

ANU-UPNG Partnership: 2025 Semester 2 Report

January 2026



Left to right: Prof Ian Findlay (UPNG Vice Chancellor), Prof Stephen Howes (ANU, lead author of the book), Hon. Ian Ling-Stuckey (PNG Treasurer), Sir Robert Igara (UPNG Chancellor) at the launch of the Economic History book of PNG by the PNG Treasurer.

Name of Organisation: Development Policy Centre, Australian National University

Project title: ANU-UPNG Partnership

Project objectives: To help realise a stronger UPNG School of Business and Public Policy, as well as a deeper and lasting relationship with ANU.

Reporting period: Second half of 2025

Table of Contents

<i>Implementation progress – second half of 2025</i>	1
Stream 1: Strengthening SBPP teaching and the student experience	1
Stream 2: Collaborative research and outreach	7
Stream 3: Student and faculty exchanges	13
Stream 4: Project management	16
<i>Performance</i>	16
Economics exam	16
Cross cutting issues	18
Reporting against partnership objectives	18
<i>Challenges, risks and lessons learnt</i>	21
<i>Annex 1: 2025 PNG Update Report</i>	22
<i>Annex 2: 2025 ANU-UPNG Economics Exam Report</i>	36
Introduction	36
Conclusion	41

Implementation progress – second half of 2025

Key highlights

2025 was the last year of the second phase of the ANU-UPNG Partnership funding support provided by DFAT through Australia-PNG Partnership.

In semester 2 of 2025, the Partnership achieved several important milestones. The following were the highlights:

- The PNG Treasurer launched the book on the economic history of Papua New Guinea during the PNG Update conference. It was also launched at ANU, Canberra, by Professor Ross Garnaut.
- Hosted a successful PNG Update conference which coincided with PNG's 50th Independence Anniversary. It was attended by PNG Prime Minister, Australian High Commissioner to PNG, and other distinguished statesmen such as Dr John Momis (former President of Bougainville), Mr Bart Philemon (former PNG Treasurer), and Dame Carol Kidu (former Minister for Community Development).
- For the first time, all undergraduate economics and PPM courses were fully taught by UPNG staff, including by recent ANU and MEPP graduates. **A significant achievement of the Partnership's localisation goal.**
- The third ANU economics graduate UPNG lecturer, Jollanda Mathew, reached the five-year mark for lecturing.
- Anna Kapil and David Poka (recent ANU graduates) completed their first year of teaching at UPNG economics division.
- Loretta Dilu, a recent MEPP graduate sponsored by the Partnership, was given a permanent job contract by UPNG and continues to teach at SBPP as a lecturer.
- Molly Yokko completed her MEPP studies and is likely to graduate after completion of her MEPP research project in April 2026.
- Bobby Kunda and Jollanda Mathew were allocated staff houses by UPNG (even though the houses need significant maintenance before they could move in); the first of its kind for recent ANU graduates.
- Work on establishing an MEPP Alumni Association kicked off with election of its interim executive members, who were tasked to prepare the charter and facilitate the registration process of the association.
- Seven UPNG faculty members from SBPP visited the ANU in December to attend the Australasian Aid Conference as well as carry out research, as part of the Partnership's ongoing staff exchange initiative.

Stream 1: Strengthening SBPP teaching and the student experience

Courses taught

Eight ANU-supported lecturers and five ANU-trained lecturers taught seven postgraduate and eight undergraduate courses with 177 female and 407 male students (584 in total) in Semester 2, Trimester II and Trimester III. Four postgraduate courses were delivered in hybrid mode (i.e. both online and in-person). A list of all courses taught is provided below.

Table 1: Postgraduate and undergraduate courses taught by ANU staff and ANU trained lecturers

No.	Course	Lecturer	Year Level	Students			
				Female	Male	People with a disability	Total
Post-graduate teaching: Trimester II (May-Aug) and III (Aug-Dec)							
1	Issues in Public Sector Management	Nematullah Bizhan	PG1	10	24	0	34
2	Qualitative Research Methods	Safa Fanaian	PG1	9	30	0	39
3	Macroeconomic Analysis and Policy	Martin Davies	PG1	7	30	0	37
4	Global Economic and Policy Issues	Stephen Howes (and Andrew A Mako)	PG2	12	18	0	30
5	Applied Cost-benefit Analysis	Thomas Wangi	PG1	10	27	0	37
6	Development Thinking and Policy	Cameron Hill	PG1	10	24	0	34
7	MEPP research papers (year-long)	Lawrence Sause and Nematullah Bizhan	PG2	7	5	0	12
Undergraduate teaching: Semester II (July-Dec)							
8	Monetary Economics	David Poka	UG4	10	24	0	34
9	Principles of Macroeconomics	Anna Kapil	UG2	38	60	0	98
10	Labour Economics	Jollanda Mathew	UG4	11	24	0	35
11	Advanced Macroeconomics	Jollanda Mathew	UG3	9	25	0	34
12	Quantitative Economics II	Kingtau Mambon	UG3	13	27	1	40
13	Environmental Economics	Kingtau Mambon	UG4	9	26	0	35
14	Economic development	Bobby Kunda	UG4	13	26	0	39
15	Economic Policy	Bobby Kunda	UG3	9	26	0	35
	TOTAL			177	407	1	584

A student with a disability was enrolled in one of the undergraduate economics courses in Semester 2. The student had slight mobility difficulty. Relevant support was provided to the student during the semester, and importantly, the new SBPP building (which was funded by DFAT through Australia-Papua New Guinea Partnership) had excellent mobility-friendly facility which eased the student's learning at UPNG.

All of the above courses were evaluated. Overall evaluations were very positive, with an overall score of 4.3 for lecturer evaluation, and 4.3 for how effective the courses were. Relevant feedback was provided to each lecturer which included improvements from past years, and if required, where the lecturer could improve going forward.

MEPP

The Master of Economics and Public Policy (MEPP) is a major focus of the partnership. ANU staff teach into the project, supervise research students, and help coordinate the program. Key progress and challenges include the following

- The **total number** of MEPP students remained above 30, the same as Trimester 1 (see Table 1). This figure stands the same as the previous year and is aligned with the Partnership's objective of maintaining a maximum admission cap of 40 students. This cap was agreed upon between the two schools to limit the number of students and maintain the quality of the MEPP program.
- Although **total enrolments** is aligned with the admission cap, the current numbers still place significant demands on lecturers. With the increased teaching load, maintaining the quality of teaching and sustainability of the current format of the program remains a priority. Additional tutoring and marking support were available to lecturers if the lecturer would make a request.
- A **research grant** of K1,500 was introduced by the Partnership in 2021, supporting the MEPP research students' fieldwork and data collection. In 2025, ten students (6 female and 4 male) received approval to complete a research paper as part of the MEPP program, receiving their first instalment of research grants (K750). The rest will be paid to the students after submitting their final research papers in early 2025. Dr Lawrence Sause (UPNG) and Dr Nematullah Bizhan (ANU) are coordinating the research program of the MEPP. ANU and UPNG researchers continue to supervise the students' research projects.
- **Mobile internet:** Online teaching support was provided for four MEPP courses. This included provision of after-hour taxi fare for tutors and mobile internet costs. Given the scaling back of Group 1 Partnership staff/lecturers in 2024 and 2025, support for tutors who will be assisting online teaching and other project activities will be provided.
- **Guest lectures.** Two guest lectures by a prominent scholar and a practitioner were organised for the MEPP year 1 and year 2 students, as well as to the MEPP alumni. The topics and guest lecturers are listed below:
 - **Professor Lingang Song**, from the Australian National University, delivered a lecture to MEPP Year 1 and Year 2 students and MEPP former graduates on *Reflection on the Chinese Economic Transformation: Achievement, Challenges and Prospects*, on 15 July 2025. He delivered the lecture at UPNG.

- **Dr John Moore**, a former Australian National University academic and practitioner delivered a lecture to Year 1 MEPP students on how natural resource revenues influence governance and institution-building, and the lessons PNG can draw from these experiences.



Prof Song (third from left front row) with MEPP students and staff after the guest lecture.



MEPP Year 1 class in Term 2, 2025 with lecturer Dr Safa Fanaian (front row, fourth from the left)



MEPP class in Term 2 2025 with lecturer Prof Martin Davies (centre back, standing).



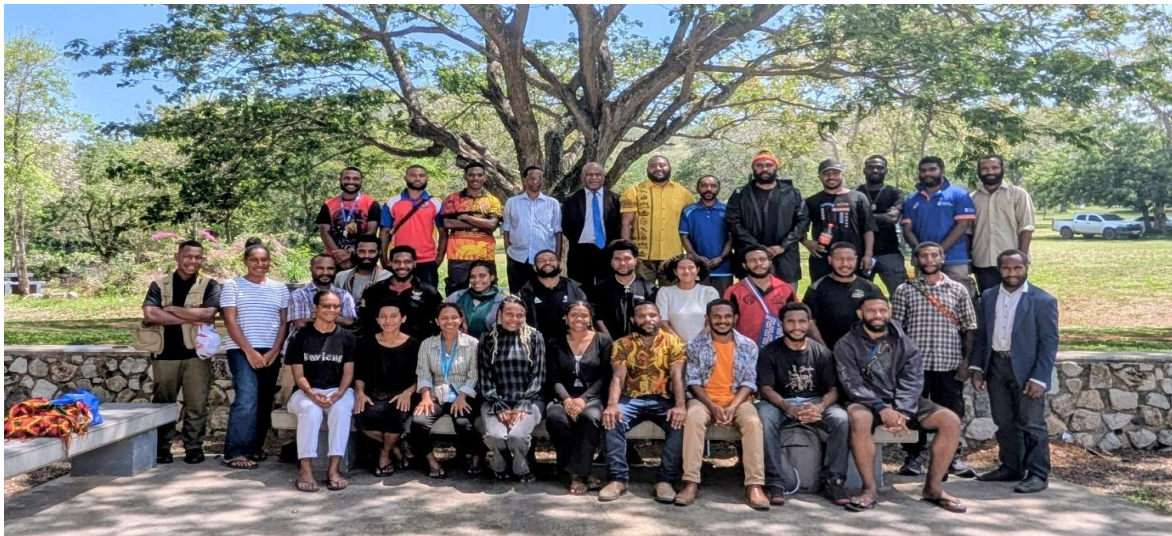
MEPP class in Term 2 2025 with lecturer Prof Stephen Howes (centre, seated).



MEPP class Year 1 in Term 3, 2025 with lecturer Dr Nemat Bizhan (centre, standing in the second row).

Improving the student experience

- **Student associations:** The Partnership provides financial support to the Economics Student Society (ESS) and Public Policy and Management Student Association (PPMSA) with up to K5,000 per semester (K2,500 each). Both ESS and PPMSA held several student activities in Semester 2. The following student activities were sponsored by the Partnership:
 - Mufti Day – Organised by ESS
 - Academic seminar – Organised by ESS
 - PNG Resource week participation by PPMSA
 - End-of-year function and motivational talk– Organised by PPMSA
 - End-of-year event for 4th year economics students



Economics class of 2025 with their lecturers at the end-of-year event.



Economics students at ESS Mufti-day 2025.

