

**Development Policy Centre Progress Report
January – June 2017**

HIGHLIGHTS

- The 2017 Australasian Aid Conference was attended by more than 400 people, and again was a hugely successful event. Keynotes and plenaries focused on governance, the humanitarian system, the private sector and development and new ideas for Australian aid. The conference was opened by Foreign Minister Julie Bishop MP.
- The inaugural Mitchell Humanitarian Award was presented to veterinarian Robyn Alders at the Australasian Aid Conference dinner. Work has begun on a new series of Aid Profiles to form the shortlist for the 2018 award.
- We redesigned the Devpolicy Blog, with positive feedback received from readers on its new look and functionality.
- The PNG election results database (<http://devpolicy.org/pngelections/>) was launched in Port Moresby in March. The website contains all available election results for all general elections held in Papua New Guinea since 1972, which can be explored using an interactive data dashboard. The site also includes the first digital map of PNG electoral boundaries.
- The Pacific Update was held in Suva, Fiji, in June, with more than 300 attendees. The feedback survey on the conference was highly positive, with many attendees saying that they would use the information provided in presentations in their work.
- We once again held our annual aid budget breakfast forum in May the morning after budget night, which was well attended both in person and by those watching the livestream. The event included discussion on the cuts being made to aid in the budget forward estimates and a broader discussion on aid performance.
- The centre made a submission to the Foreign Policy White Paper process, highlighting our research on issues such as aid, climate change, the Pacific and labour mobility.
- Robin Davies co-edited a Special Issue of the journal *Development Policy Review* with Jonathan Pickering and Annalisa Prizzon on the opinions of aid consumers.
- Terence Wood and Camilla Burkot worked with a coalition of Australian aid NGOs and advocates to meet with parliamentarians and provide them with factual information about good aid policy.
- A new Masters degree in economics and public policy was launched as part of our partnership with the University of Papua New Guinea School of Business and Public Policy (UPNG-SBPP).

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OUTREACH

Media

Demand for media commentary from Devpolicy staff remained strong, with the PNG elections, migration policy issues in Australia, and the aid budget being among the most requested topics for comment or backgrounding from our experts.

In total, there were just over 100 media items featuring comment or research by the Devpolicy team, or coverage of our events, in the first half of 2017.

Some highlights included:

- A fact check for The Conversation by Robin Davies: [FactCheck: What are the facts on Australia’s foreign aid spending?](#), *The Conversation*, 31 January. (And [Methodology: finding the numbers on Australia’s foreign aid spending over time](#), *The Conversation*, 31 January.)
- Comment from Henry Sherrell on changes to 457 visa rules across a wide range of media, including the *New York Times*: [Australia Plans to Raise More Barriers to Citizenship](#), *New York Times*, 20 April.
- Coverage of our analysis of the 2017 aid budget.

Our experts spoke to the ABC, SBS, Bloomberg, Devex, Fairfax Media, *The Australian Financial Review* and *The Guardian*, among other outlets. Coverage and republication of our work appeared throughout the region in *The National* (PNG), the *PNG Post-Courier*, *Fiji Times* and *Vanuatu Daily Post*.

A full listing of media mentions is located in Appendix A.

Devpolicy Blog

The Devpolicy Blog averaged about 40,000 pageviews a month during the period Jan-June 2017, with a peak around the Federal Budget in May.

At the beginning of May, a redesign of the blog was launched, giving it a fresh new look, enhanced social media sharing options, better author profiles and an improved mobile and tablet experience. The redesign was completed in-house by Ashlee Betteridge, based on a survey of blog readers completed in early 2017. Feedback from readers on the new look and functionality has been highly positive.

The blog reader poll, coordinated by Camilla Burkot, [demonstrated](#) continued high levels of engagement and interest in the blog's content from key stakeholder groups such as those in government, in the region, in academia and development practitioners — predominantly at NGOs. There were 67 respondents, and more than 60% of respondents found our content to be highly or usually relevant, while 25% said it was occasionally relevant. The survey also brought forward some good suggestions for broadening our content, and led us to make it easier for readers to access their preferred content by splitting the front page of the blog into two sections – aid and development, and PNG and the Pacific. Based on this, we also added two new options to our daily blog emails to allow readers to receive only content they were interested in.

