was postponed twice due to upheavals at the university. UPNG is committed to holding the Update and will reschedule it for later in 2016. Several seminars and workshops were held during the first few months of the year, and research outreach under the ANU PNG Economics and Public Policy Project ('The PNG Project') continued apace in the first six months of 2016, with 35 PNG-related blog posts and the creation of a new *ANU-UPNG research note* series. From early May 2016 it was not possible to run seminars or research workshops at UPNG (although a Writer's Workshop for researchers was conducted at the nearby NRI campus in late May). Several project-related outreach events were held at ANU (in Canberra) in the first half of the year.

Faculty exchanges. ANU visiting researchers gave several workshops and seminars at SBPP during March and April, but by early May, UPNG was unable to receive ANU visiting academics and UPNG staff were

unable to travel due to the student strike and related activities. Amid these uncertainties, plans were finalised for the participation by three UPNG academics in the Pacific Update in Suva in mid-July 2016; they successfully participated in this conference. **Student exchange** activity focussed on preparations for the arrival at ANU of the first scholarship awardee under the partnership, but this had to be postponed for medical reasons. Preparation for the 2017 Summer School was delayed due to disruptions at UPNG, but is now underway again.

The **management of the partnership** was consolidated in early 2016. Priorities for management were recruitment, reporting and managing the UPNG crisis. Project costs are at 81% of our revised budget owing to the postponement of various activities. A financial report is forwarded separately.

It is still possible that UPNG will re-open in the second half of 2016. While we are ready to resume teaching, in the interim, as outlined in Section 4, we have reoriented the project to emphasize research, curriculum development, and the preparation of a new graduate program in economics and public policy.

3. Progress against key deliverables

The partnership has four key components: faculty strengthening, collaborative research and outreach, student and faculty exchanges and partnership management. The subsections below detail the progress under each component in the first half of 2016, and plans for the remainder of this year and next year.

3.1 Faculty strengthening

As described in the sub-sections following, the four staff at UPNG in first semester 2016 taught five courses in the Division of Economics and the Division of Public Policy from 22 February to 2 May. They also implemented initiatives to improve teaching and research quality, increase student engagement and to link students with potential employers.

3.1.1 Visiting faculty

Four ANU faculty were teaching in the School of Business and Public Policy in first semester 2016.

Mr **Michael Cornish** returned to UPNG as an ANU academic staff member in 2016 (having been an ANU-affiliated member of staff at UPNG in 2015). Michael taught International Economics and Principles of Microeconomics until the abrupt end to classes in early May. He also was heavily involved in mentoring students through 'Economics Inspired' events, student vocational workshops and internship programs and mentoring. Michael left PNG in June. His role was a bridging one and he concluded his contract with the ANU at the end of July 2016.

Ms **Tatia Currie** commenced at UPNG as a new member of ANU's academic staff in February 2016 assisting in the Division of Public Policy by teaching Public Policy Development in first semester until early May. Tatia was also engaged in fieldwork related to the collaborative research between ANU and UPNG on education and health service delivery in PNG.

Mr **Rohan Fox** returned to UPNG as the PNG-based Partnership Coordinator in 2016 (having been an ANU-affiliated volunteer at UPNG in 2015). Rohan also worked in the Division of Economics, teaching Quantitative Economics I until early May. He was also engaged in collaborative research on roads/infrastructure and on PNG's exchange rate during the first half of 2016. Rohan has returned to ANU and will continue as a Program and Research Officer on the partnership for the remainder of 2016.

Dr **Manoj Pandey** commenced at UPNG as a new member of ANU's academic staff in early March 2016, assisting in the Division of Economics at UPNG. Manoj taught Econometrics and commenced an ambitious 3 year staff development program which engaged 17 academic staff from across SBPP. While this training was popular among SBPP staff, it ended in early May, along with the teaching program at UPNG. Dr Pandey intends resuming this training in early August 2016.

The main recruitment round in November of last year was successful but did not fill all positions or, in one case, a position was filled with a lag. Significant recruitment activity during the first-half of 2016 resulted in the appointment of three new academic staff to the project during the first half of 2016.

Dr **Lhawang Ugyel** is an ANU academic staff member who left his position as lecturer at the ANU's Crawford School in July 2016 to join the ANU-UPNG partnership project. Lhawang is a public policy scholar who brings with him extensive teaching and public sector experience. He is a Bhutanese national who served for a decade in various public sector jobs before switching to public policy research and completing a PhD in Public Policy at the ANU in 2014. He was hired through the November round. For visa reasons, he is employed through ANU Enterprise.

Dr **Marcel Schröder** is a new ANU academic staff member. He will join the Division of Economics at UPNG in August and continue at UPNG into the 2017 academic year. Dr Schröder is a development economist with an interest in macroeconomics and experience of living and teaching in other developing country contexts. He is a German national and holds a Masters of International and Development Economics and a Doctorate of Economics, both from The Australian National University.

Dr **Amanda Watson** will join the ANU and our PNG-based project staff from January 2017. Amanda has extensive experience in PNG, having completed her PhD on the role of mobile phone technologies in PNG development. She has extensive experience of living and working in PNG; as a lecturer for 3 years at Divine Word University in Madang and as a consultant for 4 years with Coffey International in Port Moresby. Amanda has applied knowledge of a range of public policy issues in PNG and brings with her a depth of knowledge of the country – its politics and its peoples. Amanda is fluent in Tok Pisin and will be teaching and researching in SBPP's Division of Public Policy.

3.1.2 Lecturing

In first semester 2016, until the student unrest began on 2 May, Michael Cornish convened, lectured and tutored courses in International Economics and Principles of Micro Economics. Tatia Currie convened, lectured and tutored a course in Public Policy Development. Rohan Fox convened, lectured and tutored Quantitative Economics I, and Manoj Pandey convened, lectured and tutored Econometrics. One guest lecture was given by Michael Cornish in Strategic Management (SBPP).

Summary of teaching by ANU staff at UPNG in first semester 2016

Course	Year level	Female students	Male students	Student with disability	Total students
Econometrics	4 th	8	17	Not known	25
International Economics	3 rd	11	12	Not known	23
Principles of Micro Economics	2 nd	44	78	Not known	122
Quantitative Economics I	3 rd	21	25	Not known	46
Public Policy Development	2 nd	32	75	1	107
Guest lectures	2 nd	30	50	Not known	80
Total student numbers		146	257	1	403

As teaching was interrupted well before the end of first semester, student feedback on teaching performance is limited and it was impracticable to gather student feedback after the initial student strike of 2 May 2016. Fortunately, Michael Cornish and Tatia Currie conducted mid-semester student feedback surveys. While this student feedback data is partial, responses to teaching in first semester 2016 were similarly positive to those received by students who participated in the courses run by ANU-affiliated staff at UPNG in 2015. Student surveys also contained qualitative data in the form of written student feedback. ANU lecturers received strong positive and informative feedback (see Annex 1 for more information on student feedback and assessment of these courses).

3.1.3 Initiatives to improve teaching

In first semester 2016, ANU extended its established collaboration with UPNG in Economics to the Division of Public Policy, thereby broadening the efficacy and scope of contributions to SBPP under the partnership.

Curriculum development

ANU staff are currently engaged in a substantial revision and re-write of the Foundation Economics course notes for UPNG's Open College, and have plans to restructure other courses, such as *Quantitative Economics II* to make the course more applied, with PNG-relevant case studies.

Responding to a request from the SBPP Dean, the ANU and UPNG teams have agreed to develop a combined UPNG Masters in Economics and Public Policy degree. While the student strike and subsequent shut-down of the university has caused major disruption to most teaching programs, the Masters of Business Administration (MBA) in SBPP has continued relatively unaffected. The new Masters of Economics and Public Policy (MEPP) would also have a three-term academic year and professional development focus; targeting public sector employees seeking to strengthen their understanding and credentials of these key fields. ANU staff at UPNG will be heavily involved in the planning of this degree and the creation of course content over the next six months. The aim is to offer this course in 2017.

Academic induction program

ANU staff prepared an induction pack for new tutors in the Division of Economics. Once the SBPP Board has approved the use of this document, it will be made available to staff members.

Rohan Fox and Michael Cornish provided one-on-one assistance with induction for Mr Maholopa Laveil, whose partnership scholarship stipulated he complete a successful term as a tutor at UPNG before he take up his studies at ANU.

IT Infrastructure

ANU staff assisted SBPP with several IT infrastructure initiatives and electrical repair work in the first half of 2016. IT infrastructure constraints in SBPP eased somewhat in April 2016 with the installation of new wireless routers (to black-spot areas) and a new printer in the School. These improvements were initiated and facilitated by Michael Cornish and Linda McKellar, the SBPP Transitions Coordinator at UPNG. Rohan Fox, working in consultation with Mr William Tapio, UPNG's ICT Director, submitted a proposal to SBPP regarding the installation of a Network Assisted Storage (NAS) System for the School. The NAS System is a low cost option (around AUD\$400) that could provide SBPP staff and students effective and secure file sharing and backup via Wi-Fi routers without reliance on the internet (which is often slow or intermittent at UPNG). SBPP is now considering this enhancement to existing IT infrastructure in the School.