- **Alumni association:** As part of the Partnership’s effort to maintain contact with UPNG alumni, the Partnership continues to promote and expand the Partnership’s economics alumni Facebook page for recent graduates. Other social media platforms such as WhatsApp group chats are also used to further expand this effort. The social media platforms have become very useful tools for sharing information about economic research, job opportunities, and other outreach activities.
- **An MEPP Alumni Association** was established in September 2025. An interim executive composed of current students and former MEPP graduates was established. The interim executive committee is composed of: Eric Sarut (president); Molly Yokko (vice president); Rachel Sengi (treasurer); and Kaspar Puli (secretary). The interim executive committee was tasked to, among others, prepare relevant documentation to establish it as an association, and formally register the association with Investment Promotion Authority of PNG.
- **Prizes for the best students:** The ANU initiated prizes for the best female and male economics students graduating from UPNG in 2021. In 2023, this idea was taken on board by SBPP and prizes for the top students in each of the SBPP divisions were awarded, as well as overall prizes for the best male and best female in SBPP. In 2024, the entire university adopted it and gave prizes to all top students in each school and discipline. For 2025, the *Sir Mekere Morauta Prize* in economics was awarded to Steven Puri, who was a participant of the 2024 ANU Summer School program. We expect this to continue in 2026 and beyond.
- **Reading groups:** This series of reading groups was introduced in 2021 to provide UPNG students and staff members with an opportunity for discussions outside the classroom. The reading groups are small and informal, and aim to have a high level of participation and engagement from attendees. Jollanda Mathew led the coordination of the reading groups, with assistance from Bobby Kunda and Andrew Anton Mako. Jollanda and Bobby are former ANU Scholarship recipients and current UPNG economics lecturers.

Two reading working were held in person in Semester 2, focusing on various topical issues on PNG. This helps student to develop their analytical skills and also be aware of topical development issues of the country. Female students made up more than 70% of the reading groups participants. The key reference document used is the *Papua New Guinea: Government, Economy and Society*, an important publication emanating from the ANU-UPNG Partnership.

Stream 2: Collaborative research and outreach

PNG Update

Organised by the UPNG and ANU, the annual PNG Update is the premier forum for the discussion of research and analysis relating to contemporary economic and public policy issues in PNG.

The 2025 PNG Update was of important national significance as it coincided with the country’s 50th independence anniversary. The conference was held at UPNG SBPP on 21-22 August, with the theme, *‘Papua New Guinea at 50: past, present and future’*.

The first day of the conference featured invited speakers, including several who were directly involved in Papua New Guinea’s early years of independence, contributing to state building, constitution making, and development. The second day focused on presentations and panel discussions by scholars and

practitioners. The two-day conference was launched by the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, the Honourable James Marape. Other keynote speakers included:

- Sir Robert Igara, Chancellor, University of Papua New Guinea
- Professor Ian Findlay, Vice Chancellor, University of Papua New Guinea
- Mr Ewen McDonald, Australian High Commissioner to PNG
- Dr John Momis, former President of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville

The conference also had numerous keynote panellists, including:

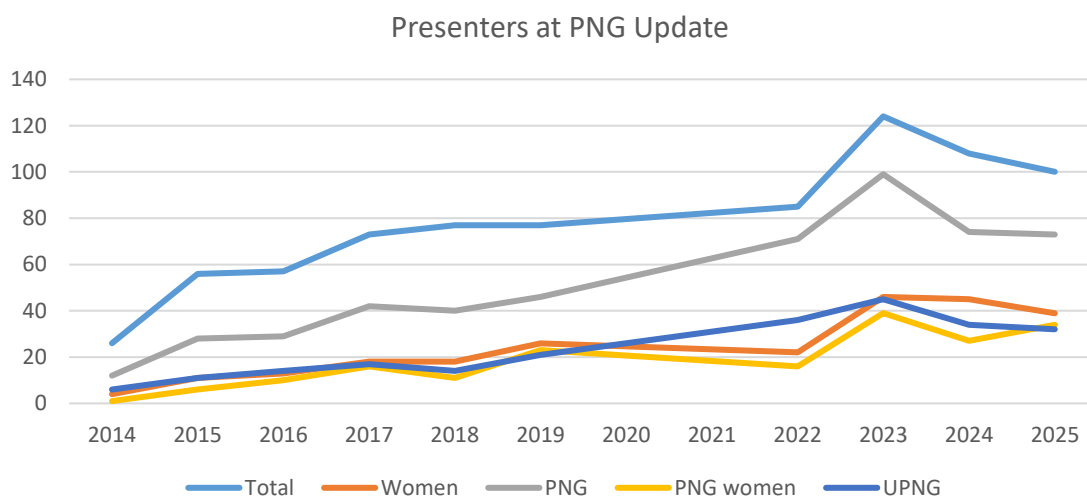
- Mr Bart Philemon, former PNG Treasurer
- Mr Charles Abel, former Deputy Prime Minister of PNG
- Dr Thomas Webster, Professorial Research Fellow, PNG National Research Institute
- Mr Hubert Namani, President, PNG Law Society
- Dame Carol Kidu, Former Minister of Community Development
- Mr Peter Eafeare, Former PNG High Commissioner to Fiji
- Ambassador Joshua Kalinoe, Former Ambassador of Papua New Guinea to Belgium and the European Union
- Ms Williaminia Hubert, Assistant Governor, Bank of Papua New Guinea
- Mr John Uware, Deputy Secretary, PNG Department of Treasury,
- Dr Sudyumna Dahal, Senior Economist, Asian Development Bank



PNG Prime Minister Hon. James Marape, and Australian High Commissioner to PNG H.E. Ewen McDonald share a light moment at the 2025 PNG Update Conference.

A separate report for the conference is attached as [Annex 1](#), which includes the evaluation survey results. Key highlights include the following:

- In total over 1900 people registered for the conference in 2025, in addition over 10,000 people live-streamed the event across all sessions in both days, with only the new lecture theatre attracting about 1,000 online viewers. This is close to the largest level of official attendance in person on record for the conference (1800 in 2023), and highest level of online participants in the Update history. It is also worth noting that many more unregistered participants attended the Update.
- Participants found the 2025 PNG Update to be of high quality overall. On a scale of 1 to 5 (very poor to excellent), average ratings across all areas and days of the conference were all above 4.35.
- 161 submissions – 146 abstracts and 15 panels – were received by the committee this year. This is the highest number recorded since the Update began (the previous record was 150 submissions in 2024).
- Presenter numbers remained lower than records achieved in 2023-24 but remain high, due to scheduling less presentations within individual parallel sessions – so as to provide sufficient time for both presentations and Q&A. 39% of presenters and 36% of authors were female, similar to levels from 2024, 42% and 38% respectively last year. 73% of presenters and 68% of authors were Papua New Guinean, an increase from 69% and 65% respectively in 2024. Participation from UPNG remains substantial, with 32% of presenters originating from UPNG in 2025.



Note: The PNG Update was not held in 2020 or 2021 due to COVID-19.

ANU-UPNG seminar series

The monthly seminar series co-hosted by ANU and UPNG was introduced in 2020 to provide a platform for research supported through the Partnership and to invite guest speakers who are also working on issues in PNG.

We continued the series in the second half of 2025 and held three hybrid seminars (July, October, November) across two venues – ANU Crawford School of Public Policy and UPNG School of Business and Public Policy on key development issues of PNG: agriculture’s role in poverty reduction; electrifying PNG through solar power; and modelling development goals. The events were well attended. The seminar will continue in 2026.



Mr Sanja Pepae, Acting First Assistant Secretary – Macro Planning Division, PNG Department of National Planning and Monitoring speaking at the November 2025 seminar at UPNG.

PNG Project

Collaborative research was pursued in the second half of 2025. Key research projects include the following:

- **UPNG Annual Attitude Survey (public opinion survey):** A survey to gauge the views of UPNG students systematically on topical issues was conducted by UPNG economics lecturer Anna Kapil and Professor Stephen Howes. Results were presented at the 2025 PNG Update and the first blogs have come out.
- **Gender and Youth research:** The Partnership continues to support work on addressing gender-based based, particularly support to survivors of GBV and SARV through Femili PNG. Jollanda Mathew, in collaboration with UPNG colleagues, presented on *youth and the next 50 years* at the 2025 PNG Update.
- **Education:** Lorretta Dilu, in collaboration with UPNG colleagues, carried out research on the *state of tertiary education in PNG*, which was presented at the 2025 PNG Update..
- **Governance and service delivery:** Associate Professor Grant Walton and Michael Kabuni published a report on *political will and anti-corruption reform in PNG*. A summery of the report was released via a [blog](#), and also presented at the 2025 PNG Update. Molly Yokko, in collaboration with other UPNG colleagues, also carried out research and presented at the 2025 PNG Update on *governance issues related to digitalization of service delivery in PNG*.
- **Elections and Politics:** Issabelle Vilau presented an *analysis of voter’s participation in PNG*

2022 national election with a focus of women participation at the Port Moresby North-West electorate at the 2025 PNG Update.

- **Electricity:** Professor Martin Davies published a discussion paper and released a summary via a blog article on *Transforming PNG Power Ltd*, and another with Christian Lohberger (President of PNG Solar Energy Association) on *Electrifying Papua New Guinea: challenges and opportunities for decentralized solar power* which also was presented at the October 2025 ANU-UPNG Seminar.
- **Migration:** The Partnership continues to support commentary and research into the new PEV in PNG. A DevPol [blog](#) by Natasha Turia and Professor Stephen Howes analysed the PEV's 2024 round.
- **The PNG economic history book**, *Struggle, reform, boom and bust: An economic history of Papua New Guinea since independence*, was published and launched at UPNG by PNG Treasurer Ian Ling-Stuckey in line with PNG's 50th anniversary, and at ANU by Professor Ross Garnaut.
- **Fiscal Policy:** Kingtau Mambon and Bobby Kunda, in collaboration with the World Bank and PNG's National Statistical Office, *monitored the impact of the zero-rating of GST on essentials by PNG Government in the 2025 national budget*, which was recommended by Andrew Anton Mako and Stephen Howes. Preliminary results of their research were presented at the 2025 PNG Update. Alyssa Leng and David Poka carried out research on *Fiscal Policy in PNG with a long-term view*, and was presented at the 2025 PNG Update.
- **Water governance and sanitation**, Dr Safa Fanaian and Associate Prof Grant Walton published a report and presented at the 2025 PNG Update on this issue in collaboration with WaterAid, and World Vision PNG. Kingtau Mambon presented on the *impact of water supply and sanitation on diarrhoea prevalence among children under five in PNG* at the 2025 PNG Update, Kingtau is carrying out further work on this topic.
- **Disability:** Research on disability support is being carried out by Jerry Hensen, a blind researcher, with support of the Partnership.
- **Tourism:** Kimana Kipa of UPNG and Stephen Howes are analysing visitor arrivals data in PNG.
- **Decentralisation:** Maholopa Laveil continued to publish his research into fiscal decentralisation via [two blogs](#), as well as presented at the 2025 PNG Update.
- **Institutional sources of cooperation, conflict and competition:** Nematullah Bizhan and William Maley have submitted their working paper, which examines civil service administration in Afghanistan and PNG, to DevePol that is under review for publication.
- **Payday lending in PNG:** Nematullah Bizhan of ANU, and Loretta Dilu, Keneth Baliwasa and Issabelle Vilau of UPNG have initiated a study on payday lending and its impact in PNG, which will include a survey of three financial institutions.

SBPP librarian

The project continued to fund a UPNG librarian in 2025 to maintain a dedicated library in the SBPP building. Over 3,000 books are now available for more than 500 library membership holders, which include both students and staff.

MEPP research

Several ANU staff including Nematullah Bizhan, Terence Wood, Grant Walton, Toan Nguyen, and Thomas Wangi are supervising MEPP students' research projects. This is a major time commitment and contribution to research as well.