Top 10 blogs by traffic Jan-June 2017

[The Papua New Guinea Election Results Database](#) by Terence Wood

[Does PNG rank highly for Internet porn searches?](#) By Amanda Watson

[Trump's new deal for international organisations: 40% off](#) by Robin Davies

[The end of the golden age](#) by Paul Ronalds

[The Seasonal Worker Program: who is coming to Australia?](#) By Henry Sherrell

[Media fail! Papua New Guinean women deserve better from the media](#) by Michelle Rooney

[Want to sell aid to the Australian public? Look to values, not national interests](#) by Terence Wood and Camilla Burkot

[Day of judgement: PNG and the O'Neill Government](#) by Bal Kama

[The gender woes of Australian NGOs](#) by Terence Wood

[Australia's foreign aid dilemma](#) by Jack Corbett

[Prioritising periods and preventing unwanted pregnancy: addressing menstrual and reproductive health in Timor-Leste and Papua New Guinea](#) by Batya Atlas and Chelsea Huggett

Social media

Our performance on social media has remained strong, with high levels of engagement.

The centre now has 7,900 followers on Twitter (up from 6,140 at the end of 2016) and 4,348 Facebook page followers (up from 3,878 at the end of 2016). 680 people now follow the Centre's updates on LinkedIn (for a long time this was at a low level, but has spiked in the past six months).

The centre's email offerings continue to attract strong support, with new options added in the last six months.

- Fortnightly newsletter – 6385 subscribers
- Daily blog email – 2794 subscribers
- Aid and development blogs only – 117 subscribers
- PNG and Pacific blogs only – 74 subscribers
- Labour mobility newsletter (monthly) – 350 subscribers
- PNG Project newsletter (monthly) – 665 subscribers

Meetings, talks, training, assignments

Stephen Howes

- Regular meetings with DFAT, NGO and contractor senior officials
- Various media interviews on PNG, labour mobility and the aid budget
- Regular meetings with senior PNG officials and business leaders
- Speaker at "Complexity in governments and markets" forum, 19 April, Crawford School.
- Chair at the Pacific Update, Fiji, 21 June 2017

Matthew Dornan

- Presented at Migrants@Work Research Group's Migration and Work symposium, University of Sydney, *Backpackers v Seasonal Workers: learning from the contrasting temporary migration outcomes in Australia and New Zealand horticulture*, 6 February 2017, with Henry Sherrell.
- Presented at APEC Workshop on the Development of an APEC Labour Mobility Framework, Nha Trang, Vietnam. Topic: *Pacific Possible: What model for labour mobility in the Pacific Island region?*, 19 February 2017.
- Presented at the Pacific Update, University of the South Pacific, Fiji. Topics: *Learning from Seasonal Worker Programs in Australia and New Zealand* and *Renewable Energy in the Pacific: Governments and Donors*, 20-21 June 2017
- Panellist at Asia Pacific Week, ANU. Topic: *The SDGs in the Pacific Islands*, 13 July 2017.
- Met with Norwegian deputy foreign minister, 2 March
- Organised Pacific Update conference with colleagues from ADB and USP

Grant Walton

- Ongoing monthly meetings with Transnational Institute on Corruption
- Ongoing reading group meetings for University House
- Ongoing helping to organise an event for Law and Justice Development Community of Practice group in 2017
- Meeting with CARE PNG representatives, 11 January
- Met with Norwegian deputy foreign minister, 2 March
- Guest lecture for course on Asia and Globalisation in February
- Met with representatives from U4 to discuss PNG and Pacific anti-corruption policy and research, 21 March
- Awarded APIP funding of \$3000 in May to conduct research on anticorruption policy in Solomon Islands
- Guest lecture for course on Australia and Security in the Pacific, 21 April
- Round table with EU, French, UK ambassadors, 27 April
- Presented anti-corruption messaging results to DFAT and Abt Associates, 27 April
- Law and Justice Development Community of Practice event, 4 May
- Interviewed head of ICRC PNG, 31 May
- Presented research on geographies of corruption to Interdisciplinary Anti-Corruption Conference, 15 June
- Presented research on anti-corruption messages to OECD, June
- Met with colleagues from French University EHESS to explore collaboration, June
- Met with the Development Leadership Program to further anti-corruption research in PNG, June
- Finalised book – Anti-corruption and its discontents - to be published in September 2017 with Routledge