Lightning strikes at UPNG in March 2016, and subsequent electricity loss, had a significant impact on teaching in SBPP for more than a week. ANU staff conducted some lectures outdoors or in other similarly improvised conditions while electrical contractors sought to make emergency repairs and essential improvements to old electrical infrastructure. This incident provided the opportunity to act on other electrical repairs required in offices and lecture theatres. Michael Cornish completed an inventory of required works (upgrading power points, broken switches, repairing lighting, etc.) and liaised with electrical contractors to address these concerns. Although delayed by the student boycotts, this work is now complete and has addressed some of the most pressing OH&S concerns in the School of Business and Public Policy and in Kuri Dom (where much of the SBPP teaching occurs). Work included fixing sparking power-points, exposed live wires in lecture rooms and tutorial rooms, replacement of broken lights to remove dark areas, and some general repairs and maintenance of lights, ceiling fans, and switches.

ANU has also been liaising closely with the Lowy Institute regarding the delivery of dozens of second-hand but good quality desktop computer terminals and flat-screen monitors to UPNG. This consignment is being gifted by Lowy to the university and these computers will be distributed in the school according to SBPP priorities.

Textbooks and student library

Building on their work in 2015, the ANU staff sought to further strengthen teaching resources in the school. Consignments of class-sets ordered through the UPNG Bookshop in 2015 were all finalised and ANU staff also purchased additional sets of textbooks for Econometrics and Public Policy.

The small **student and staff library** established by ANU staff in Economics in 2015 is gradually being expanded to include more Public Policy texts. This collection will continue to grow for the foreseeable future, but we still need to establish the best way to secure the collection while improving its accessibility to students. Partnership staff also worked through the first half of this year to expand SBPP's digital library resources.

Computer-based learning

The computer lab was used extensively during Semester 1. The lab was used for over 50 hours of computer-based teaching of Excel, statistical analysis software and website creation. Manoj Pandey held Econometrics classes (8 hours per week) in the computer lab, using Excel and statistical software package (STATA), and also ran 6 hours of quantitative methods training for staff, Michael Cornish ran a series of job ready skills workshops for students and Rohan Fox held a workshop on website creation for students.

As a direct result of Rohan Fox's workshop from last year, five SBPP lecturers used a web-based Learning Management System (LMS) to release notes and lectures to their students in first semester 2016, although progress in this area is now dependent on progress with university-based LMS initiatives.

Academic staff training and development

Dr. Manoj Pandey commenced an ambitious three-year program of staff training and development at UPNG in early 2016. This program provided weekly sessions for academic staff to improve their qualitative and quantitative skills, report writing and other research capabilities. Delivered to a core group of 17 SBPP staff members, these sessions continued until early May, when the university was closed to our academic staff. Dr Pandey's program of staff development is included as Annex 2.

Early Career Lecturer and Researcher (ECLR) Committee

The major output of this group in 2015, the recommendations of the ECLR committee to SBPP management, have been scheduled for discussion at the SBPP retreat, where the strategic plan will also be finalised. This retreat and strategic plan is yet to take place. To keep up momentum, the ECLR group continued to meet informally through the first half of 2016.

SBPP recruitment

In first semester 2016, UPNG recruited Mr Maholopa Laveil began as a tutor and Mr Nelson (Atip) Nema as a lecturer, further strengthening capacity in the Division of Economics SBPP.

3.1.4 Engaging students and building links with employers

In the first half of 2016, ANU staff at UPNG again worked hard to increase student engagement in their studies, promote scholarship opportunities and strengthen student's links with potential employers. Partnership staff at UPNG continued their successful 'Economics Inspired' series, mentored individual students and provided patronage to the UPNG Economics Students Society. These activities continued until the student strike brought an end to teaching and curtailed staff-student interactions. ANU staff were able to secure work placements and internships for UPNG students – see below.

UPNG Economics Students Society and UPNG Public Policy Association

Michael Cornish continued to work closely with the Executive of the Economics Students Society (ESS), and was selected as their Patron in April 2016. ANU staff were also involved in the ESS Student-Lecturers' Forum on 14 April (where students were given the opportunity to ask questions of the economics faculty). Tatia Currie and Dr Lhawang Ugyel will build rapport with the UPNG Public Policy Association student body in 2017.

Careers outreach

In first semester 2016, Michael Cornish again ran a series of 'Work-ready' career sessions for students. These were weekly professional skills training sessions for 3rd and 4th year economics students covering such topics as 'How to write a good CV', 'Cover letters and interviews', and 'An introduction to financial literacy'. Other sessions planned for first semester, such as 'Public speaking', 'Applying for scholarships', 'Research skills', were unable to proceed because of the university shut-down. The sessions were attended by an average of 15 students.

ANU staff also played an important role in assisting recent economics graduates find employment, by providing career advice, finding short and long-term job placements, editing and advising on CVs and providing employment references for students (e.g. Michael Cornish provided more than 20 job references for recent graduates; Rohan Fox provided 14 job references for current students and recent graduates in the period).

ANU staff are keen to track the progress of graduates. This is challenging research, as UPNG's graduates typically disperse quickly after university and maintaining contact with them proves extremely difficult. Michael Cornish is consolidating initial data on graduates in economics and now finalising a discussion paper that should provide some insights into graduate expectations. Rohan Fox is establishing a Facebook page for UPNG Economics alumni, which will help keep track of recent graduates, and partnership staff, together with our UPNG counterparts, are working on other ways to strengthen our capacity to trace the career pathways of SBPP graduates in the future.

Work experience and internships

Two female and two male third-year economics students, selected on merit in late 2015, completed placements over the long summer break (Nov 2015 – Feb 2016) in four different work units within the ANZ Head Office for PNG at Konedobu in Port Moresby. This work placement is part of an arrangement between ANU staff at UPNG and senior management of the ANZ in Papua New Guinea arrange work. A written understanding has been drafted between the ANZ and the SBPP to formalise this arrangement for 2016. Another student in Economics did vacation work with the Bank of PNG in early 2016, again facilitated by ANU staff at UPNG.

Scholarships

In 2016, partnership staff again sought to engage the financial support of the Port Moresby-based Business and Professional Women's Association (BPW), a not-for-profit organisation affiliated with BPW International, that works to "encourage women and girls to further their education at every level." Michael Cornish assisted three female students with submissions for BPW scholarships (applications pending) and Tatia Currie will coordinate this support for students in SBPP from July 2016.

'Economics Inspired'

Many students from UPNG are from remote villages, and even those from urban centres have little access to documentary videos or intellectual discourse from outside PNG. In 2015, Rohan Fox and Michael Cornish started a weekly series of videos entitled 'Economics Inspired' to provide students access to world-class documentaries and speakers presenting ideas key to the discipline.



UNDP presentation on SDGs at UPNG – one session in the 'Economics Inspired' series.

In first semester of 2016, the 'Economics Inspired' program began with the first three episodes of the documentary series *The Ascent of Money*. Around 180 students typically attended these weekly screenings (which were part of the curriculum requirement for courses taught by Cornish and Fox).

Subsequent sessions included a video presentation by Hans Rosling (eminent public health researcher and statistician) and a talk at UPNG by the UN resident mission on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their relevance to PNG (the inclusion of the Economics Inspired cohort at this event raised attendance to around 300 students). The series ended abruptly with the student boycott, 2 May 2016.

3.2 Collaborative research and outreach

The research and outreach component of the project made significant gains in the first half of 2016, in spite of the instability at UPNG and the repeated postponement of the partnership's flagship event, the PNG Update. Central to the success of this research were fieldwork activities involving collaborations between ANU and UPNG under the auspices of the *PNG Economics and Public Policy Project* at Crawford (PNG Project for short), which complimented workshops and various outreach activities.

3.2.1 Research and outreach workshops

Summary of workshops and training by ANU partnership staff in first semester 2016

Training Title	Date	Participants	
		M	F
PNG Blog Writing Workshop (at ANU)	7 April 2016	2	5
Research Methods and Approaches	11-15 April 2016	2	3
The PNG Update Writers' Workshop	24 May 2016	2	5
Staff quantitative training (weekly)	S1 2016 (TBC)	10	7

Two workshops and a weekly training session were held in first semester 2016, as summarised (above). These activities were intended to strengthen the research capacity of UPNG-SBPP academics and other PNG researchers. The table below list workshops conducted which may still be able to proceed in the latter half of 2016 (subject to confirmation by UPNG).

PNG blog writing workshops

On 7 April partnership staff at ANU (Michelle Rooney, Camilla Burkot and Ashlee Betteridge) facilitated a blog writing workshop for Papua New Guinean and Pacific Islander postgraduate students studying in Canberra. The workshop targeted students who might be considering writing about their research for the Development Policy Blog, or similar blogs. The partnership team is planning to run a follow-up workshop on blog publication for research outreach at UPNG later in 2016.

PNG Update Writers' Workshop

The annual PNG Update Writer's Workshop was held on 24 May 2016. While the workshop had reduced participation from UPNG academics due to the boycott, the event was open to Port Moresby-based PNG

academics whose abstracts had been accepted for the Update; the participants included four academics from UPNG, two from Pacific Adventist University and one researcher from NRI.

The Writer's Workshop is intended to help academics do better research and give better presentations. This year it was held over one full day and was coordinated by Dr Michael Cookson (Partnership Manager) and Dr Manoj Pandey, one of the ANU academic team based at UPNG. Written and verbal feedback from attendees was that they believed that the workshop had clearly identified learning outcomes, was well organised and provided useful ideas about how they could strengthen their critical-thinking and improve their papers and presentation skills (see Annex 3).



ANU partnership staff and participants at the PNG Update Writers' Workshop, 24 May 2016.