PhD supervision

Dr Grant Walton has supervised a UPNG PhD candidate.

PNG Databases

During Semester 2, we kept our PNG databases up to date as follows:

- **PNG Budget Database** (<https://devpolicy.crawford.anu.edu.au/png-project/png-budget-database>): The database was updated with the 2024 Final Budget Outcome and 2025 Budget and with additional subnational expenditure data.
- **PNG MP Database** (<https://devpolicy.org/pngmps/>): This database was kept up to date.
- **PNG Elections Database** (<https://devpolicy.org/pngelections/>): We have now gathered and entered all the data from the 2022 elections. We have also finished collating the 2022 PNG election results dataset. The data have now been uploaded and are publicly available on our election data website (<https://pngelections.devpolicy.org/>). We have also drafted a discussion paper looking at the election results. This is being peer-reviewed at present. It will be released in early 2026.
- **PNG Economic Database** (<http://devpolicy.org/pngeconomic/>): The database was updated where new data was available.
- **PNG District Level Database**: No update was needed.

Review of PNG's Medium Term Development Plan (MTDP) IV

- The ANU-UPNG partnership has been approached to do a review of PNG's MTDP IV in 2026 by the Secretary of the Department of National Planning and Monitoring (DNPM). The Partnership has expressed willingness to carry out this important review, and hope to formalise arrangements with DNPM in early 2026 to commence the review.

PNG Reset@50

- Prof. Stephen Howes presented to Charles Abel and his reset team and several of the recommendations made found their way into the final report. The ANU-UPNG history book is referred to in the [PNG Reset@50 report](#) as one of four “key inputs” and the book cover and table of contents are attached as part of the report.

Outreach

- **The Devpolicy Blog**: Devpolicy.org is the online public outreach portal for the Development Policy Centre at ANU. In the second semester, Devpolicy.org continued to publish several posts related to or directly on PNG. Many of those blogs were authored or co-authored by Papua New Guineans. These blog posts are widely read in PNG, and those focusing on PNG are often republished in PNG newspapers.
- **PNG Project News**: The newsletter provided regular Partnership-related updates every four weeks during Semester 2 and continued to highlight PNG-related research, blogs and events, and currently has over 1,300 subscribers.

Stream 3: Student and faculty exchanges

Annual visit of UPNG lecturers: In December, seven UPNG Economics lecturers who had studied at ANU, as well as Public Policy and Strategic Management lecturers who had studied MEPP at UPNG, and the Head of the Public Policy Management (PPM) division of SBPP visited Canberra for two weeks to attend the Australasian AID Conference and to undertake research. This was the third year in which this trip was undertaken and is now an annual event of the Partnership. The visits are very successful in furthering the partnership's aim of faculty exchange, and supporting the new UPNG lecturers and encouraging their research.

The following table provides a summary of research by UPNG colleagues during the visit.

No.	Staff	Research
1.	Anna Kapil – Economics lecturer	Labour mobility & attitude survey
2.	Bobby Kunda – Economics lecturer	TWI exchange rate analysis
3.	David Poka – Economics lecturer	Forestry output analysis
4.	Jack Assa – HOD PPM	Security and law&order: implication on public safety, social stability & development
5.	Kenneth Baliwasa – Strategic Management lecturer	Payday lending in PNG
6.	Kingtau Mambon – Economics lecturer	Impact of water supply and sanitation among children under five in PNG
7.	Loretta Dilu - Strategic Management lecturer	Payday lending in PNG

The visiting lecturers also met with a delegation of senior policymakers from the PNG Treasury department, as well as Ms Camilla Angoro, a senior program manager from the Australian High Commission.



UPNG and ANU staff engaging with PNG Treasury delegation.



UPNG and ANU staff after meeting with Ms Camilla Angoro (centre).

Masters' students

- **ANU scholarship:** The scholarship program supports UPNG graduates in economics through postgraduate study of a Master of International and Development Economics (MIDEC) at ANU. The 7th and 8th recipients of ANU scholarship for the 2023/2024 round, David Poka and Anna Kapil, completed their first year of teaching at UPNG in 2025. The 2024/2025 ANU Scholarship recipient (Masidah Tonaim – 9th recipient) was unable to complete MIDEC, and has shifted to study Master in Public Policy at Crawford School in 2025. Mr Jezreel Kassam, the 2025/2026 (and 10th) completed first year of MIDEC study at ANU in 2025. Masidah and Jezreel are currently doing out research at the Development Policy Centre as Greg Taylor Scholarship recipients this summer.
- In anticipation of a Third Phase of funding for the ANU-UPNG Partnership from early 2026, we have commenced the process for the awarding of the next round of ANU Scholarship. **Ms Lucy Kerua**, a tutor in the **Accounting Division**, is being awarded an ANU scholarship to study **Master in Applied Accounting and Master of Financial Management** at ANU's **College of Business and Economics**. Faculty support to SBPP has been broadened in the third phase of the partnership (as in the past phases) which includes the Accounting Division. This round of scholarship will be formalised in early 2026, and reported on in the next deliverable report of the project under Phase 3.
- **UPNG MEPP scholarship:** The Partnership started providing this scholarship to tutors in UPNG's Public Policy Management (PPM) Division in 2020 with the aim to build up the teaching capacity in the division. Recipients study the Master of Economics and Public Policy (MEPP) at UPNG, and upon the completion of study, they continue teaching as a lecturer or tutor in the Division. To-date, seven scholarships have been provided to seven SBPP staff. Three of them are female:
 - Kenneth Baliwasa, Moses Sakai (2020/2021) – Graduated in 2022. Kenneth is currently teaching at SBPP. Moses joined National Research Institute in early 2024.
 - Raymond Dorum, Loretta Dilu (2022/2023) – Graduated in 2024. Loretta was given a permanent contract as lecturer by UPNG in semester 2, 2025 and is currently teaching at SBPP. Raymond joined PNG Treasury department in the second half of 2024.
 - Issabelle Vilau (2023/2024) – Graduated in 2025 and is currently teaching at SBPP, holding a permanent tutor contract.
 - Molly Yokko (2024/2025) – expected to graduate in April 2026, and works at the SBPP librarian funded by ANU-UPNG Partnership.
 - Walo Katabali (2025/2026) – completed first year of studies in 2025 and is expected to finish MEPP studies in 2026. He is also a tutor in the PPM division of SBPP.

In anticipation of a Third Phase of funding for the ANU-UPNG Partnership from early 2026, we have commenced the process for the awarding of the next round of 2026/2027 MEPP Scholarship to a staff of the PPM division nominated by the school. This round of scholarship will be formalised in early 2026, and reported on in the next deliverable report of the project under Phase 3.

- **ANU Summer School**

The ANU-UPNG Summer School provides an opportunity for five of the best third-year students from the Division of Economics and five of the best third-year students from Public Policy Management each year to attend an intensive program of study at ANU. Ten candidates (five female and five male students) were selected to participate in the 2025 ANU Summer School. We spent Semester 2 preparing for their travel. All students received their passports and visas by October 2025

before the students left UPNG campus for holidays. All students travelled to Canberra on 13 January 2026 and will return to PNG on 14 February 2026. APEP provided logistics support to transfer students to Jacksons airport on 13 January.

Stream 4: Project management

Partnership management arrangements

Project management went well with regular update meetings with Abt Associates monthly. The Project Coordinator/Visiting Lecturer Andrew Anton Mako liaises with colleagues from Abt Associates, including through the monthly meetings, as well as performs other task related to the Partnership at UPNG, apart from teaching courses.

In addition to his teaching and research commitments, the partnership team leader, Dr. Nematullah Bizhan, works closely with UPNG leadership and counterparts; lectures and tutors across MEPP courses; coordinates the MEPP postgraduate teaching program; collaborates with the ANU and ANU-sponsored lecturers; and coordinates regular partnership team meetings.

Program Officer Aloha Jeon, and Research Assistant Finn Clarke provide support from Canberra.

Performance

Economics exam

ANU has run an annual exam in economics at UPNG since 2013. One of its aims is to measure the effect of the Partnership on student performance over time, especially from 2015 when ANU lecturers started teaching economics at UPNG.

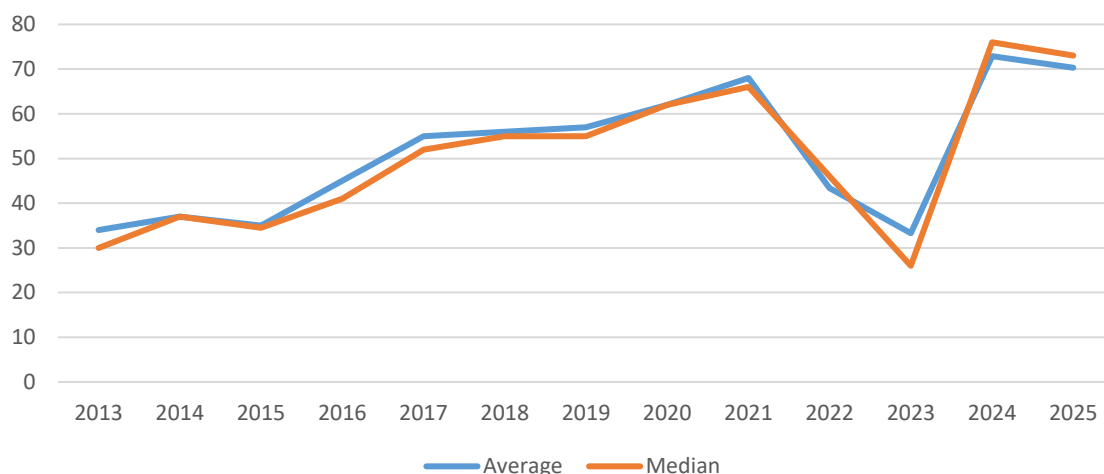
The exams test basic math, microeconomics, and macroeconomics. As of 2014, the exams have been designed to be comparable over time by retaining this structure of ‘math, micro, macro’ questions. The standard is roughly comparable to what would be expected of second year undergraduate students at the ANU.

This year 67 students took the exam, comprising 31 fourth year students and 36 third year students. This is the highest level of attendance recorded for the exam since it began, and is an increase on the previous record set in 2024.

Fourth year scores remain the key metric of comparison over time, as third year students did not always participate. Apart from 2022 and 2023, scores have generally improved over time. Scores in 2024 and 2025 have bounced back from recent years’ low scores, and appear to have returned to the long term trend.

This year, the average score for fourth year students was 70 out of 100. This is the second highest average score recorded since the exam began (the highest being 73 out of 100 in 2024), and more than double the average recorded in 2023 (33 out of 100). The median score for fourth year students was 73 out of 100, again marking the second highest median score since the exam began.

Figure 2 (of the report): 4th year student average and median grade out of 100, 2013–2025



The results are discussed in detail in [Annex 2](#) attached.

Detailed discussions were held between the ANU and UPNG teams to put in place strategies (including the following) to improve the performance of the students in 2024 and 2025. This had paid off impressively.

1. Provided cash prizes to top three students from each cohort (3rd year and 4th year students)
2. Provided certificates to all students who sat the exam.
3. Compiled past exams into a booklet, some sets of answers, and distributed to all 3rd and 4th year students. Encouraged students to use the booklet for revisions, and lecturers to use them as a source of problems.
4. Revision classes were conducted based on the past exams.