Terence Wood

- Met with Paul O'Callaghan, head of Caritas, 3 February
- Met with Norwegian Deputy Foreign Minister, March
- Gave a talk to NZ Deputy High Commissioner about election results, Port Moresby, March
- Meeting with Papua New Guinea Electoral Commission, March
- Meeting on Pacific Islands Peace Index with Murray Ackman, March
- Met with Commonwealth of Learning, accompanied by James Batley, May
- Met with Leonard Chan at MFAT on PNG elections, May
- Met with Marc Livesy at DFAT on the PNG elections (with Steve Hogg, Marcus Pelto, Kerry Baker), June
- Presentation on a CARE panel on the foreign policy White Paper, January
- Presented to DFAT in PNG on the PNG election database, March
- Public seminar at UPNG on the PNG elections database, March
- Guest lecture: What factors shape high-level aid policy decisions, IDEC, Crawford School
- Participation in ACFID/Micah/Campaign for Australian aid parliamentary visits (more detail in the Gates project report below)

Ashlee Betteridge

- Provided feedback to the Nossal Institute on communications and messaging, March-May
- Won the three-minute aid pitch competition at the 2017 Australasian Aid Conference, February
- Met with Nicholas Gloeckl of Devex to discuss collaboration opportunities, June
- Joined the board of directors of NTA East Indonesia Aid, January

Events

[Pacific Update](#)

21-22 June 2017

The 2017 Pacific Update was held on June 20-21, 2017, at the University of the South Pacific Laucala Campus, Suva, Fiji. This conference was organised by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Australian National University's Development Policy Centre, and the University of the South Pacific (USP) School of Economics. There were more than 300 attendees at the conference this year, with talks on labour mobility, the 'blue economy', tourism and more.

[My Father, My Country: a film evening with Dame Meg Taylor](#)

7-9pm 22 June 2017

Speaker: Dame Meg Taylor, Secretary General to the Pacific Islands Forum.

Attendees: 90

In 1938 three Australian patrol officers – Jim Taylor, John Black and Pat Walsh – set off on an epic journey into the highlands of Papua New Guinea. Their purpose: to make contact with highland tribes who until then, had no contact with the outside world, and to explain to them that their lives were about to undergo incredible change. Fifty years later, Jim's daughter Meg retraced her father's steps and met people who remembered the day the patrol arrived. Meg's observations are combined with excerpts from her father's journal to provide a personal and poetic narrative about an extraordinary meeting of cultures.

[Drought and famine relief in Papua New Guinea, 2015-2016](#)

3.15-5.15pm 7 June 2017

Speakers: Dr Mike Bourke, Honorary Associate Professor, ANU; Brendan Jinks, PhD candidate, ANU; James Komengi and Matt Kanua, independent consultants, PNG; and Sally Lloyd, church worker, PNG.

Attendees: 40

PNG was severely impacted by the 2015-16 El Niño drought and, at some very high-altitude locations, a series of destructive frosts. Presentations at this seminar covered: a national overview of the impacts; more detailed reports on impacts and food aid in parts of Enga, Hela, Western and Milne Bay provinces; and responses by the PNG national government, donors, churches, international non-government organisations and UN agencies.

[The absence of trust: Australian strategic thinking and PNG 1950-1975](#)

12.30–1.30pm 24 May 2017

Speaker: Dr Bruce Hunt, Research Fellow, School of History, College of Arts and Social Science, ANU.

Attendees: 25

The seminar focused on Dr Bruce Hunt's recent monograph *Australia's Northern Shield? Papua New Guinea and the Defence of Australia Since 1880* and his current project, writing an official history of the bilateral relationship from 1970 to Papua New Guinea's (PNG) Independence in September 1975 (part of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's series *Documents on Australian Foreign Policy*).

[Why Forests? Why Now? The science, economics, and politics of tropical forests and climate change](#)

2–3.30pm 16 May 2017

Speaker: Jonah Busch, Center for Global Development.

Attendees: 75

Tropical forests are an undervalued asset in meeting the greatest global challenges of our time—averting climate change and promoting sustainable development. *Why Forests? Why Now?* a new book by Frances Seymour and Jonah Busch, synthesizes the latest research on the importance of tropical forests in a way that is accessible to anyone interested in climate change and development and to readers already familiar with the problem of deforestation.