Research Methods and Approaches

Between 11-15 April, Grant Walton and Colin Wiltshire conducted training sessions with UPNG and ANU academics on research methods and approaches. This work was to prepare UPNG and partnership staff for Public Expenditure Case Studies fieldwork across two provinces in PNG in first semester 2016. The training involved intensive pre-fieldwork sessions at UPNG and pilot fieldwork in Central Province. Denise Lokinap and Peter Kanaparo both lecturers from UPNG were involved, as were Tara Davda, Rohan Fox and Tatia Currie from ANU. The training focused on research methods, a background on the PNG health and education systems, logistics and interviewing techniques. After two days of training researchers interviewed key stakeholders in the health and education sectors in Central Province.

Respondents at health facilities included the Officer in Charge, District Health Officer, and various community representatives. Education representatives included head-teachers, representatives from the board of management, teachers, and District Standards Officers (Inspectors). The group also spoke with other district officials such as the CEO of the District Development Authority, the District Agriculture Officer and the District Education Officer. Interviewers sought information relating to the impact of

changes in government policy on service delivery and community perceptions of policy effectiveness, in particular, the Tuition Fee Free Policy, the government's more recently established policies on free health care provision, and decentralisation policy through the District Development Authorities (DDAs). Researchers gained insights into the nature of the challenges now facing district administrators, schools and health facilities, and were able to test the research instruments they aim to use in the next phase of the research.

Quantitative Training (staff development)

Dr Manoj Pandey commenced his three-year Quantitative training program at UPNG in first semester 2016 (see Annex 2). This staff development program is intended to strengthen the research and teaching capacity of existing SBPP staff through weekly workshops on all aspects of quantitative research and teaching. The focus of the initial training was on the strengthening quantitative skills in report and research writing (i.e. use of graphics, tables and other visual aids, report tips and academic writing skills). This program, which began mid-semester was interrupted by events at UPNG in early May, but will hopefully recommence during the second half of 2016, subject to conditions at UPNG.

Summary of workshops and training by ANU partnership staff planned for the remainder of 2016

Training Title	Date
PNG Update media outreach workshop	S2 2016 (TBC)
Staff quantitative training (weekly)	S2 2016 (TBC)
PNG blog writing workshop (at UPNG)	S2 2016 (TBC)
Policy Impact Evaluation short-course	S2 2016 (TBC)

PNG Update media outreach workshop

Partnership staff, in collaboration with the PNG National Broadcasting Commission, have arranged for the PNG Update to be covered by NBC radio. This coverage will raise awareness of the ANU-UPNG partnership and the Pacific Leadership and Governance Precinct. It will also support the Precinct's key objective of promoting awareness of economic and public policy issues in PNG by broadcasting the presentations of (and interviews with) key speakers at the Update. This coverage will also help provide research outreach for participants in the Update.

The workshop will familiarize NBC radio staff with the PNG Update, its history, the themes of this year's conference, and the major speakers. ANU and UPNG counterpart staff will provide presentations on public policy and the PNG economy, and offer NBC radio staff the opportunity to strengthen their understanding of key related issues. The workshop will also provide the opportunity for staff coordinating the Update at UPNG to be fully apprised of the technical needs of NBC staff and their priorities related to the issues and speakers at the Update.

Policy Impact Evaluation short-course

Dr Anthony Swan may convene a short-course in **Policy Impact Evaluation** (using data to answer policy questions and evaluate policy) in the second half of 2016. The aim of this course is to raise the ability of participants to identify and use data to support the development of evidenced-based policy. The course will describe the uses and limitations of different data sources relevant to policymaking in PNG, and provide step-by-step tutorials on data analysis using freely available statistical software. The course will provide an overview of basic statistical analysis focusing on the assumptions, purpose and limitations of techniques, rather than formulae and equations. There will also be a particular emphasis on issues related to sample selection and demonstrating causality of relationships. An innovative aspect of the course is that participants will be provided with the ability to access and interrogate social media generated data, such as Twitter data, to inform policy impact. This workshop is open to participants from across the SBPP, relevant PNG government agencies and staff of the National Research Institute (NRI).

3.2.2 Conferences and seminars

In the first half of 2016, Partnership staff were extensively involved in preparations for the annual PNG Update. Several ANU-based academics were able to give guest seminars at UPNG, until access to the university was closed to our staff in early May. Partnership staff were able to assist UPNG counterparts during this period with their involvement in presentations in international fora.

The 2016 PNG Update

The PNG Update is the premier forum for the discussion of research and analysis relating to contemporary economic and public policy issues in Papua New Guinea. It is a good example of what the ANU-UPNG partnership can achieve in terms of research, collaboration, public outreach, and dialogue on public policy in PNG. Organisation of the event in recent years has been shared between the ANU's Crawford School and UPNG's SBPP. In 2016, DFAT will be providing financial support for the event through the ANU-UPNG partnership grant agreement.

This year's PNG Update, on the theme of "Sustaining development in PNG beyond the resources boom", was scheduled for 16-17 June 2016. A great deal of time was spent in the first six months of this year preparing for the Update; which had scheduled the involvement of the VC UPNG, Australia's High Commissioner to PNG, 7 other keynote speakers and another 67 presenters (selected from almost 100 submitted abstracts).

Uncertainty following the initial student boycott at UPNG on 2 May, eventually led to the university postponing the Update to mid-July 2016. Subsequent events forced the university to announce an indefinite postponement to the Update. UPNG has just confirmed that they are still eager for the Update to proceed this year, and plans to get it back on track are now underway.

Guest seminars

Several research staff from the ANU's Crawford School were able to give seminars at UPNG in 2016 before the closure of the university in early May.

On 11 April, Dr Grant Walton gave a seminar on challenges and opportunities in the PNG education sector, focussing on the tuition fee-free policy in PNG. This seminar was given as a guest lecture in Tatia Currie's 2nd year Public Policy Development course (to 107 students; 75 male, 32 female, 1 student with a known disability).



Michelle Rooney giving a presentation on urban land and livelihoods at UPNG, 21 April 2016.

On 21 April, 2016, Ms Michelle Rooney, an ANU-based academic engaged under the partnership, gave a two-hour seminar to 3rd and 4th year Environmental Science and Geography (ESG) students enrolled in urban studies, environmental science, and journalism (45 students in total; gender/disability break down not known). The seminar focused on social safety nets in PNG, part of Michelle's ongoing PhD research. She discussed the theoretical framework for her research, her research methods and emerging findings on urban land and livelihoods issues for residents of settlements in PNG. The session concluded with a discussion about research ethics. A number of UPNG staff from outside ESG also attended the seminar.

International conferences

Pacific Update, 16-17 July 2016. In July, Prof. Pillai, Win Nicholas and Nelson (Atip) Nema from UPNG, joined Dr Manoj Pandey (ANU UPNG-based academic), Prof. Stephen Howes and Dr Matthew Dornan in travelling to the University of the South Pacific (USP) in Suva for the Pacific Update. Win and Nelson presented the co-authored PNG economic survey paper and Prof. Pillai presented a paper on UPNG and the Precinct initiative. Matt Dornan also presented a paper on his research into roads maintenance in PNG.

State of the Pacific, 13-15 September 2016. Two academics from the SBPP Economics Division, Mr Win Nicholas and Mr Nelson Atip, and two academics from SBPP's Division of Public Policy Management, Ms Denise Lokinap and Mr Peter Kanaparo, will travel to Canberra for ANU's annual State of the Pacific Conference in mid-September 2016. Win Nicholas and Nelson (Atip) Nema will present the co-authored ANU-UPNG survey paper on the PNG economy, Ms Denise Lokinap and Mr Colin Wiltshire will co-present their findings on health delivery from recent fieldwork in PNG, and Dr Grant Walton and Mr Peter Kanaparo will present related fieldwork findings on education delivery in PNG.

3.2.3 The ANU PNG Economics and Public Policy Project (PNG Project)

The PNG Economics and Public Policy Project (PNG Project for short) is an integral part of the Precinct project design and grant agreement for the ANU-UPNG partnership. The rationale for the PNG Project is to ensure that ANU can be an active PNG-research partner to UPNG counterparts. In the first half of 2016, the strategic benefits of the PNG Project initiative became more apparent as ANU researchers began to develop strong research collaborations in Public Policy with their UPNG counterparts. In other areas, ANU partnership staff took the lead on research projects, or continued to play an important role in established collaborations (e.g. with NRI). Funding for this research comes from a variety of sources, and involves a number of partnerships, as noted below.