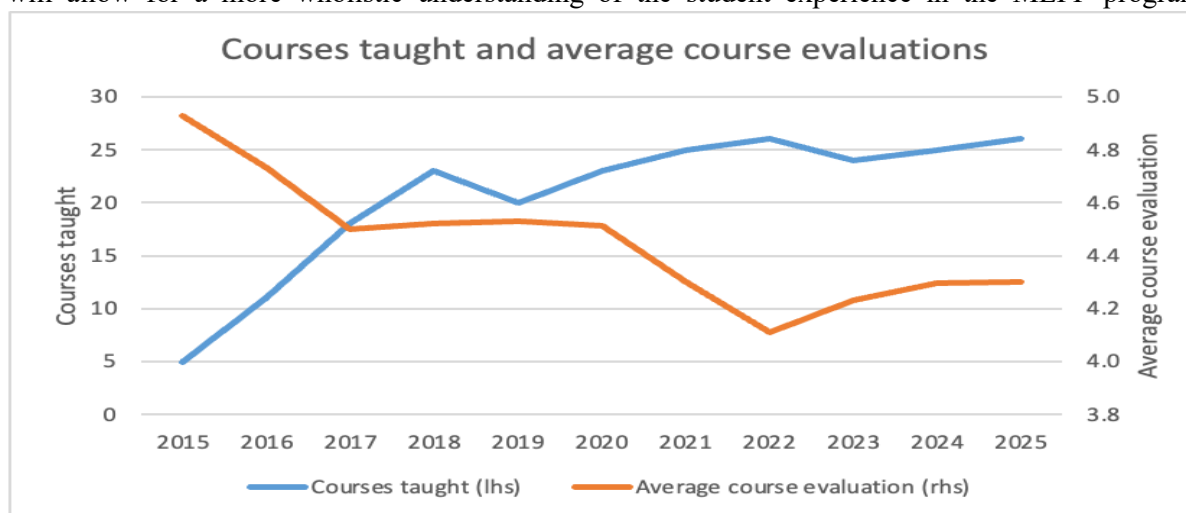


Recipients of prizes of 2025 Economics exam with ANU and UPNG staff.

Course evaluations

Except for MEPP Research Papers, all postgraduate and undergraduate courses taught by ANU lecturers, ANU-affiliated lecturers, and ANU-graduate lecturers were evaluated. The average course and the average lecturer scores were both 4.3 out of 5. These results indicate an improvement in course delivery when compared to Semester 1 for which the average course score was 4.1. This also represents a maintenance of the lecturing standard, as the lecturer score was also 4.3 in Semester 1.

Looking back over a longer time frame, the figure below is instructive. There has been some drop off in course evaluation results. This is not surprising given that (a) experienced ANU lecturers have largely been replaced by less experienced UPNG lecturers and (b) teaching was much more difficult during COVID. Pleasingly, however, the drop off in average course evaluations reversed in 2024 and has since stabilised. Two additional UPNG lecturers teaching courses taken by MEPP students requested for evaluations to be run – the courses were Strategic Management and Microeconomic Analysis and Policy, taught by Dr Elly Kinkin and Dr Albert Prabhakar, respectively. Evaluations were run for these courses. These lecturers’ request is a positive step for the Partnership, indicating that staff who are usually not included in the program’s evaluation processes are interested in becoming involved, which will allow for a more wholistic understanding of the student experience in the MEPP program.



Cross cutting issues

The ANU-UPNG Partnership places a high priority on GEDSI (Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion). The Partnership continues to encourage women researchers and academics’ participation in key events such as the PNG Update Conference, which has seen an increase in PNG women researchers’ submission and presentations in the conference in the recent years, including this year. The Partnership ensures that there is gender balance in the Summer School program, as well as supports gender equity in student leadership in student associations and academic activities. We have had more participation by more female students (over 70%) in our regular reading group events during the semester. Seven MEPP Scholarships have been awarded to-date, including three to female students. A student with disability was supported during the semester including provision of course materials. The Partnership is providing support, including research grant, to Mr Jerry Hensen, a blind researcher in PNG.

Reporting against partnership objectives

The project judges its progress against several important indicators as set out in each annual plan. Performance against these using a ‘traffic light’ rating system is summarised below. This matrix has been updated in this report reflecting the partnership’s evolution.

INDICATOR	RATING	COMMENTS
Strengthening SBPP teaching and the student experience		

ANU lecturers in place and teaching at UPNG (in person or virtually)		<p>ANU and ANU-affiliated staff continued to lecture using a mix of in-person and online.</p> <p>For the first time in the history of the Partnership, all undergraduate courses were taught by UPNG staff in Semester 2 of 2025. A remarkable localisation achievement of the project!</p>
Growing number of UPNG lecturers trained by the program		<p>This and next year, five lecturers, in economics who were trained at ANU will be at UPNG. One is currently doing PhD at ANU. All lecturers have stayed for at least five years.</p> <p>For the first time in the history of the Partnership, all undergraduate courses were taught by UPNG staff in Semester 2 of 2025. A remarkable localisation achievement of the project!</p> <p>Five public policy tutors/lecturers have completed the MEPP; two have left.</p> <p>The main problem is that returning lecturers are being kept on short-term contracts for too long.</p>
Teaching evaluations		Evaluation scores improved for most of the courses taught by the ANU-graduate UPNG lecturers.
ANU-UPNG annual exam in economics		<p>This year 67 students took the exam. This is the highest level of attendance recorded for the exam since it began, and is an increase on the previous record set in 2024.</p> <p>The results show a significant improvement in the performance in 2024 and 2025 compared to 2022 and 2023. Strategies put in place by ANU and UPNG teams worked, and will continue in 2026 and beyond.</p>
MEPP		Over 30 students enrolled in Trimester II and III of 2023. Twelve second-year MEPP students registered to complete a research paper. Of these, ten made substantial progress, and their proposals and ethics forms were formally approved by UPNG. The program is running well.
Collaborative Research and Outreach		
Research outputs		The PNG economic history book was launched in 2025 in Port Moresby and Canberra to coincide with PNG's 50 th

		Independence anniversary; a range of other research underway.
ANU-UPNG research collaboration		Two published books on PNG, and other research projects show a high level of collaboration.
Seminars/workshops/presentations at ANU/UPNG		Three ANU-UPNG seminars, one major conference, and guest lectures.
Student and faculty exchanges in economics and public policy		
ANU scholarships		<p>The 2024/2025 ANU scholarship recipient could not complete MIDEAC, and is now studying master's in public policy at the Crawford School. The ANU scholarship recipient for the 2025/2026 round has completed one year of study at ANU in 2025 and is expected to complete studies end of 2026.</p> <p>We have improved our monitoring arrangements for ANU scholarship students.</p> <p>In anticipation of a Third Phase of funding for the ANU-UPNG Partnership from early 2026, we have commenced the process for the awarding of the next round of ANU Scholarship. This round of scholarship will be formalised in early 2026.</p>
MEPP scholarships		<p>The 2023/2024 recipient graduated in 2025 and is currently teaching at SBPP.</p> <p>The 2024/2025 recipient is expected to graduate in April 2025, and works at the SBPP librarian funded by ANU-UPNG Partnership.</p> <p>The 2025/2026 recipient completed first year of studies in 2025 and is expected to finish MEPP studies in 2026.</p> <p>In anticipation of a Third Phase of funding for the ANU-UPNG Partnership from early 2026, we have commenced the process for the awarding of the next round of 2026/2027 MEPP Scholarship to a staff of the PPM division nominated by the school.</p>

		This round of scholarship will be formalised in early 2026.
Program management		
Adequate M&E and risk management		Timely reporting. Risk management adequate.

Challenges, risks and lessons learnt

Overall, the project is going well, as assessed through the mid-term review of the APEP program in 2025. It is on track to have key deliverables in 2025, including the full localisation of undergraduate teaching at UPNG's PPM and Economics divisions.

The project's excellent achievement has been notable even with the reduced budget and reduction in the cap on staff in Port Moresby to deliver on our key targets in 2024 and 2025.

Going forward, there are some ongoing risks which remain to be managed:

- The number of students doing MEPP research papers needs to continue to require to be limited.
- Many reforms are needed at UPNG. We are encouraged by recent developments such as provision of staff accommodation to two ANU trained economics lecturers, and awarding of permanent contract to one MEPP graduate. However, delays in putting staff on full-time contracts is a source of stress and risk and may lead to staff leaving.
- Safety for women, and vulnerability to sexual harassment at UPNG, continues to be an issue that needs to be addressed by university management.
- Security environment is challenging, but we continue to maintain good communication with the Abt Security team for support.
- With only two staff allowed to be based in POM now, extra effort needs to be made to keep good communications with our UPNG colleagues.

Annex 1: 2025 PNG Update Report

Alyssa Leng and Nematullah Bizhan

Introduction and overview

The 2025 PNG Update was held on 21-22 August at the University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG) School of Business and Public Policy (SBPP). The theme of this year's Update was 'Papua New Guinea at 50: past, present and future'. The first day of the conference featured invited speakers, including several who were directly involved in Papua New Guinea's early years of independence, contributing to state building, constitution making, and development. The second day focused on presentations and panel discussions by scholars and practitioners. The two-day conference was launched by the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, the Honourable James Marape MP. Other keynote speakers included:

- Sir Robert Igara, Chancellor, University of Papua New Guinea
- Professor Ian Findlay, Vice Chancellor, University of Papua New Guinea
- Mr Ewen McDonald, Australian High Commissioner to PNG
- Dr Fr John Momis, former President of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville

The conference also had numerous keynote panellists, including:

- Mr Bart Philemon, former PNG Treasurer
- Mr Charles Abel, former Deputy Prime Minister of PNG
- Dr Thomas Webster, Professorial Research Fellow, PNG National Research Institute
- Mr Hubert Namani, President, PNG Law Society
- Mr Peter Eafeare, Former PNG High Commissioner to Fiji
- Ambassador Joshua Kalinoe, Former Ambassador of Papua New Guinea to Belgium and the European Union
- Ms Williamina Hubert, Assistant Governor, Bank of Papua New Guinea
- Mr John Uware, Deputy Secretary, PNG Department of Treasury,
- Dr Sudyumna Dahal, Senior Economist, Asian Development Bank

The conference was also preceded by the launch of the new PNG economic history book, 'Struggle, Reform, Boom and Bust' by Mr Ian Ling-Stuckey, Treasurer of PNG.

The conference included sessions on economic issues, gender, family and sexual violence, banking and finance, politics and governance, forestry and agriculture, climate change and education at the tertiary, secondary and primary levels among many others.

The annual event is jointly organised by the UPNG's School of Business and Public Policy and the ANU's Development Policy Centre. UPNG management organises most of the site logistics for the Update, with student volunteers and departments across the university helping with preparation and running it. The Department of Hospitality and Tourism organises catering. In 2025, the media and ICT team at UPNG organised media and promotion, recorded sessions and streamed keynote sessions live to Facebook.

Funding was provided by the PNG-Australia Partnership, with sponsorship for the book launch and cocktail event provided by the PNG Institutional Partnerships Program, and UPNG.

In total over 1900 people registered for the conference in 2025, in addition over 10,000 people live-streamed the event across all sessions in both days, with only the new lecture theatre attracting about 1,000 online viewers. This is close to the largest level of official attendance in person on record for the conference (1800 in 2023), and highest level of online participants in the Update history. It is also worth noting that many more unregistered participants attended the Update.