[2017 aid budget breakfast](#)

9–10.30am 10 May 2017

Speakers: Stephen Howes, Director, Development Policy Centre, Crawford School, ANU; Jacqui De Lacy, Vice President, Global Strategy, Abt Associates; and Anthony Swan, Research Fellow, Development Policy Centre, Crawford School, ANU.

Attendees: 150

The fifth annual aid budget breakfast was held on 10th of May, the morning after the budget was announced. This forum explained what 2017-18 budget meant for the future of Australian aid.

[Coping with high risk and uncertainty in aid policy design and practice](#)

12.30–1.30pm 26 April 2017

Speaker: Adam Fforde, Professorial Fellow, Victoria Institute of Strategic Economic Studies, Victoria University.

Attendees: 30

In this talk Professor Fforde discussed how risk and uncertainty are best coped with in development practice. In doing this, he examined the theories of change that underpin aid practitioners' use of tools such as the logical framework approach. He contended that in many situations we should explore methods of devising policy and organising practice that formally assume context is unpredictable and unsuited to tools like the logical framework approach.

Complexity in governments and markets

5–6.30pm 19 April 2017

Speaker: Professor Vito Tanzi, former head of the Fiscal Affairs Department of the International Monetary Fund.

Attendees: 55

As Governments expanded their activities over the years, pushing spending from around 10 per cent of GDP at the beginning of the last century to the current levels of 30 to 50 per cent of GDP, while increasing intervention through regulations, they tended to lose much of their ability to monitor well what they did. This led to problems of corruption, inefficiency, rent seeking, cronyism, and generally less equitable results in terms of economic results and income distribution. Professor Vito Tanzi presented and discussed the challenge of complexity in governments and markets in tax, spending and regulation.

Democracy in Africa: past, present and future

12.30–1.30pm 12 April 2017

Speaker: Andebrhan Welde Giorgis, President, Eri-Platform, and Senior Expert, Global Governance Institute.

Attendees: 40

Africa has a rich history; old and diverse cultures; and abundant and varied natural resources. Yet, a large majority of Africans remain poor, disenfranchised and oppressed. For five and half centuries, the trajectory of Africa's autonomous development was distorted by the intervention of nascent Europe: the slave trade, the colonial venture and the Cold War. A legacy of the colonial system, the prototype independent African state has failed to deliver freedom, democracy and prosperity, giving rise to a crisis of legitimacy and relevance. Against this backdrop, this lecture discussed the basic causes of the democratic deficit in Africa today and its prospects.

Papua New Guinea after the resource boom

2.15–3.45pm 11 April 2017

Speaker: Marcel Schroder, UPNG, ANU.

Attendees: 20

Dr Marcel Schroder presented a survey of recent economic developments in Papua New Guinea (PNG) since the end of the resource boom in 2014. The specific focus of the discussion was on the country's exchange rate policy.

Australian aid evaluations: new policy, Indonesia's roads, and PNG health

2–5pm 10 April 2017

Attendees: 75

This forum, which was jointly organised by the Development Policy Centre and the Office of Development Effectiveness (ODE), was the latest in a series on the evaluation of Australian aid. This event focused on the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's (DFAT's) new aid

evaluation policy and two recent evaluations on Indonesian roads and remote health patrols in PNG.

[Understanding how change happens](#)

12.30–1.30pm 4 April 2017

Speaker: Dr Duncan Green, Senior Strategic Adviser, Oxfam Great Britain.

Attendees: 110

Duncan Green's new book *How Change Happens* bridges the gap between academia and practice. It brings together the best research from a range of academic disciplines and the evolving practical understanding of activists to explore the topic of social and political change. Drawing on many first-hand examples from the global experience of Oxfam, as well as the author's insights from studying and working on international development, it tests ideas on how change happens and offers the latest thinking on what works to achieve progressive change.

[European Union development policy](#)

12.15–1.15pm 28 March 2017

Attendees: 70

Speaker: Mr Stefano Manservigi, Director-General for International Cooperation and Development, European Commission.

Development aid from donor countries amounts to more than US \$130 billion annually. More than half of that amount comes from European Union nations. However, sustainable development cannot be achieved through aid alone. The United Nations' *2030 Agenda* and the *Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development* have underlined the importance of domestic resource mobilisation and investments – both public and private – for sustainable social, environmental, and economic development efforts to take hold. The Director-General discussed European Union development policy in light of these developments, paying particular attention to the Pacific region.