1. **Macro and fiscal analysis.** Work under this component includes the joint ANU-UPNG research paper (PNG survey of recent economic developments, 2015-16) by Michael Cornish, Rohan Fox, Stephen Howes, Win Nicholas, and Nelson Atip), and blogs by Rohan Fox, Paul Flanagan, Stephen Howes and Win Nicholas. The PNG economic survey paper was presented at the Pacific Update in mid-July 2016. It will be presented again by UPNG staff at the ANU's State of the Pacific (SoTP) conference mid-September and again at the PNG Update later this year. The cost of UPNG and ANU staff involvement in these events is met by the grant agreement. Dr Marcel Schröder and Rohan Fox are engaged in ongoing research on PNG's exchange rate.
2. **Infrastructure.** Dr Matthew Dornan, together with colleagues at the National Research Institute (NRI), led research on road management at the sub-national government level in PNG. The research team of Dr Matthew Dornan and Rohan Fox from ANU, Dr Carmen Voigt-Graf (ANU/NRI Partnership) and Ronald Sofo and Chris Banga from NRI, completed fieldwork in four of the five provinces selected as case studies (i.e. Milne Bay, Gulf, Eastern Highlands, and Madang) in the first half of 2016. Research findings are expected to be published by NRI in the next 6-12 months, and will be presented at both NRI and UPNG. Matthew Dornan also recently published work on road management at the national level in PNG in the well-regarded Asia and the Pacific Policy Studies journal. Matthew's work on roads management in PNG is part of the ANU-NRI partnership and his position has been 0.5 FTE funded under the ECDF grant agreement since August 2015.
3. **Health and education.** Dr Grant Walton has been managing research in PNG that has involved training and fieldwork with researchers from UPNG and ANU. The research aims to better understand the performance of some of the government's key policies: financing of the health and education sectors, and decentralisation. Research was piloted in Central Province in April 2016 before being implemented in Gulf and East New Britain in May and June respectively. The

cost of all fieldwork for this health and education service delivery research was met by ECDF under the grant agreement. Dr Walton, along with other fieldwork team members Tara Davda and Colin Wiltshire from ANU, Tatia Currie from the ANU partnership team at UPNG and Denise Lokinap and Peter Kanaparo from the Division of Public Policy Management (SPBB UPNG) are currently writing up the results of this fieldwork research.



Peter Kanaparo en route to remote aid posts and schools, Gulf Province June 2016.

Dr **Anthony Swan** continued his focus on basic education research in PNG in the first half of 2016. In February he presented “Improving quality education in a world obsessed with student numbers” at the 2016 Australasian Aid Conference, a paper he co-authored with a Dr Grant Walton. This paper estimates the public cost to PNG of meeting the Sustainable Development Goal for quality education and finds that political incentives to direct public spending towards improving access to education in PNG will likely come at the expense of improving quality education. Anthony has continued with research on estimating the impact of the free education policy in PNG on school attendance, enrolment and learning outcomes using national grade 8 test results across the country. This research was undertaken with Dr Vu Son who provided support Anthony with data management and econometric analysis over a period of around four weeks. Anthony’s position has been 0.5 FTE funded under the grant agreement since August 2015.

4. **Corruption and governance.** Grant Walton and Ainsley Jones are conducting research on collective action and corruption in PNG (including on anti-corruption messaging and the nature of corruption in the public sector in PNG).
5. **Communications.** Dr Swan has commenced research on the use of social media data (Twitter) to better understand perceptions of Papua New Guineans over time on important development issues (such as economic governance, corruption and service delivery), how ideas and perceptions diffuse across social networks in PNG, and how perceptions in PNG relate to policy initiatives.

Related to this research, Anthony recently published a Devpolicy blog on how user-generated data and “big data” can support evidenced-based policy making, particularly in countries such as PNG where significant data gaps exist. There is significant scope here for collaborative research with Dr Walton (on anti-corruption messaging) and with Dr Amanda Watson’s long-term and in-depth research on mobile phone technologies for development in PNG (Dr Watson joins the ANU Public Policy team at UPNG in January 2017).

6. **Labour markets and migration.** Under the ANU-NRI Research Partnership, and as part of the NRI Economic Policy Research Programme’s workplan for 2016, Carmen Voigt-Graf progressed a NRI research project research on ‘The impact of the LNG project on employment and skills development in Papua New Guinea.’ This involved consultations with training providers, recruitment agencies and companies in Port Moresby and will be completed in August. This research will be published through NRI in coming months.



Michelle Rooney interviewing local school and community leaders, ATS settlement, Port Moresby.

7. **Urban livelihoods.** In first semester 2016, Michelle Rooney continued research on issues related to her PhD project which include urban service delivery, gender and economy, urban land tenure and other social issues in PNG. Michelle is co-convening a panel on urban issues at the PNG Update later this year and, once she has completed her PhD, will pursue further research into the livelihoods of marginalised communities in urban centres in PNG. Michelle Rooney is fully-funded under the ECDF grant.
8. **Public Policy and administration.** Terence Wood continues his research on elections in PNG and together with Tatia Currie is compiling data for an online PNG elections database. Dr Lhawang Ugyel has just arrived in PNG and is beginning research on public administration in PNG.
9. **Gender-based violence.** In 2016, Dr Kamalini Lokuge of ANU’s National Centre for Epidemiology and Public Health, with support from Research Officers Katherine Thurber and Sarah Geddes, undertook a systematic review of interventions to address intimate partner and sexual violence in developing countries and are in the process of preparing a publication based on their findings. In

collaboration with Unitech's Department of Community Development, they developed a protocol for conducting a community-based survey assessing access to services for gender-based violence and are in the process of gaining ethics approvals to conduct this survey in Papua New Guinea. We have completed qualitative analysis of Femili PNG (a PNG NGO which provides services to survivors of family and sexual violence) program reports and staff interviews, and are finalising quantitative analysis of program outcomes for the period July 2014-June 2016. This research will inform the improved delivery of support services in relation to gender-based violence. This project is also developing data management tools for family and sexual violence support programs applicable to the PNG context to collect and analyse data at field level. Note that Thurber and Geddes are supported by the project (expenditure of about \$15,000 in the first six months of 2016) while Dr Lokuge's salary is covered by the ANU.

3.2.4 Outreach

The partnership relies on three key modes of outreach for the project - its online presence, hard-copy publications and events.

The Devpolicy blog

Devpolicy.org is the online public outreach portal for the Development Policy Centre at the ANU. The portal is used for communicating and discussing much of the development, economic and public policy research relating to PNG undertaken by the ANU. In the first half of 2016, Devpolicy.org published 35 blog posts related to PNG, on topics of direct relevance to the ANU-UPNG partnership and broader concerns of the Pacific Leadership and Governance Precinct (see Annex 4). These blog posts are widely read in PNG, and often picked up by the PNG media.

Each year, partnership staff collate the best PNG-related Devpolicy.org blogs for hard-copy publication. These booklets provide an alternate channel for disseminating information about economics and public policy issues affecting PNG and the region. A book launch for this year's PNG blog compilation will be held at the annual PNG Update later in 2016.

ANU-UPNG research notes

Responding to a request from the Australian High Commission, partnership staff are creating a new series of ANU-UPNG research notes intended to provide clear, succinct and timely communication about ongoing or recent research supported under the PNG Project (see earlier section 3.2.3). While these notes typically relate to blogs posted to Devpolicy.org, they provide an alternate channel for the dissemination of project-related information. We envisage the sharing of these notes by email (as PDF attachments) and as hard copy to offline audiences, including for distribution as primers on various issues in classes taught by staff at UPNG. As these relate to ongoing research, they provide the opportunity for readers to engage directly with project researchers on these issues.

Events

The partnership seeks to engage speakers and be involved in activities in Australia and the region that promote broad public outreach on contemporary issues in Papua New Guinea.

On 17 March 2016, the Development Policy Centre launched the memoirs of The Hon. Sir Julius Chan MP at ANU. The Hon Sir Julius Chan MP, GCL GCMG KBE CBE, Governor, New Ireland Province spoke at the event, as did His Excellency Mr Charles Lepani, Papua New Guinea's High Commissioner to Australia and Mr Bill Farmer AO, Former Australian High Commissioner to Papua New Guinea. The event had more than 150 attendees, including many members of the PNG community in Canberra and representatives of the Department of Foreign Affairs and other Australian government agencies.



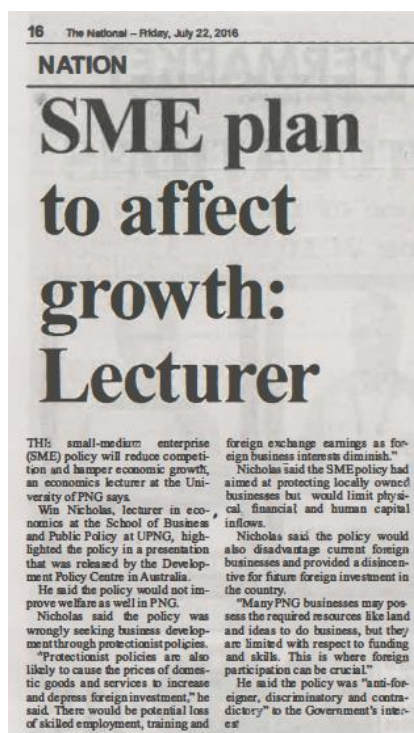
The Hon Sir Julius Chan MP, GCL GCMG KBE CBE, Governor, New Ireland Province, giving an address at his book launch at ANU's Crawford School, 17 March 2016.

On 19 May 2016, the Development Policy Centre hosted a public seminar by Dr Albert Schram, Vice Chancellor of Unitech, who spoke on reform of the tertiary sector in PNG. Dr Schram's public seminar was attended by around 40 people, and offered some timely insights into the ways that Unitech is seeking to strengthen its engagement with its students and educational institutions in PNG and the wider region.

On 9 June 2016, Michelle Rooney (a member of the partnership's academic staff) helped coordinate a PNG Prayer Vigil at the ANU in the wake of police shootings of unarmed students at the university on June 8 2016. This event brought together academics from across the region, the PNG Canberra Students Association and members of the wider PNG community in Canberra. Professor Stephen Howes gave a speech at this event.

Engagement with media and other public outreach

The partnership seeks to work closely with media in PNG and Australia and to promote other modes of engagement with stakeholders.



On 22 July, Win Nicholas's research on Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in PNG was published in The National (pictured left); this article was adapted from his Devpolicy blog post of 18 July, demonstrating the outreach value of the blog for UPNG academics, and the value of the project in encouraging and facilitating the articulation of policy research by UPNG academics.