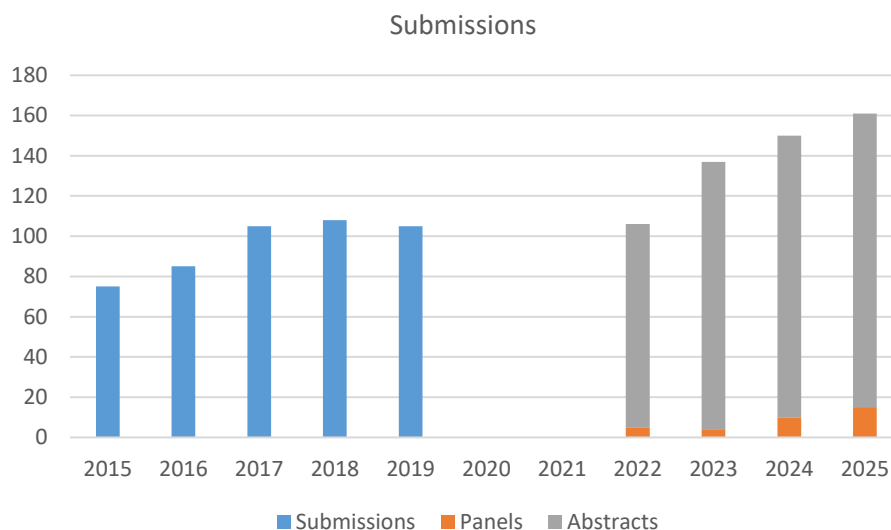
The PNG Update also attracted significant media interest. Ten media outlets registered their participation, and around 30 journalists attended various sessions, listening to speeches and presentations. Dozens of articles were subsequently published, covering a wide range of themes discussed at the Update. The 2025 PNG Update achieved one of the highest level of media coverage to date.

Overall, the event was a success. This is evidenced in the following sections of this report which highlight key trends of authors and presenters and participants’ feedback, along with photos.

Analysis of submissions, presenters and authors.

A committee comprising staff from both UPNG and ANU selected presenters based on the quality of their abstract and how well they fit into the program.

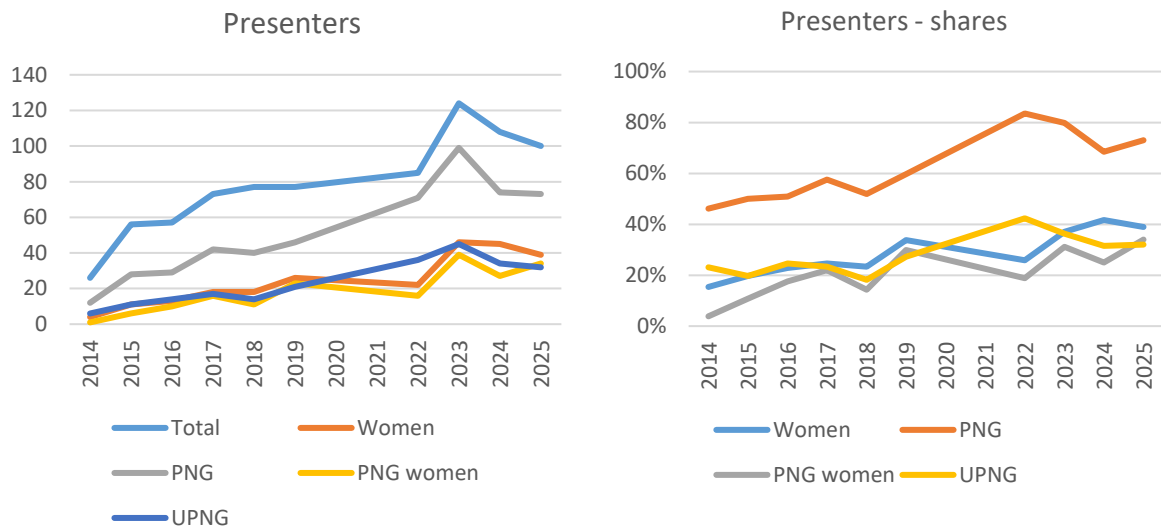
161 submissions – 146 abstracts and 15 panels – were received by the committee this year. This is the highest number recorded since the Update began (the previous record was 150 submissions in 2024). Of these, 6 panels and 60 abstracts were presented.¹ The number of submissions was relatively steady between the 2017 and 2022 PNG Updates, with a major increase beginning in 2023 and continuing into 2024 and 2025.



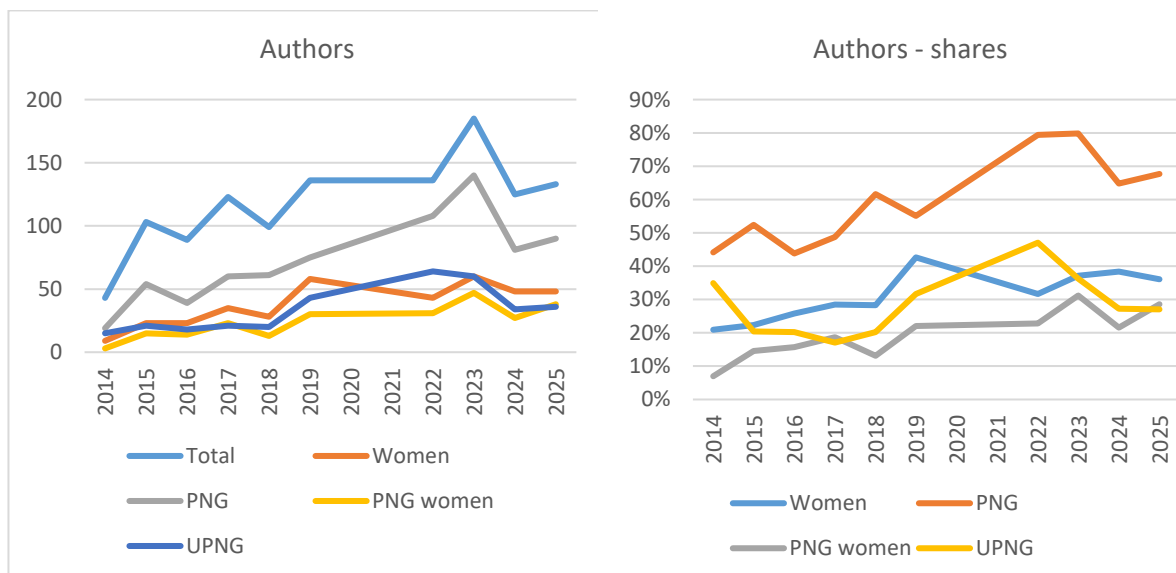
There were in total 100 presenters and 133 authors at the 2024 PNG Update. Presenter numbers remained lower than records achieved in 2023-24 but remain high, due to scheduling less presentations within individual parallel sessions – so as to provide sufficient time for both presentations and Q&A. 39% of presenters and 36% of authors were female, similar to levels from

¹ A slightly higher number of abstracts were accepted, but a number of presentations were unfortunately unable to attend the event.

2024, 42% and 38% respectively last year. 73% of presenters and 68% of authors were Papua New Guinean, an increase from 69% and 65% respectively in 2024. Participation from UPNG remains substantial, with 32% of presenters originating from UPNG in 2025.



The number of authors in 2025 increased relative to 2024, and has returned to levels similar to that of previous conferences in 2019, 2022 and 2024. The number of Papua New Guinean authors increased from 81 in 2024 to 90 in 2025, and while lower than previous highs in 2022-23 remains higher than any year between 2014 and 2019. Both changes are likely due to an increase in the number of presentations with single authors. The number of Papua New Guinean women authors increased to 38 in 2025 from 27 in 2024. Author representation from UPNG was similar to that in 2024, with 36 UPNG authors in 2025.



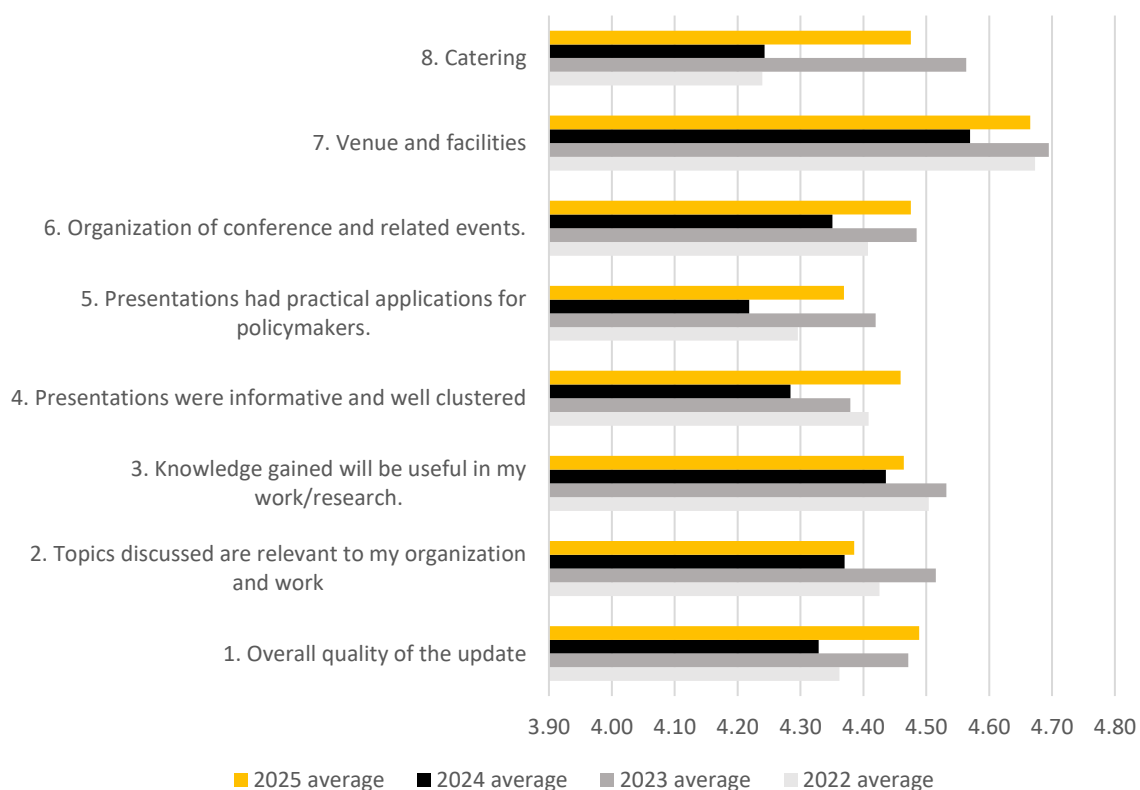
Participant evaluation

This year, 224 feedback and evaluation forms were received from participants. This is a major decrease on the 772 feedback and evaluation forms received at the 2024 PNG Update, but is in line with previous years (281 feedback and evaluation forms were received at the 2023 PNG Update). The following results are drawn from these evaluation forms, which featured eight quantitative questions asking participants to provide a numerical rating, and six qualitative questions asking participants to provide a comment.

Participants found the 2025 PNG Update to be of high quality overall. On a scale of 1 to 5 (very poor to excellent), average ratings across all areas and days of the conference were all above 4.35. Participants continue to be most impressed by the venue and facilities, and the usefulness of knowledge gained as well as the relevance of topics discussed. The relevance of topics discussed scored the lowest, but levels of satisfaction nevertheless remain high and similar to those recorded in 2022.