[2017 Australasian Aid Conference](#)

9am 15 February – 5pm 16 February 2017

Attendees: 400

The Australasian Aid Conference, was held in 15-16 February 2017 in partnership with The Asia Foundation. The aim of the conference was to bring together researchers from across Australia, the Pacific, Asia, and beyond who are working on aid and international development policy to share insights, promote collaboration, and help develop the research community.

The fourth annual conference in 2017 featured papers and interactive sessions on a variety of aid and international development topics, including aid effectiveness, political economy and the politics of aid, gender, private sector engagement, humanitarian aid, migration and trade policy, and the international aid architecture.

Plenary sessions on governance, humanitarian aid, and Asian approaches to private sector cooperation presented by leading global thinkers and practitioners, including Michael

Woolcock, Phoebe Wynn-Pope, Adam Kamradt-Scott, Robin Davies, Guo Peiyuan, and Paul McPhun.

[World Development Report 2017: Governance and the Law](#)

5–6.30pm 14 February 2017

Speakers: James Brumby, The World Bank; Luis Felipe Lopez Calva, The World Bank; Natasha Smith, DFAT; Dr Helen Szoke, Oxfam Australia; and Professor Veronica Taylor, ANU.

Attendees: 110

The launch of The World Development Report 2017, including a presentation of the report and a panel discussion was held on 14 February 2017, as a side event to the Australasian Aid Conference. The World Development Report 2017 on Governance and the Law explores how policies for security, growth and equity can effectively achieve their goals by addressing the underlying drivers of governance. Building on the traditional concern about implementation problems resulting from limited state capacity, this report digs deeper to understand also how individuals and groups, with differing degrees of influence in the decision-making arena, bargain over the choice of policies, distribution of resources, and how to change the rules themselves to shape future interactions.

PUBLICATIONS

Policy briefs

PB 19 Free, open, merit-based selection for a president of an IFI: a rare case study

Bob McMullan, June 2017

» [view publication](#) [PDF, 672KB]

» [read blog](#)

PB 18 Allocation priorities for Australia's 2017 aid budget

Bob McMullan and Robin Davies, April 2017

» [view publication](#) [PDF, 654KB]

» [read blog](#)

PB 17 Do anticorruption messages work? Emerging findings and their relevance for Papua New Guinea

Caryn Peiffer, January 2017

Note: this policy brief was jointly published with the [Developmental Leadership Program](#)

» [view publication](#) [PDF, 225KB]

» [read blog](#)

PB 16 Measuring Australia's foreign aid generosity, from Menzies to Turnbull

Robin Davies, February 2017

» [view publication](#) [PDF, 701KB]

» [read blog](#)

Discussion papers

DP 61 The challenges of providing free education in Papua New Guinea

Grant Walton, Tara Davda and Peter Kanaparo, August 2017

» [view publication at SSRN](#)

DP 60 Promises, promises: a decade of allocations for and spending on anti-corruption in Papua New Guinea

Grant Walton and Husnia Hushang, July 2017

» [view publication at SSRN](#)

DP 59 Evidence-based policy making in the tropics: are developing countries different?

Stephen Howes, Ashlee Betteridge, Lawrence Sause and Lhawang Ugyel, July 2017

» [view publication at SSRN](#)

» [read blog](#)

DP 58 The geographies of collective action, principal-agent theory and potential corruption in Papua New Guinea

Grant Walton and Ainsley Jones, June 2017

» [view publication at SSRN](#)

» [read blog](#)

DP 57 Public enemies: the role of global public goods in aid policy narratives

Robin Davies, March 2017

» [view publication at SSRN](#)

» [read blog](#)

DP 56 Migration and labour mobility from Kiribati

Carmen Voigt-Graf and Sophia Kagan, March 2017

» [view publication at SSRN](#)

DP 55 Papua New Guinea election results: trends and patterns 1972-2012

Terence Wood, February 2017

» [view publication at SSRN](#)

» [read blog](#)

DP 54 After Papua New Guinea's resource boom: is the kina overvalued?