In late April, the Post Courier published a full-page commentary piece by Dr Manoj Pandey on the economic and bilateral significance of the visit by India's President Pranab Mukherjee to Papua New Guinea.

In June, Denise Lokinap and Grant Walton gave a radio interview to NBC's East New Britain Desk (Kokopo) on their ongoing Public Expenditure case study research in PNG (pictured below). In the same month, Grant Walton gave a television interview on PNG's student riots to Channel News Asia's prime-time news program.

In Port Moresby, Michael Cornish gave several presentations on the PNG economy to key stakeholder groups, including the United Nations Coordinating Office (28 April) and ECDF office staff (12 May).



Denise Lokinap and Grant Walton interviewed by NBC East New Britain (Kokopo).

3.2.5 Faculty recruitment for collaborative research and outreach

Dr Vu Son was engaged on a short-term basis in March and April 2016 to assist with the statistical analysis of data for PNG education-related research led by Dr Anthony Swan. Ms Tara Davda, was brought on to assist Dr Grant Walton with empirical work related to his PNG Public Expenditure Case Studies research. Tara replaced Dr Son in April 2016. From July, Tara will move to a part-time basis with the Partnership (30%). The additional 70% of an EFT Research Officer will be filled by Rohan Fox. The remaining 30% of Rohan's time will be paid for out of category 3.3, reflecting his work on student exchange and partnership.

3.3 Student and faculty exchanges

In the first half of 2016, the partnership again sought to promote a variety of student and faculty exchanges, including visits by senior administrators, short and long-term reciprocal visits by academic staff, attendance by staff and students in workshops and conferences, and student scholarship and other exchanges. The cost of these exchanges is met by the EDCF grant agreement. While some exchanges did proceed in first semester 2016, from early May the opportunities for such exchanges were severely curtailed due to the student boycott and subsequent events at UPNG.

3.3.1 Staff exchanges – UPNG

Prof. **L.N. Pillai**, Dean of SBPP, presented at the Pacific Update in USP (Suva) in mid-July 2016. Prof. Pillai used this opportunity to establish a rapport with high-level counterparts at USP and lay a foundation for possible collaborations in the future. He will also travel to ANU in mid-September, to participate in the ANU's State of the Pacific Conference (13-15 September 2016).

Mr **Win Nicholas** and Mr **Nelson (Atip) Nema** presented a version of the ANU-UPNG collaborative Economic Survey (2015-16) paper at the Pacific Update in USP (Suva) in mid-July 2016. They will also travel to ANU in mid-September, to present a version of the paper at this ANU's State of the Pacific Conference (13-15 September 2016).

Ms **Denise Lokinap** and Mr **Peter Kanaparo** will travel to Canberra in mid-September, to co-present papers with ANU counterparts at the ANU's State of the Pacific Conference (13-15 September 2016).

Partnership staff will work with UPNG counterparts to identify other appropriate staff exchanges in the second half of 2016. We expect that other opportunities for UPNG staff visits to ANU will emerge from further discussion with SBPP staff once their obligations at UPNG for the remainder of 2016 are clear.

3.3.2 Staff exchanges – ANU

Prof. **Stephen Howes**, the Director of the Development Policy Centre at the ANU, made regular visits to UPNG in the first half of 2016 to liaise with UPNG's Executive, ANU partnership staff at UPNG and stakeholders at the Australian High Commission in Port Moresby.

Dr **Grant Walton**, a research fellow with the Development Policy Centre, gave a seminar at UPNG in April on issues related to education policy in PNG. He also conducted a research workshop at UPNG during this visit.

Dr **Michael Cookson**, the Partnership Manager, convened the Writer's Workshop for individuals who will be presenting at the 2016 PNG Update.

Dr **Manoj Pandey**, a member of ANU's UPNG-based academic staff, travelled to Suva to co-present the collaborative paper on the PNG economy (2015-16) and liaise with counterparts at USP on ways to strengthen collaborative research and curriculum development between UPNG and USP.

Dr **Matthew Dornan**, a research fellow with the Development Policy Centre, presented a paper on provincial roads maintenance in PNG at the Pacific Update in USP (Suva) in mid-July 2016.

3.3.3 Student exchanges

Progress was made in formalising student exchange programs under the partnership in the first half of 2016. At ANU, the processes required to run an ANU-UPNG Summer School in Economics and Public Policy for a select UPNG student cohort were established, as was the framework for managing long-term student scholarships for the Master's in International and Development Economics (IDEC). ANU and UPNG also made significant progress in formalising the processes by which candidates will be selected for the Summer School or IDEC scholarship in the future.

The 2016 ANU-UPNG Economics Exam

Since 2013, the ANU has conducted an annual one-hour economics examination for final-year students and recent graduates. This examination is held towards the end of second semester each year. The purpose of the exam is threefold. Firstly, it seeks to identify top students who are future candidates for Australia Awards. These top students are then provided references from the ANU to assist their application for an Australia Award once they have acquired the necessary work experience. Second, the exam helps identify promising candidates who may be awarded scholarships by ANU for either short or long courses. Third, it provides an independent measure of student standards, and thus provides an additional way to gauge the effectiveness of the partnership's contribution to student learning over time.

The ANU-UPNG exam in economics was scheduled to take place in the second semester consolidation week (i.e. mid-semester break) in August. At this stage, it is not possible to run the exam as scheduled; if circumstances change, we will seek to run the exam later in 2016.

Summer School student exchange program

The partnership has funding for short-term student exchanges for promising UPNG students to come to the ANU for training and research opportunities. A Summer School student exchange program concept note was prepared by partnership staff in mid-April to inform discussion of this issue. It proposed that the Summer School be offered to a total of 10 students annually who have completed exemplary third-

year studies in economics and public policy. The Dean SBPP has indicated his enthusiastic support for this initiative, and the inaugural ANU-UPNG Summer School will commence in January 2017.

This initiative has several inter-related objectives. It aims to inspire students by exposing them to new intellectual challenges and networks, strengthen their critical thinking and academic skills, help them imagine pathways to higher degree studies, and offer them new opportunities for engaging with a wider intellectual world.

Due to the extraordinary circumstances this year, the Dean SBPP has decided to base the selection of the inaugural cohort of students for the 2017 Summer School on assessment results from 2015. This selection process will occur in the next month and successful candidates will be assisted by partnership staff with all aspects of their participation in the program.

Long-term ANU scholarships

The partnership has also instituted a long-term ANU scholarship program, to support the most promising UPNG graduates in economics undertake a Masters in International and Development Economics (IDEC) at ANU. This scholarship program is intended to provide a pathway for the top economics graduate from UPNG each year to complete postgraduate study at the ANU and then return to a faculty position at the School of Business and Public Policy. Funds for each scholarship recipient will be drawn down in full in advance of each awardee commencing their program of study to ensure that there is no issue of continuity of funding for these scholarship recipients. A concept note for this scholarship program going forward has been drafted to help ANU and UPNG finalise the selection processes for this scholarship. (It is not possible to provide scholarships for top public policy students, as the ANU Masters in Public Policy has a work experience requirement.)

Regrettably, the first candidate selected for this scholarship was unable to obtain his Australian student visa due to health concerns. We hope that he will be able to secure his Australia student visa in time to begin his studies at ANU in January 2017.

Research internships at UPNG

Partnership staff efforts to create opportunities for research internships for promising UPNG students were frustrated in 2016 due to the student boycott, but will be a priority in 2017.

3.4 Partnership management

The effective management of staff and key stakeholders is critical to the successful implementation of this project. The need for partnership coordination at both UPNG and ANU is recognised in the MOU that forms the basis of the partnership between these two institutions and in the grant agreement that provides the funding to meet this need. (Refer to the 2015 Annual Report for more information on the partnership, including a copy of the MOU in full.)

3.4.1 Partnership management objectives

Project staff are committed to timely reporting and oversight of project finances. Partnership staff are also committed to maintaining effective operational arrangements between the ANU and Palladium International, notably with respect to visa, logistical and security arrangements. We are also fully engaged with project stakeholders and have open and transparent channels of communication with our counterparts at UPNG, Palladium International and the Australia High Commission in Port Moresby.



DFAT Deputy Secretary Rick Wells (centre) with Vice Chancellor of UPNG Prof. Albert Mellam (left of centre), and members of the ANU academic team, UPNG staff, and Precinct advisers after a meeting in the Council chamber, UPNG.

ANU and PNG-based partnership staff liaised extensively with Palladium and AHC officials through the first half of 2016. Senior officials from DFAT and the AHC also made visits to UPNG to meet ANU and UPNG staff involved in the collaboration.

3.4.2 Grant Agreement

The current grant agreement is contracted through Palladium, whose ECDF head contract concludes on 31 January 2017. In early June 2016, partnership staff were notified that the Grant Agreement would be novated from Palladium to Abt Associates, the managing contractor of the new PNG Governance Facility (PGF). The date for novation is now set for 1 September 2016, and negotiations are currently underway.

3.4.3 Partnership management staffing arrangements

From the start of first semester 2016, the partnership had its full complement of administrative staff in both Canberra and Port Moresby. Mr Rohan Fox served as Partnership Coordinator at UPNG for the first half of 2016. Ms Tatia Currie has now assumed the role of Partnership Coordinator at UPNG. Dr Michael Cookson managed all aspects of the project from ANU in Canberra and from 1 July 2016 he went 0.8 FTE (with salary savings to cover administrative assistance from Rohan Fox at

0.3 FTE). As per our earlier reporting, the EFT project officer position is filled by Ms Macarena Rojas/ Ms Husnia Hushang (0.5 FTE; Macarena is now on maternity leave) for finances and logistics; Ms Ashlee Betteridge for communications support (0.4 FTE) and Camilla Burkot for web support for the project (0.1 FTE).