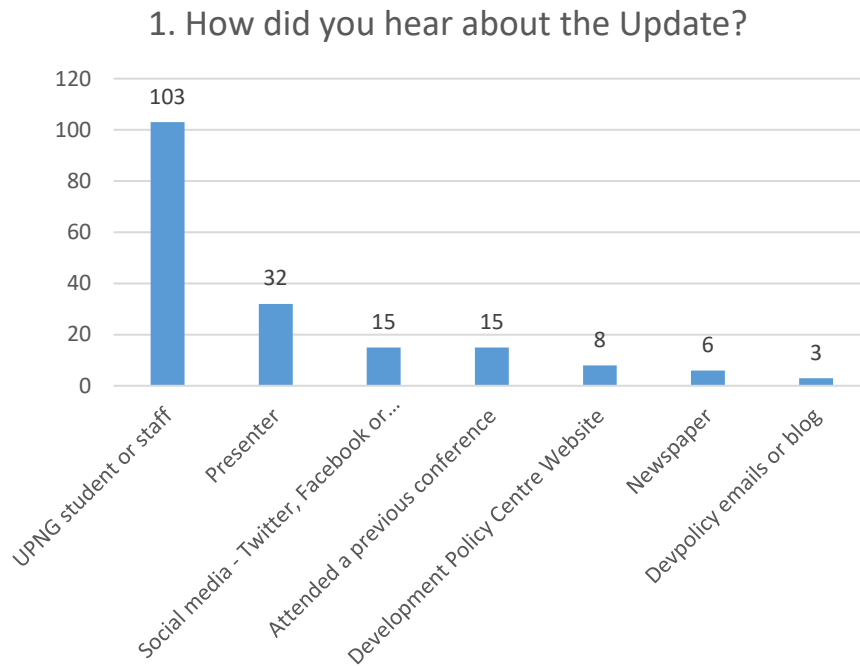
Scores in 2025 were in all areas higher than scores in 2024 and similar or higher than in 2022; scores however remain slightly lower than peaks recorded in 2023. The overall quality of the update in 2025 was 4.47 out of 5, matching the record high achieved in 2023 and surpassing the scores from 2024 (4.33/5), 2023 (4.47/5) and 2022 (4.36/5).

2022-25 PNG Update evaluation results

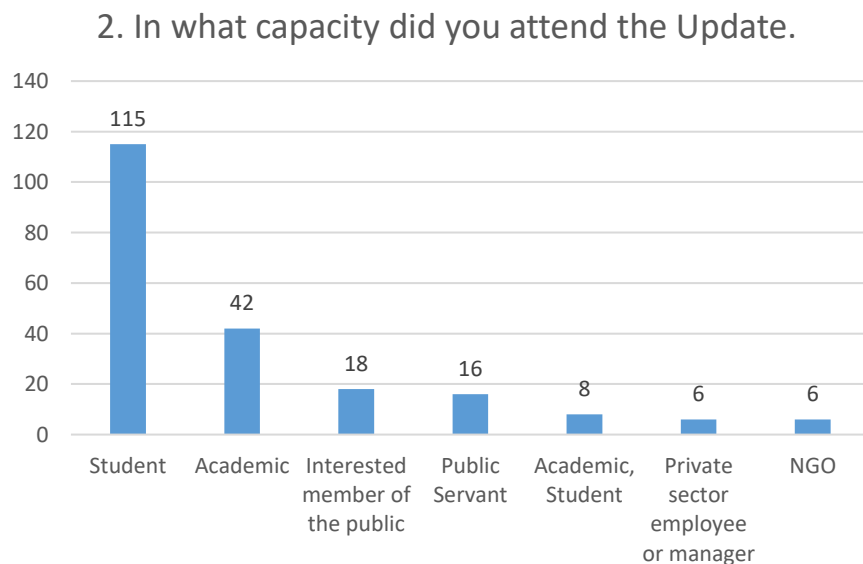


Most participants who filled in evaluation surveys heard about the PNG Update through UPNG students or staff. Publicity through presenters themselves and social media were notably influential

this year, while previous exposure to the conference and Devpol channels remained important sources of publicity.



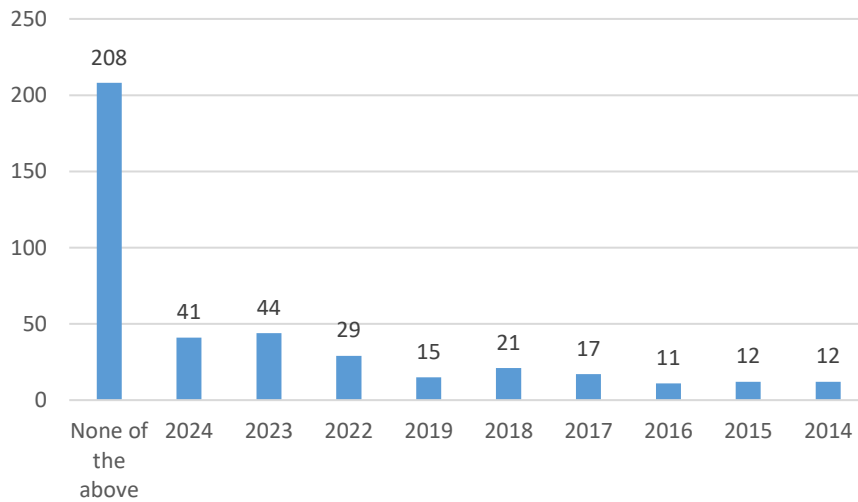
In terms of attendees, students made up the vast largest proportion of participants; academics were also well represented. It is not possible to compare numbers of participants in various categories to previous years, given the substantial decrease in the number of feedback and evaluation forms collected.



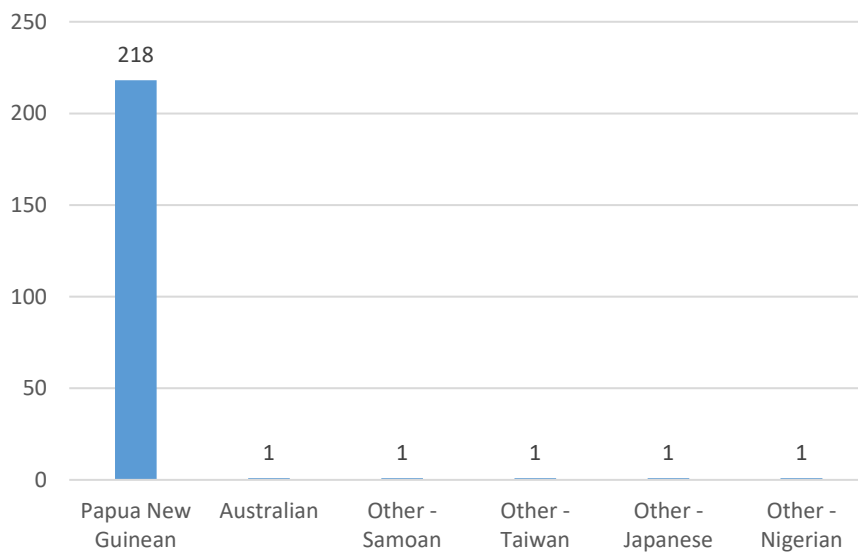
Similarly to the results from the 2022 and 2023 PNG Update evaluations, most participants who filled in evaluation forms had not previously attended a PNG Update. One reason for this could be previous attendees being predominantly undergraduate students, who may now have graduated and are no longer attending the conference. The number of participants who attended previous iterations of the

conference over the last decade has remained high, showing there is consistent interest over the years. Attendee nationality was predominantly Papua New Guinean, with a few other nationalities represented in the evaluation forms.

3. Have you attended these previous Updates? (circle all you attended)



4. What is your nationality?



A range of different elements in the conference were noted as highlights by conference attendees. Sessions on economic issues were the most frequently noted highlight, followed by the keynote addresses by Dr Fr John Momis and Bart Philemon. Attendees were appreciative of discussion around politics and the constitution, as well as the generally high quality of keynote speakers. Many attendees noted the value in reflecting on PNG’s past and journey. Other attendees commented on the panel on water and WASH as well as the keynote address by Charles Abel.

Attendees suggested a range of improvements to the conference. The most frequently discussed issues were time management during the conference and a desire for the conference to be made longer, and for presenters to have more time to speak. Attendees also expressed a desire for greater involvement from the government (particularly LLGs) and NGOs, and would like a larger venue. More parallel sessions in 2025 had three papers rather than four, suggesting there is not much scope to further increase the time available to presenters. There were fewer points raised about audio, lighting and food-related issues, suggesting improvements have been made this year.

Concluding remarks

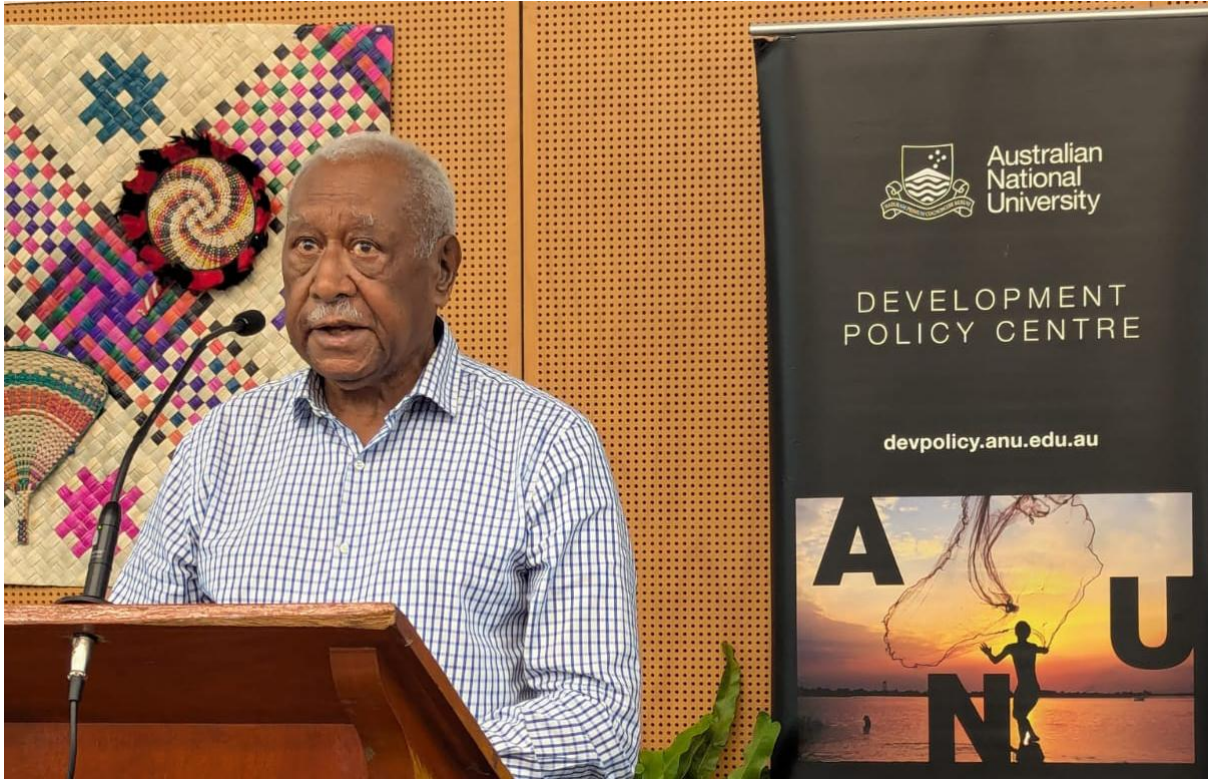
As outlined above, the PNG Update continues to be the most important and well attended conference in the country. Participant evaluations were overwhelmingly positive, but there remain a few areas for improvement. In sum, the PNG Update continues to be a success, and we look forward improving upon it in 2027.