Rohan Fox and Marcel Schröder, February 2017

» [view publication at SSRN](#)

» [read blog](#)

DP 53 Papua New Guinea economics graduate exit survey

Michael Cornish, January 2017

» [view publication at SSRN](#)

» [read blog](#)

Parliamentary submissions

Submission to the Foreign Policy White Paper

Stephen Howes, Terence Wood, Robin Davies, Matthew Dornan, and Henry Sherrell, February 2017

This submission to the Foreign Policy White Paper consultation, written by several Devpolicy staff, addresses the role of development in foreign policy, aid and Australian values, a theme-based policy framework for aid, aid volume in an international context, Australia's unique role in the Pacific, and the promotion of Pacific labour mobility.

» [view submission](#)

» [read blog](#)

Public interest journalism and regional interests: implications for the Pacific and Australian aid

Ashlee Betteridge, June 2017

This submission to the Senate Select Committee on the Future of Public Interest Journalism is based on our centre's experience as researchers and analysts in the Pacific region, and as communications and policy professionals engaging with the media. The submission focuses on the following three key areas: the importance of public interest journalism to the Pacific region and Australia's engagement with it; the importance of public interest journalism to policy debates, drawing on the example of our own field of aid policy; and the role that universities and centres such as ours now play in attempting to fill the gap in coverage on issues of public importance.

» [view submission](#)

» [read blog](#)

Journal and other publications

Anderson, M., J. Luma and C. Voigt-Graf (2017), *Recent Developments regarding non-citizen technical advisers in Papua New Guinea*, NRI Issues Paper 24, March 2017, Port Moresby: The National Research Institute, available at: <https://pngnri.org/portfolio/recent-development-regarding-non-citizen-technical-advisers-in-png/>

Davies, R 2017 'New directions for development finance: perspectives from developing countries', a Special Issue of *Development Policy Review*, Vol. 35, Issue Supplement S1, July 2017 (co-edited with Jonathan Pickering and Annalisa Prizzon)

Davies, R 2017 '[How Should Development Cooperation Evolve? Views from Developing Countries](#)', *Development Policy Review*, Vol. 35, Issue Supplement S1, July 2017 (with Jonathan Pickering)

Davies, R & Howes, S 2017 'Trump and development: aid, migration and the Beijing consensus', in *The Trump Administration's First 100 Days: What Should Asia Do?*, ANU College of Asia and the Pacific, April 2017

Dornan M (2017) How New is the 'New' Conditionality? Recipient Perspectives on Aid, Country Ownership, and Policy Reform. *Development Policy Review*. 35, 46–63. Available [here](#).

Dornan M and Pryke J (2017) Foreign Aid to the Pacific: Trends and Developments in the Twenty-First Century. *Asia and the Pacific Policy Studies*. In Press. Available [here](#).

Voigt-Graf, C. (forthcoming 2017), 'Geographies of Indian Transnationalism', in R.S. Hegde and A. Sahoo (Eds.), *Routledge Handbook of the Indian Diaspora*, Routledge.

Walton, G.W. 2017, 'Playing the Game: life and politics in Papua New Guinea', *Journal of Pacific History*, vol. 52, no. 1, pp. 129-130

Walton, G.W 2017, The politics of Australian anti-corruption policy to Papua New Guinea. In *The Changing Face of Corruption in the Asia-Pacific: Current Perspectives and Future Challenges* Eds. Rowley, C. and Dela Rama, M. Oxford: Elsevier. 281-294.

Wood, T, Burkot, C, Howes, S 2017 Gauging change in Australian aid: stakeholder perceptions of the government aid program, *Asia and the Pacific Policy Studies*, 4(2):237-250.

MAJOR PROJECTS

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation-funded research on Australian and New Zealand aid

Our Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation-funded research on Australian and New Zealand aid continues across a range of areas. Two case study research projects – one on aid funded medical research, the other on aid's role in Malaria reduction in Solomon Islands – have been conducted. The associated research reports are drafted and will be published in coming months. We are also continuing our research on Australasian public opinion about aid. We have analysed data on the views of New Zealanders on aid – whether they support it, the reasons they want it given for, and whether they think it works or not. A paper based on this analysis is set to be released shortly. Working with the Campaign for Australian aid we included a suite of questions about aid and development in the Australian Survey of Social Attitudes. We also asked the same questions of members of the Australian development community. We are in the process of analysing the two datasets this work has produced. Our first research output from this work, a report comparing aid community views with the general public, is nearing completion. As the year progresses we will continue our analysis of the Australian Survey of Social Attitudes data.