4 Project narrative and restructuring

From modest beginnings in 2012, the partnership grew strongly through the latter half of 2015, with two ANU-affiliated staff at UPNG and new research and administrative staff in Canberra. Extensive recruitment in late 2015 and early 2016 brought a near-full complement of staff to the project and the possibility of extending the collaboration to the Division Public Policy Management. With four project staff engaged in teaching in Economics and Public Policy at UPNG in first semester, and counterparts at ANU involved in related-research, the project was off to a flying start in 2016. The student boycotts that started on 2 May and subsequent disruptions have profoundly affected all stakeholders at UPNG and presented new challenges for ANU and UPNG and how we can sustain an engaged, responsive and relevant partnership now and in the foreseeable future. These challenges provide the opportunity to test the basis on which our collaboration is built.

We are realistic in our expectations and have a long-term commitment to the success of UPNG (and to realising the goals and aspirations of the partnership as articulated in the joint MOU signed by ANU and UPNG in March 2015 (see 2015 Annual Report). We understand the student boycott and related disruptions at UPNG to be temporary and are confident that we can remain responsive to the changing circumstances at UPNG and continue to be an effective partner over the short- and long-term. The sense of ownership by UPNG in this project, the importance of building effective rapport among stakeholders and the enthusiasm of ANU staff and our UPNG counterparts to see the collaboration succeed, are all indicators of the strength and quality of the partnership.

Central to the success of the partnership, now and in the future, is an adaptive approach to program activities. The disruption and uncertainty at UPNG over the past few months did cause significant dislocation at UPNG and to our project, but it also affords an opportunity for the partnership (and our staff) to demonstrate their flexibility and agility as academics and development practitioners. From early May, our UPNG-based staff moved quickly from teaching to curriculum review and development, research and research coordination and related activities. While the resumption of teaching at UPNG in 2016 is still a possibility, we have been significantly reorienting our activities and our UPNG-based staff are now engaged in (or developing) other activities for the remainder of 2016, including:

1. **Graduate teaching:** We are accelerating our longer-term plan to introduce a Master's program and shift to graduate teaching. We are currently working with SBPP on a course proposal for a joint Masters in Economics and Public Policy and will assist SBPP with the preparation of course content for 2017.

2. **Curriculum development:** We are engaged in a major update of the material used by UPNG in their Foundation Economics course for their Open College (distance education).
3. **Executive education:** We are exploring opportunities for executive education for the remainder of 2016.
4. **Joint research:** We are strengthening collaborative research programs, including further fieldwork and new opportunities for research outreach for UPNG staff in Economics and Public Policy. At present our four staff based in PNG for the second half of 2016 are developing – or are already engaged in – collaborative research projects. In first semester, partnership staff made significant progress in joint research related to the PNG economy (Economics survey paper) and service delivery in Health and Education.
5. **Outreach:** We continue to seek opportunities to strengthen project outreach, both in PNG and Australia and will work with counterparts at UPNG to build opportunities for staff outreach through the partnership.

5 Monitoring and evaluation

The performance indicators for this project were outlined in the 2016 Annual Plan. The colour rating in the matrix bellows indicates performance against the pre-specified: not achieved (red), partially achieved or pending (orange), achieved (green).

Performance against indicators was mixed, with the disruptions at UPNG making it difficult for progress in certain areas, especially related to teaching. The uncertainties at UPNG from May this year also resulted in delays or the indefinite postponement of a number of initiatives under the partnership, including the flagship partnership event, the PNG Update. The restructuring outlined above will help lift overall performance in the second semester. The prospect of a return to teaching this year is also positive, though cannot by any means be guaranteed.

INDICATOR	RATING	COMMENTS
Teaching improvement (Faculty strengthening)		
ANU lecturers in place and teaching at UPNG		Most lecturer slots filled from S1; however the cessation of teaching prevented this target from being achieved in the first half of 2016.
Positive evaluation by students of courses taught by ANU lecturers		Mid-semester evaluations were conducted, with an average score of 4.5 out of 5.
Increased number of UPNG staff using course websites for their courses		Five SBPP lecturers used a web-based Learning Management System (LMS) to release notes and lectures to their students in first semester 2016. But progress on hold pending a university-wide LMS initiative.
Increased availability of textbooks to students		New books added to student library but access remains a problem.

Increased use by students of computers in the course of learning		The lab was used for over 50 hours of computer-based teaching of Excel, statistical analysis software and website creation.
Feedback from students, including an annual survey, show that their learning experience at UPNG is improving		Student feedback was collected mid-way through first semester, indicating a positive learning experience.
ANU-UPNG annual exam in economics shows increased number of students doing well		This exam is scheduled for August 2016 but may not be run due to the university shut down.
Greater opportunities for students to link with employers		Some progress made but undermined by cessation of teaching.
Greater opportunities for students to be exposed to economic thinking and to discuss economics		Some progress made, particularly noting the UPNG inspired sessions, but undermined by cessation of teaching.
Increased number of SPBB staffing positions filled		Additional hire in economics of lecturer with postgrad qualifications.
Increased number of UPNG staff with postgraduate qualifications		See above
Increased number of UPNG staff who have participated in teaching courses		17 staff have participated in teaching courses. These courses were halted due to cessation of teaching.
Number of staff (not just ANU staff) undertaking course evaluations has increased		Progress made with ANU and some UPNG staff running mid-semester evaluations, but no final semester evaluations were conducted due to the cessation of teaching.
Restructuring of economics courses to increase coherence across courses		Progress underway.
Greater emphasis in courses with PNG-related content, as appropriate		PNG-related content was used in four of five courses taught by ANU staff at UPNG in first semester 2016. In Public Policy Development, PNG news items and policy were used in weekly tutorials.
Greater emphasis in courses on critical thinking and development of problem solving skills		In five courses ANU staff have focused on providing tutorial and lecture environments which focus on class discussion, student involvement and practical elements (e.g. use of Excel/STATA)
Research and outreach		
Number of Discussion Papers and blogs produced on PNG		35 blogs (From 1 Jan 2016 – 30 June 2016)
Number of seminars/workshops at UPNG		4 (Dr Grant Walton, Michelle Rooney, Michael Cornish, Rohan Fox). Further workshops planned had to be cut short.
Number of research skills workshops, including attendance and feedback		Writers workshop (Dr Mike Cookson) 6 hours, 7 attended, strong positive feedback; Quantitative

		skills (Dr Manoj Pandey) 6 hours, 17 attended, strong positive feedback. Further planned workshops had to be cancelled or postponed.
Number of UPNG staff presenting at PNG Update		More than 15 UPNG staff were scheduled to present at the PNG Update in June 2016. With the Update yet to be rescheduled for later in 2016, it remains to be seen which UPNG academics will be able to attend.
Extent of participation by UPNG staff in partnership research activities and output		Denise Lokinap & Peter Kanaparo worked in collaboration with ANU staff on fieldwork in 3 provinces and subsequent blog posts, with work on a research paper underway. Win Nicholas & Nelson (Atip) Nema worked in collaboration with ANU staff on Economic Survey Paper presented at the Pacific Update and will present a version of this paper at the State of the Pacific Update at UPNG in September 2016. Win Nicholas also published his research for this paper as a blog and in The National.
Number of papers and attendance at PNG Update		PNG Update rescheduled for later in 2016; 91 submissions received, 60+ papers selected.
Staff and student exchange		
Number of ANU staff visits to UPNG		8. Some staff made additional visits to PNG, but were unable to visit UPNG for security reasons.
Number of UPNG staff visits to ANU		Yet to occur, but scheduled for S2
Progress in short- and long-course visits to ANU		Progress made, but uncertainty due to student unrest.
Program management		
Project able to acquit and report expenditure on a timely basis		Financial reports for the first half of 2016 were submitted on time.
Visas and all logistics managed in a timely basis to visiting faculty (short- and long-term)		This was managed for both ANU and UPNG staff
Project “novated” in a timely manner	N/A	Novation scheduled for 1 September 2016.
Required hiring for 2017 undertaken in 2016 in a timely manner		All positions now filled.
Timely and comprehensive M&E and reporting		M&E framework established and reported against for first half of 2016.

6 Risks and challenges

The risks and challenges reflected upon in the last annual report – recruitment, scaling-up the project and limited resources/capacity in SBPP, negotiating agreements with Palladium and DFAT, visa issues for staff, and the expansion into Public Policy – were eclipsed by the student boycott of 2 May 2016 and subsequent events. Several extant and emergent risks warrant specific attention.

Uncertainty at UPNG

While there is still the possibility of teaching resuming later this year, there is also the possibility – even if the university remains closed to undergraduate teaching for the remainder of 2016 – that instability caused by student protests against the government continues into the 2017 academic year, in advance of the 2017 PNG national elections. This prolonged uncertainty has taken its toll on ANU UPNG-based staff and their UPNG counterparts. Being flexible and adaptive is the best response to this risk.

UPNG and PNG budgetary position

UPNG remains wholly dependent on the PNG Government for funding and political support and the PNG Government is in a very tight fiscal position and under increasing political pressure. There are risks that contingent economic and political factors could lead to significant further disruption to partnership activities and plans for collaboration with UPNG counterparts in the remainder of 2016. These factors are beyond the project's control, but could have profound implications for the partnership going forward to 2017.