Photos



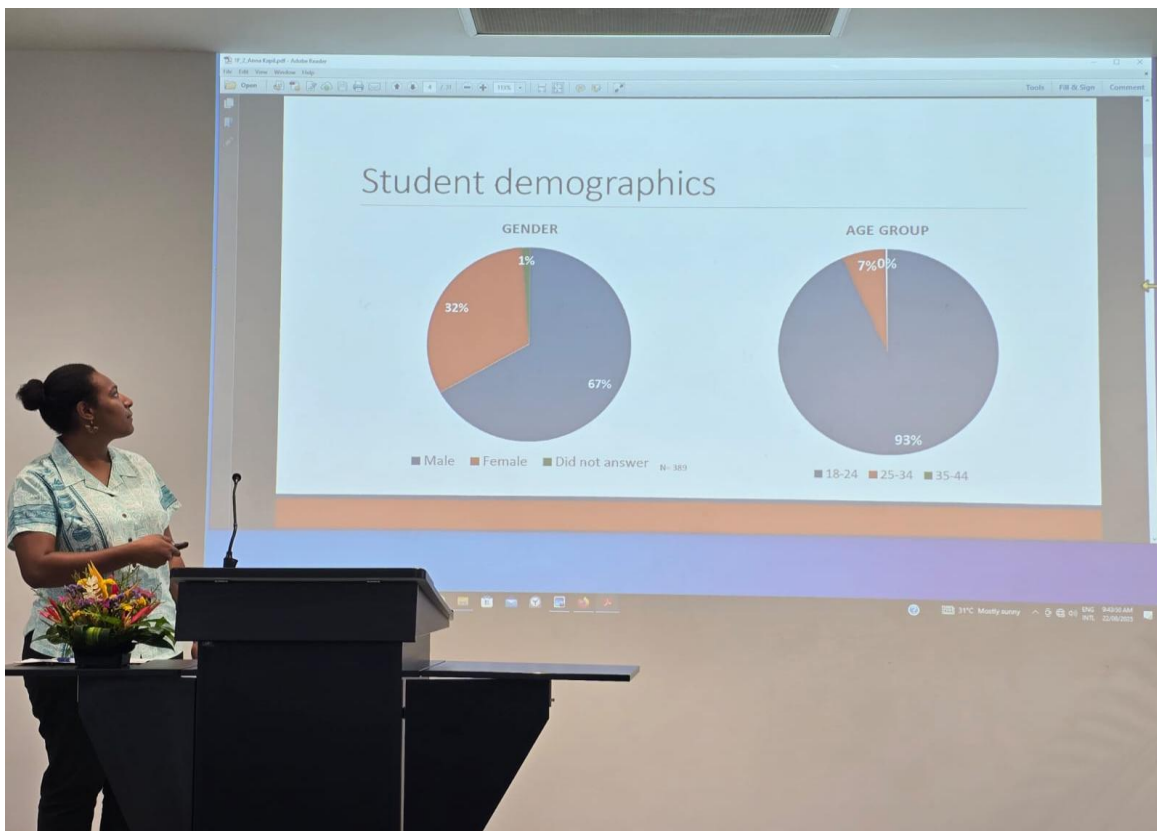














2025 PNG Update Organising Committee (ANU and UPNG) and UPNG Student Volunteers

Annex 2: 2025 ANU-UPNG Economics Exam Report

Alyssa Leng
11 August 2025

Introduction

This note reports on results from the latest ANU-UPNG economics exam, held on 25 July 2025.

The ANU has run an annual exam in economics at UPNG since 2013. Student participation in this exam is voluntary. Students who sit the exam are almost exclusively third or fourth year economics majors.

The purpose of the annual economics exam is threefold:

1. assist with the ranking and selection of candidates for the annual ANU-UPNG Scholarship in Economics under the partnership program;
2. provide an objective measure of the ability of a student cohort in a given year; and
3. provide a measure of the effect of ANU's partnership with UPNG on student performance over time: since 2015, ANU lecturers have been teaching economics at UPNG.

The exams test basic math, microeconomics, and macroeconomics. As of 2014, the exams have been designed to be comparable over time by retaining this structure of 'math, micro, macro' questions. The standard is roughly comparable to what would be expected of second year students at the ANU.

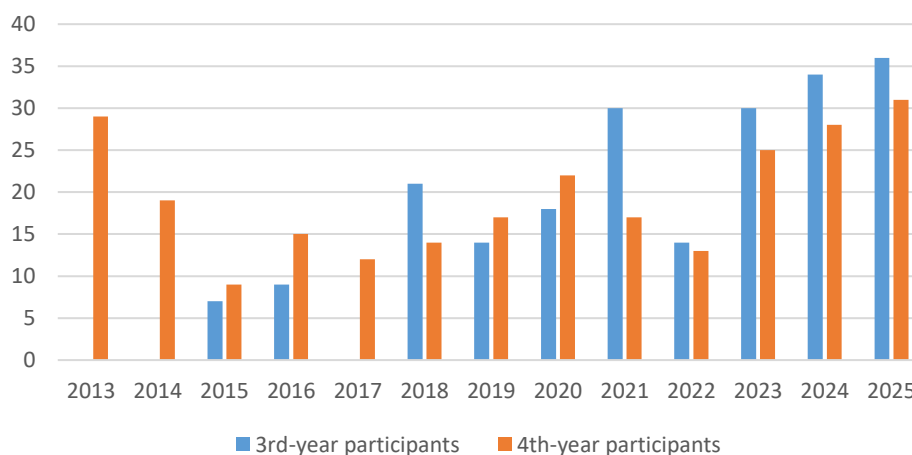
This year's exam shows a significant turnaround in performance on the part of the UPNG SBPP students, after results worsened in 2022 and 2023. This year's improved results reflect the continued efforts of UPNG SBPP lecturers to ensure that students are familiar with key economic concepts and calculations.

Comparisons to previous years

Participation

This year 67 students took the exam, comprising 31 fourth year students and 36 third year students. This is the highest level of attendance recorded for the exam since it began, and is an increase on the previous record set in 2024.

Figure 1: 3rd and 4th year exam participant numbers, 2013–2025

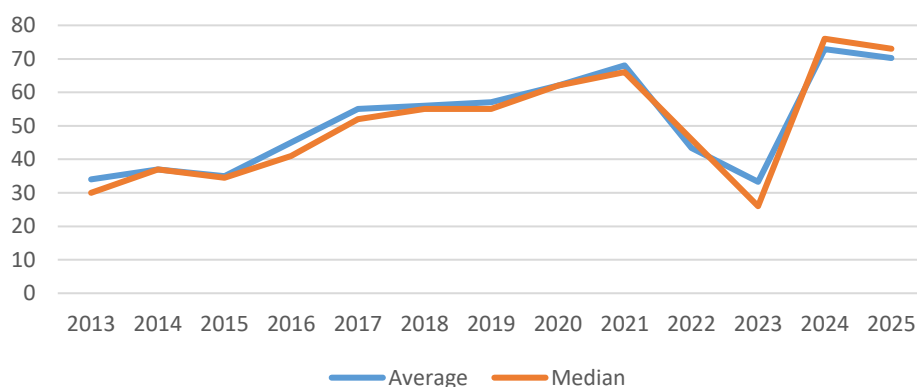


Scores

Fourth year scores remain the key metric of comparison over time, as third year students did not always participate. Apart from 2022 and 2023, scores have generally improved over time. Scores in 2024 and 2025 have bounced back from recent years' low scores, and appear to have returned to the long term trend.

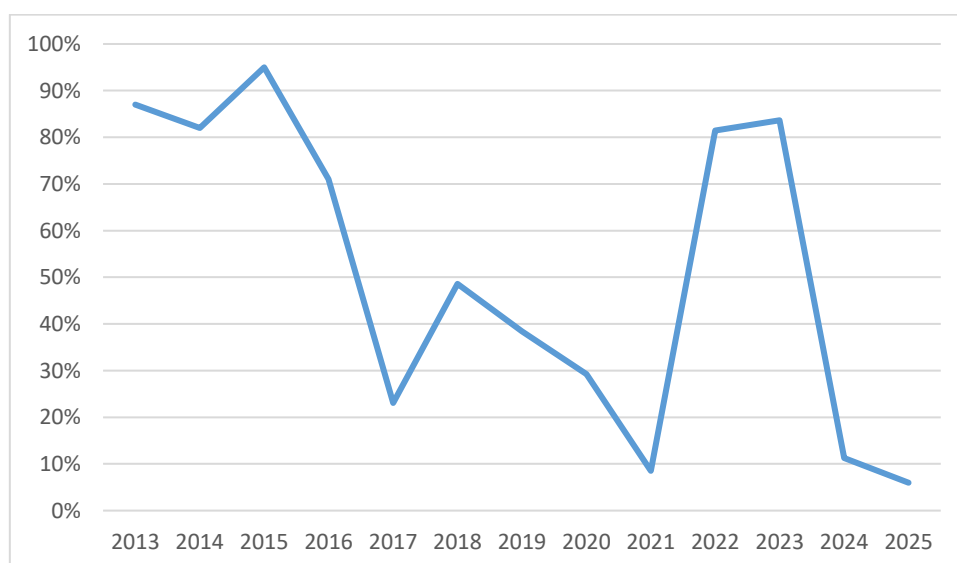
This year, the average score for fourth year students was 70 out of 100. This is the second highest average score recorded since the exam began (the highest being 73 out of 100 in 2024), and more than double the average recorded in 2023 (33 out of 100). The median score for fourth year students was 73 out of 100, again marking the second highest median score since the exam began.

Figure 2: 4th year student average and median grade out of 100, 2013–2025



The failure rate in the ANU exam had declined significantly over the life of the scaled-up ANU-UPNG Partnership, with the exception of major increases in 2022 and 2023 (Figure 3). This year's failure rate of 6% is the lowest recorded throughout the life of the exam.

Figure 3: Failure rate for 3rd and 4th year candidates, 2013–2025



Looking at the overall distribution of scores in 2025, 3 out of 67 students (4% of students) scored 90 percent or above; 23 students (34%) scored 80 percent or above in the exam. These results are similar to those in 2024, and mark a significant improvement from 2023, where only 9 students out of the total 55 candidates passed the exam (i.e. achieved a score of 50 percent or above). The range of scores in 2025 was between 34 and 94 out of 100, compared to 36 - 9– in 2024, 8 – 68 in 2023, 16 – 68 in 2022 and 32 – 100 in 2021. Overall, grades have increased across the distribution this year (Figures 4 and 5).