We have also continued our research on Australia's NGOs. This includes a study of the gender breakdown of senior NGO staff working in Australian NGOs. Working with the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID), the Micah Challenge and the Campaign for Australian aid, we took part in a parliamentary education project. As part of this work we researched and helped write a booklet on the basics of aid, and how aid can be given well. This booklet was then used when NGO staff went to meet with parliamentarians in February. We also played an active role in the meetings with parliamentarians, debriefing the NGO teams who met with parliamentarians, gathering data on the parliamentarians' views about aid. We subsequently analysed these data and reported back to the NGOs involved on patterns in political support for aid. As part of our ongoing attempt to work collaboratively with the NGO sector we have also been providing ACFID with technical assistance in their annual member survey. We have used these data to report on trends in donations to Australian aid NGOs. We have also provided feedback and advice to NGOs on a number of their own research projects.

Other work under the Gates grant has included updating the Aid Tracker, comment on the quality of New Zealand aid, analysis of New Zealand and Australian budgets, and preliminary work on trends in Australian and New Zealand aid.

Mitchell Humanitarian Award

The inaugural Mitchell Humanitarian Award was presented to veterinarian and Sydney University academic Dr Robyn Alders in a ceremony at the Australasian Aid Conference in February, recognising her career-long efforts to protect village chickens in developing countries from a deadly but preventable disease.

Work has begun on a new series of Aid Profiles to form the shortlist for the 2018 award.

Labour mobility

The centre's outreach and research on labour mobility continued in the first 6 months of 2017, following on from publication of the ANU-World Bank *Pacific Possible: Labour Mobility* report. Our work was presented at APEC in Vietnam, at conferences in Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney and Suva, and most recently to DFAT staff in Canberra. A paper prepared by Richard Curtain, Matthew Dornan, Stephen Howes and Henry Sherrell was submitted to a special migration-focused issue of the *Journal of Industrial Relations*. Richard Curtain published a report for the ADB examining the skills-implications of infrastructure projects in PNG. Carmen Voigt-Graf and Sophia Kagan published a Devpolicy discussion paper on migration and labour mobility from Kiribati in March.

The centre has established a monthly labour mobility and migration newsletter, which is well subscribed and growing in its reach. It features regular Devpolicy blog content on labour mobility and migration issues, which over this period included interviews with high profile leaders such as the IOM Director General. There has also been considerable media interest in the centre's work on labour mobility (see media reference below). Labour mobility has been a focus at the Australasian aid conference, the Pacific Update (where it was one of three themes) and at the PNG Update.

Sadly, Henry Sherrell, the centre's research officer on labour mobility, departed the centre in 2017 for a job in parliament house. He has been replaced on a part-time basis by Mitiana Arbon, an ANU Pacific Studies scholar. Rochelle Ball also joins Devpolicy as a visiting fellow, with considerable industry, government and academic expertise working on the seasonal worker program in Australia. The centre hopes to recruit a full-time research fellow to work on labour mobility issues later in 2017 (see Pacific Research Program section).

ANU-UPNG partnership

The Crawford ANU - SBPP UPNG partnership had very productive first half of 2017. In undergraduate teaching, this began with the resumption (16 January) and completion (15 March) of the 2016 academic year and the commencement of the 2017 academic year (mid-April). The partnership facilitated the implementation of the new Masters in Economics and Business Policy (MEPP), supported numerous research initiatives and hosted key events such as the launch of the PNG Elections Database at UPNG. Evaluations undertaken showed a positive impact from the partnership on student experience and learning. The hard evidence we have collected of impact is reassuring and provides a strong evidence-base on which the project can move forward.

Five ANU staff members were in place at UPNG from the beginning of 2017, with four staff teaching six second semester 2016 undergraduate courses to 92 female and 141 male (233 total) students across the Divisions of Economics and Public Policy Management. First semester 2017 undergraduate teaching commenced on 17 April with ANU staff convening six undergraduate courses for 88 female and 225 male students (313 total). The first trimester of the new Master of Economics and Public Policy (MEPP) program began 20 March 2017, with ANU staff teaching two of the three core MEPP courses to a cohort of 11 postgraduate students.