Novation from Palladium to Abt Associates

ANU is working closely with Abt Associates to ensure we are in agreement on key issues, to build effective rapport between our organisations and to minimise risks associated with novation to a new contractor and a new facility.

Taxation arrangements

Legal changes have meant that our ANU staff no longer enjoy tax-free salaries. Indeed, there is the risk that they will be taxed more than if they were based in Australia since they will be regarded as non-residents, and so not granted a tax-free threshold. This issue requires further investigation and deliberation.

7 Key findings and conclusion

A summary of achievements for 2016 can be found in the executive summary. Two key issues stand out for the past 6 months of the project, from the optimism of the early months of first semester to the disruption and uncertainty that has followed.

1. A shared vision and long-term commitment is critical. The energy and enthusiasm of partnership staff and UPNG counterparts at the start of first semester was a very positive indicator of the health of the partnership. The fact that ANU and UPNG staff continue to demonstrate this enthusiasm and determination for the partnership to succeed in spite of the vicissitudes of the past few months, is remarkable, and proof-positive that committed partnerships work.
2. Effective, respectful communication is central to adaptive success. The challenges of the first half of 2016 were made manageable by the readiness of all stakeholders to build and maintain effective and respectful communication. The support of the Dean and staff at SBPP, the Project Coordinator at UPNG, management staff at Palladium and the Precinct Coordination team at the AHC have all been critical in ensuring the timely and transparent sharing of information and building the institutional and individual rapport necessary to realise the goals of the partnership and the wider Precinct initiative.

We carry this shared vision forward into the second half of 2016, confident in our long-term vision for UPNG, and the partnership, and certain that with effective communication and strong commitment, we can make effective and meaningful gains in the second half of 2016.

List of Annexes

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- Annex 2: Dr Pandey's staff development program
- Annex 3: Writer's workshop attendee feedback
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Annex 1: Lecturer's student feedback (mid-semester, April 2016)

Principles of Microeconomics

"The good thing in this course is the lecturer taught us in the international level like the universities in his own country."

"Our lecturer is always there for us."

"The use of very clear examples by the lecturer and the ease of access to the course resources. Also the inclusion of Economics Inspired classes."

International Economics

"International Economics is a tremendous course! It helps to understand not only about our domestic economy but also the global economy. One of the most fascinating aspects of this course is trade! How beneficial it can prove to be for our country."

"This course is broadening. The good thing is it opens our mind to [the] outside world and specialisation and trade of other countries."

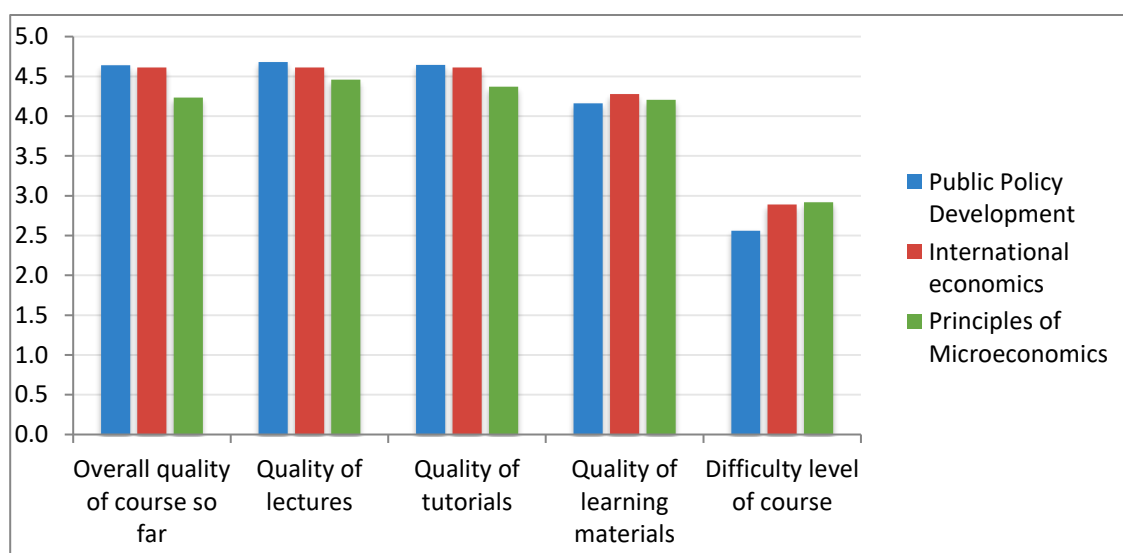
Public Policy Development

"The course itself is good because it clears our mind to really understand the public policy issues. It further reminds us about the process of how policy decisions are formulated and implemented. It also gives us a clear insight of who are the main stakeholders."

"I would recommend that the course itself is good for the development of our nation and its citizens of the nation. It is very vital for the human resources of the nation to take up this course. The lecturer that is teaching this course is very smart and she is very well organised in a manner where I usually understand her."

"The course is very good as it has enhanced me to truly understand how public policies are formulated and implemented. It has also enabled my knowledge as the future policy advisor to understand the core functions of how policy, programs and projects are implemented."

Summary of mid-semester student feedback for three courses in first-semester 2016



The graph (above) summarises student feedback from their three courses against a graduated scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent). For the difficulty level, the course is marked against a graduated scale of 1 (easy) to 5 (difficult).

Annex 2: Dr Pandey's staff development program (2016-2018)

Professional Development Staff Training Programme

In-semester 2016

Provisional Agenda

Professional development staff training workshop is an initiative of ANU-UPNG partnership programme. The key objective of this initiative is to strengthen research and teaching capacity of the existing SBPP staff at the UPNG through weekly workshops. In 2016, these weekly workshops cover a range of topics that broadly include data analysis tools and software (STATA), report writing and policy paper writing skills.

A two hour lectures will be conducted every week. While it is purely on voluntary basis, participants are encouraged to prepare a group or individual research project report using secondary data of their interests applying skills learnt.

Semester 1, 2016		
Time	What's on	Speaker/Instructor
Week 6 Semester 1 (2 hours)	Statistical Graphics <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ History of Graphs➤ Introduction to Statistical Graphs➤ Key components of a graph➤ What Constitutes a Good or Bad Graphs➤ Misleading Graphs➤ Key Graphs and their Usefulness➤ Discussion	Dr. Manoj Pandey
Week 8 Semester 1 (2 hours)	Report Tables <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Introduction to Tables➤ Tabular Presentation➤ Good Tables vs Bad Tables➤ Best Practices➤ What to present: Table or Graph?	Dr. Manoj Pandey
Week 9 Semester 1 (2 hours)	Mind the rules: Welcome to Report Writing <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ General Report writing tips➤ Do and don't while report writing➤ Sample report writing demonstration	Dr. Manoj Pandey
Week 10 Semester 1 (2 hours)	Policy Paper Writing: a General Framework	Dr. Manoj Pandey
Week 11 Semester 1 (2 hours)	Why you should fall in love with STATA: An Introduction to STATA <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ What is Stata?➤ Different editions of STATA➤ Stata screen and general description<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ First steps: Setting the working directory○ Memory allocation	Dr. Manoj Pandey

Semester 1, 2016		
Time	What's on	Speaker/Instructor
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Log file ○ Do-files ○ Opening/saving a Stata datafile ○ Quick way of finding variables ○ Operators used in Stata ○ Expressions used in Stata ○ Subsetting (using conditional "if") ○ Stata color coding system 	
Week 12 Semester 1 (2 hours)	<p>Data Preparation and Editing with STATA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Example of a dataset in Excel ➤ From <i>Excel</i> to <i>Stata</i> (copy-and-paste, *.csv) ➤ From SPSS/SAS to Stata ➤ Describe and summarize ➤ Rename ➤ Variable labels ➤ Adding value labels ➤ Creating new variables ➤ Creating new variables from other variables ➤ Recoding variables ➤ Recoding variables using egen ➤ Changing values <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Indexing (using _n and _N) Creating ids and ids by categories ○ Lags and forward values ○ Countdown and specific values ○ Sorting (ascending and descending order) ○ Deleting variables (drop) ○ Dropping cases (drop if) <p>Extracting characters from regular expressions</p>	Dr. Manoj Pandey
Week 13 Semester 1 (2 hours)	<p>Graphics with STATA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Graphs Scatterplot ➤ Histograms ➤ Catplot (for categorical data) ➤ Bars graph ➤ Line Graphs <p>Many more graphs</p>	Dr. Manoj Pandey
Semester Break		
Semester 2, 2016		
Time	What's on	Speaker/Instructor
Week 2 Semester 2 (2 hours)	<p>Review of Semester 1 Learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Graphs, Tables and Reports ➤ Introduction to STATA ➤ Output Trade in STATA: Export to Excel, Word etc. ➤ Self-learning resources in STATA 	Dr. Manoj Pandey
Week 3 Semester 2	<p>Trading with External Data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Merge ➤ Append 	Dr. Manoj Pandey