Figure 4: Distribution of 3rd and 4th year candidate scores out of 100, 2013–2025

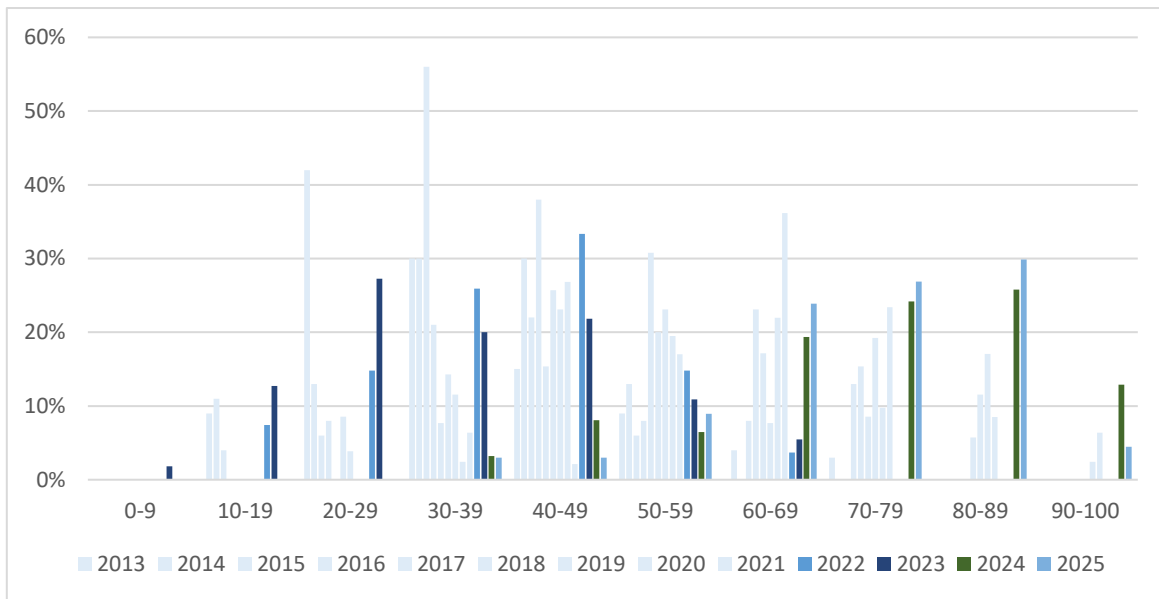


Figure 5: Distribution of 3rd and 4th year candidate scores box and whisker plot, 2013–2025

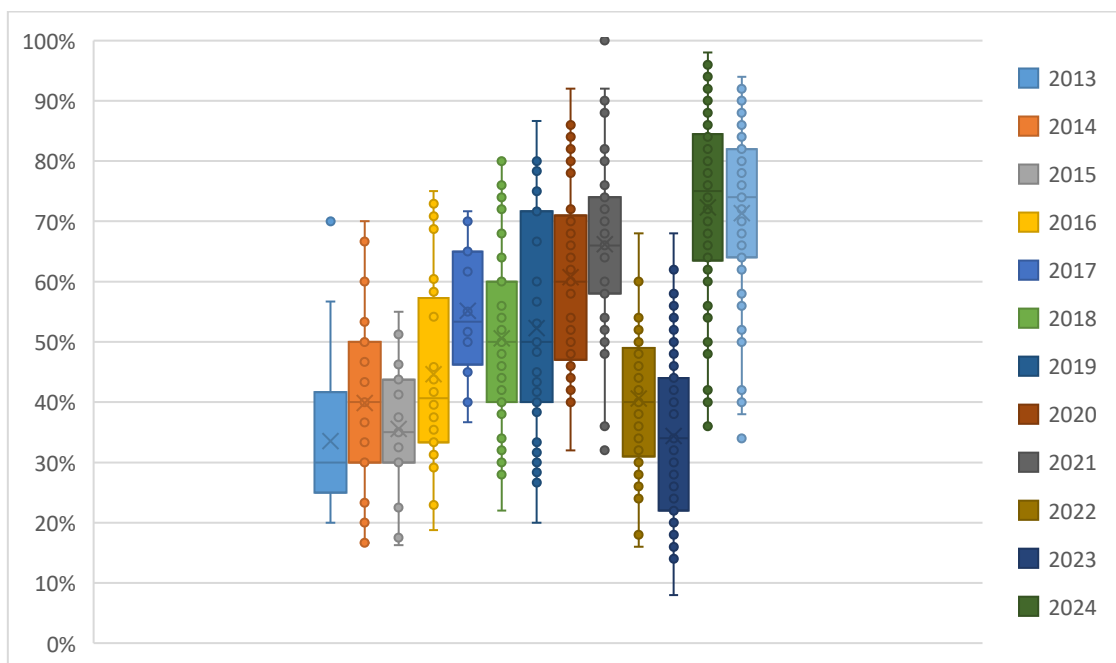


Figure 6 and Table 1 show average and median ANU exam grades from 2013-2025 for both 3rd and 4th year students. In 2025, third year students slightly outperformed fourth years, but by a nearly indistinguishable margin. Average and median scores this year were close to the highest that have been recorded, for both third and fourth year students.

Figure 6: 3rd and 4th year exam average scores out of 100, 2013–2025

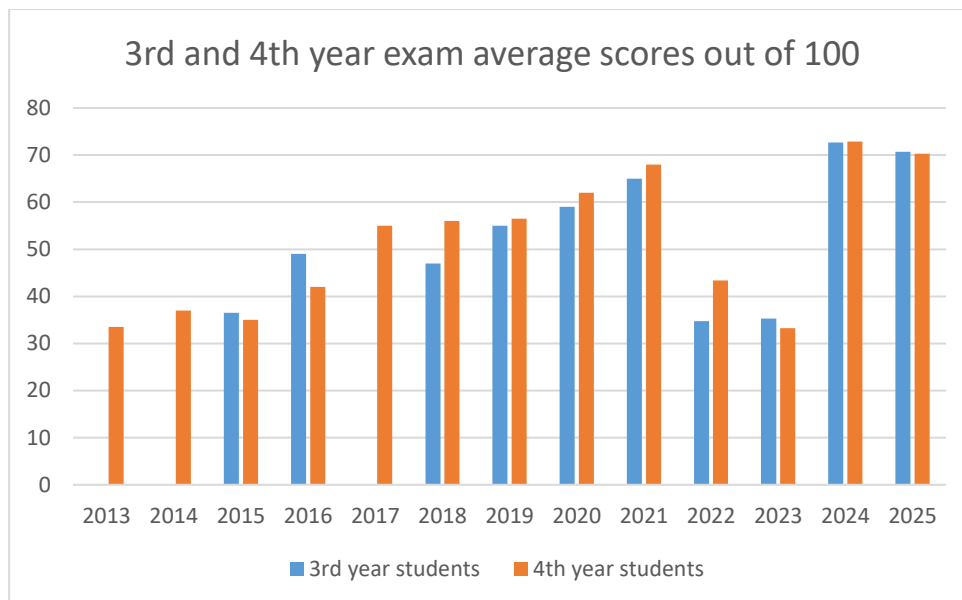


Table 1: Average and median by year group, 2025

	Average	Median
3rd year students	70.7%	74.0%
4th year students	70.3%	73.0%

Scores split by exam section

The exam is split into three sections, maths, microeconomics and macroeconomics. This year, students achieved the highest scores in the maths section (76% on average across 3rd and 4th year students). Scores in the macroeconomics section were marginally lower, with the lowest scores recorded in the microeconomics section.

Figure 6: Average scores by exam section, 3rd and 4th years combined, 2025

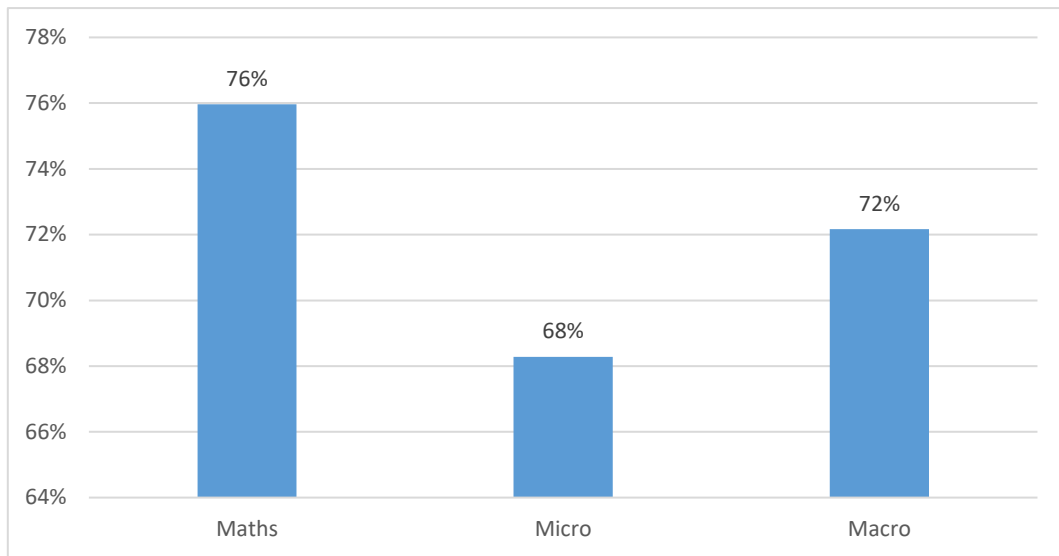


Table 2 shows how students in their third and fourth years respectively performed on average across different sections of the exam. The highest and lowest scoring sections for each year group (on average) are labelled green and red respectively. Performance by both third and fourth year students was best in the maths section, and worst in the microeconomics section. The fourth year students performed better on average in maths than third year students, while scores in the other economic sections were relatively close across cohorts.

Table 2: Average scores by exam section and year group, 2025

	Maths	Micro	Macro
3rd year students	73.9%	69.0%	71.1%
4th year students	78.4%	67.4%	73.4%

Table 3 shows the sections in which third and fourth year students combined scored highest (green) and lowest (red) in any given year since 2017. Over the last seven years, students have mostly performed best in maths and worst in microeconomics.

Performance in both microeconomics and macroeconomics was strong in 2025. The average score in microeconomics was the second highest recorded since the exam began and the average score in macroeconomics is the highest recorded in the life of the exam. Performance in maths has been mixed over time, but was this year close to the peak recorded in 2024.

Table 3: Average scores in separate exam sections, 3rd and 4th years combined, 2017²–2024

	Maths	Micro	Macro
2017	72%	74%	54%
2018	65%	43%	51%
2019	58%	40%	57%
2020	58%	61%	61%
2021	67%	63%	69%
2022	48%	30%	44%
2023	49%	33%	28%
2024	80%	76%	65%
2025	76%	68%	72%

Conclusion

The 2025 results confirm the major turnaround in student performance detected in 2024, following the declines in 2022 and 2023, and show a welcome return to the upward trend of previous years. The failure rate of students has continued to decrease, and the distribution of marks has improved even relative to the 2022-23 drop in performance. The number of students sitting the exam also rose, making the exam more representative.

This consistent improvement in results reflects the hard work and effort of UPNG SBPP lecturers in preparing the students for the exam and the provision of greater incentives to students to prepare for and do their best in the exam.

First, booklets of past exam papers were provided to lecturers and students in semester 1 of 2025 to allow students to revise for the exam in advance. Using these resources, UPNG SBPP lecturers conducted several revision classes with students based on past exam papers in semester 2 just prior to students sitting the exam in 2025.

Second, a number of incentives were provided for students to sit the exam and give their best effort to it. Cash prizes were awarded to the three highest-scoring students in the 3rd and 4th years respectively. These were to the value of K300 for the highest mark, K200 for the second highest mark,

² 2017 was chosen as the first year of comparison due to differences in exam structure in years prior.

and K100 for the third highest mark. Additionally, UPNG SBPP staff decided to provide reference letters to support job applications only to students who attended all revision classes and sat the exam. A certificate of participation will also be awarded to students who attended all revision classes and sat the exam.

We will continue to administer the exam annually given its value as an evaluation tool. As has been demonstrated in recent years, the exam usefully identifies when students begin to struggle, and provides a metric by which to see if changes made to teaching and other incentives can help improve students' performance.