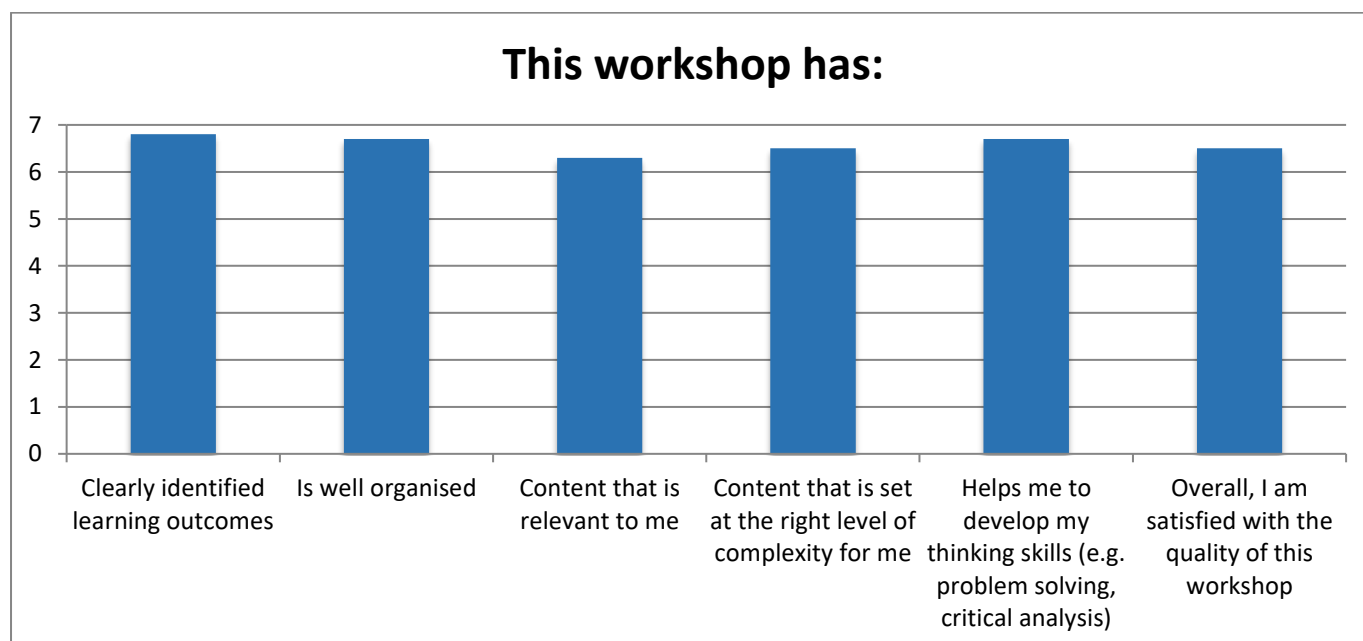
Semester 1, 2016		
Time	What's on	Speaker/Instructor
(2 hours)	➤ Merging fuzzy text (reclink)	
Week 4 Semester 2 (2 hours)	Essential Descriptive Statistics ➤ Statistics and their applications ➤ Some important statistical tests	Dr. Manoj Pandey
Week 5 Semester 2 (2 hours)	Data Exploration and Descriptive Statistics using STATA ➤ Exploring data: Frequencies (tab, table) ➤ Crosstabulations (with test for associations) ➤ Descriptive statistics (tabstat) ➤ Examples of frequencies and crosstabulations ➤ Three way crosstabs ➤ Three way crosstabs (with average of a fourth variable) Creating dummies	Dr. Manoj Pandey
Week 6 Semester 2 (2 hours)	Regression Analysis and its applications	Dr. Manoj Pandey
Week 7 Semester 2 (2 hours)	Regression Analysis and its applications continued	Dr. Manoj Pandey
Week 8-10 Semester 2 (2 hours)	Regression Analysis using STATA: Cross-Sectional Data	Dr. Manoj Pandey
Week 11-12 Semester 2 (2 hours)	Regression Analysis using STATA: Time Series Data	Dr. Manoj Pandey
Week 13 Semester 2 (2 hours)	Regression Analysis using STATA: Panel Data	Dr. Manoj Pandey

Annex 3: Writer's workshop attendee feedback

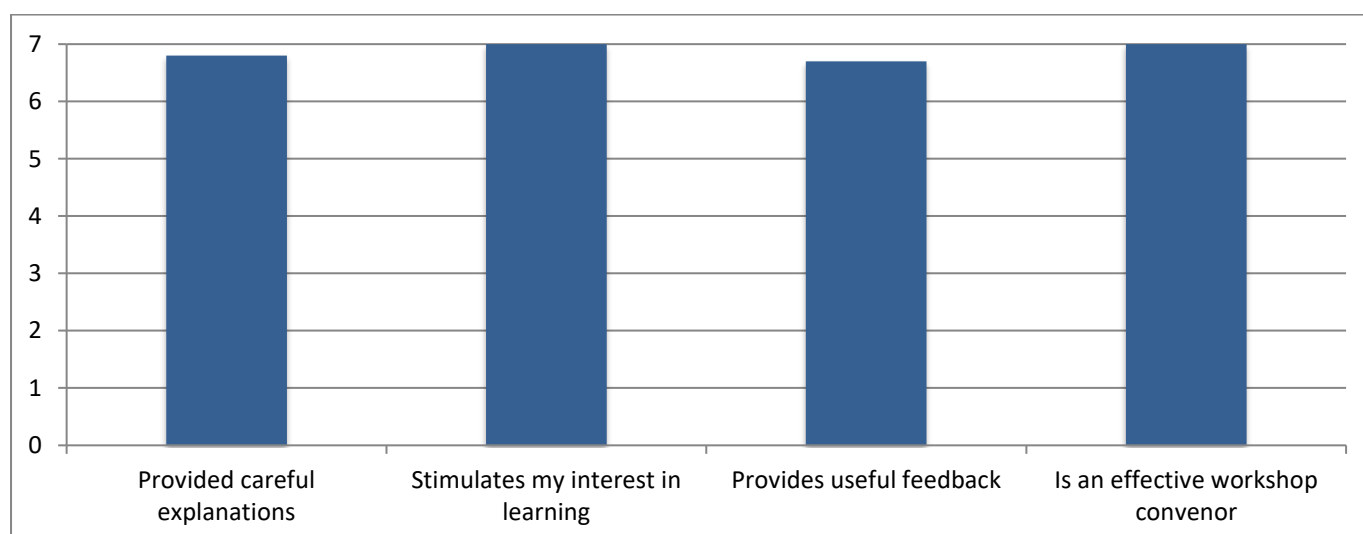
Select participant feedback on the workshop included:

- *Thank you for the excellent feedback that was given [on my research presentation]. I have learnt a lot about how to present, and what to present.*
- *The presentations by the convenor and other ANU presenters were superb. I learnt a lot of new ideas, which I will share with my students.*

Participant feedback on the workshop (scale of 1 to 7)



Participant feedback on the workshop convenor, Dr Michael Cookson (scale of 1 to 7)



Annex 4: PNG blogs posted to Devpolicy.org (1 Jan – 30 Jun 2016)

Title (with hyperlink)	Date of publication
From economic boom to crisis management in PNG	5 January 2016
Interested in feminism and development in Papua New Guinea? Be prepared for a bumpy ride, but read on	7 January 2016
Poor financial management in PNG: can it be turned around?	12 January 2016
PNG in 2016: the year of finding solutions?	14 January 2016
The ongoing impact of the El Niño drought and frosts in Papua New Guinea	15 January 2016
Politicising drought relief in Papua New Guinea	18 January 2016
Management of natural disasters in PNG – not all bad news	29 January 2016
PNG drought response: reporting from Goroka	2 February 2016
The (soft) power and the passion: challenges to anti-corruption activism in PNG	19 February 2016
State of the service: women's participation in the PNG public sector	4 March 2016
Thinking local on International Women's Day: supporting community-driven action on ending family and sexual violence in PNG	8 March 2016
Return to Abuser: limited options for survivors of violence in PNG	18 March 2016
Sir Julius Chan reviews a life in PNG politics	18 March 2016
Bill Farmer on Julius Chan	24 March 2016
Reflections on Australia and PNG: Sir Julius Chan's remarks at the launch of 'Playing the Game'	24 March 2016
When free education isn't free: creeping corruption in PNG education	29 March 2016
What will the Kina exchange rate be one year from now?	30 March 2016
PNG's frightening Final Budget Outcome	4 April 2016
Water, the urban age and the SDGs: reflections on Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea	6 April 2016
PNG's fiscal woes: where has all the money gone?	8 April 2016

<u>A snapshot of a district struggling against the odds</u>	15 April 2016
<u>Shared military heritage and developing 'Kokoda culture'</u>	21 April 2016
<u>Are PNG's family and sexual violence police units working?</u>	26 April 2016
<u>PNG Supreme Court ruling on Manus Island detention centre</u>	27 April 2016
<u>Moving on from PNG's UNITECH Saga: an interview with Albert Schram</u>	9 May 2016
<u>The distortion of MDR-TB in Papua New Guinea</u>	11 May 2016
<u>Memories of the Bougainville Crisis: Veronica Hatutasi's 'Behind the Blockade'</u>	13 May 2016
<u>Australian aid to PNG: plus c'est la meme chose?</u>	17 May 2016
<u>Vale Ray Murray: capacity-builder without equal</u>	3 June 2016
<u>Gender-based violence in PNG: new approaches, new promise</u>	8 June 2016
<u>Creeping recentralisation in PNG's education sector</u>	15 June 2016
<u>Women's economic empowerment: the importance of small market stall vendors in urban Papua New Guinea</u>	16 June 2016
<u>Papua New Guinea's evolving exchange rate regime</u>	23 June 2016
<u>International exchange rate comparisons with PNG: two years on</u>	29 June 2016