Student evaluations showed that our staff offered a high standard of teaching in all undergraduate and postgraduate courses they convened in the period. The 2016 ANU Economics Exam showed that, while there is a way to go, there has been a marked improvement in academic performance by economics students at UPNG since 2014.

The partnership supported significant PNG-related research in the first half of 2017, with specific focus on elections, decentralisation (esp. District Development Authorities), family and domestic violence, leadership and corruption, roads and infrastructure development and the PNG economy. This work resulted in substantial outputs in the period, including the launch of a major interactive website for the PNG Election Database, the PNG Budget Database, and various discussion papers.

Strengthening state and society responses to corruption research

We have conducted a social experiment in Port Moresby to better understand people's response to anti-corruption messages. Findings have been presented to policy makers and will be published later in the year. We have been investigating trends in anti-corruption spending, the strength of PNG's integrity systems, corruption in the education sector, and are working on a case study on subnational corruption. In addition, Anthony Swan and Fiona Yap conducted a social experiment on good governance with students at UPNG. Further research is scheduled for later in the year/early next year.

Femili PNG

Femili PNG continues to work with partners in Lae and across Papua New Guinea to provide quality case management services to survivors of family and sexual violence (FSV). In April 2017 we moved to a new office in Lae which now allows us to conduct client consultations on our premises. The renovated office was made available to us through a partnership with the Lutheran Church and funding from Newcrest Mining Ltd.

We continue to enhance the quality of our service through a Case Management Technical Expert (international volunteer) who arrived in Lae in February 2017. We have begun a gradual process of national expansion and are now working in Hela Province through a partnership with the Oil Search Foundation.

We have continued to strengthen our engagement with the PNG business sector, signing MOUs with the PNG Business Coalition for Women and Trukai Industries Ltd in February and March 2017 respectively. We successfully raised awareness on FSV, as well as funds for our organisation, through a speaking tour to PNG by former Australian of the Year Rosie Batty in April 2017.

We have enhanced our engagement with the Canberra community this year through a partnership with Canberra's Domestic Violence Crisis Service, fundraising by a team of 18 runners in the Canberra Marathon in April and a trivia night organised by the Zonta Club of Canberra in June.

Femili PNG has been successful in securing another phase of funding from DFAT, which will provide core funding to the organisation from July 2017 to June 2020.

ANU-NRI partnership

Research on management of roads at the sub-national level of government in PNG continues, with a number of issue papers expected to be published later in 2017. This work was presented at the PNG Update conference recently. The research feeds into broader work on decentralisation in PNG occurring across ANU. Devpolicy intends to hold a workshop on the issue later in the year, at which the ANU-NRI research will be presented. Carmen Voigt-Graf prepared an NRI issues paper on the labour market implications of the road sector in PNG which is currently under review.

Pacific Research Partnership

Devpolicy was included as one of three institutions in a consortium bid for DFAT funding under its Pacific Research Program tender. The State Society and Governance in Melanesia program at ANU is leading the bid, with the Lowy Institute for International Affairs also included. Should the bid be successful, Devpolicy's role will focus on economic developments in the Pacific, including research on labour mobility and service provision.

STAFFING

Staff movement

Ashlee Betteridge was promoted to Program Manager (Research Communications and Outreach) in May 2017. She has worked as a Research Officer with the centre since March 2013 (and also as a casual during 2011).

Husnia Hushang rejoined the centre in February 2017 as Program Officer to fill in while Macarena Rojas took on a secondment. Macarena Rojas has now moved on to a new role at ANU permanently and we are carrying out a competitive recruitment for the Program Officer role.

Mitiana Arbon joined the centre as a casual Research Officer on Labour Mobility and Migration in June 2017.

Henry Sherrell left the centre to move to a new role at the Parliamentary Library after working with us as a Research Officer on labour mobility and migration since October 2016.

Anthony Swan left the centre to move to Europe with his family after working with us as a Research Fellow, focusing on PNG, since 2013.

New visiting fellows

Sam Koim is a Papua New Guinean lawyer whose career has focused on anti-corruption efforts. He joined us as a Visiting Fellow in June 2017. He was a Principal Legal Officer at the PNG Department of Justice and Attorney General, before becoming Chairman of Investigation Task Force Sweep, PNG's multi-agency anti-corruption body. He led this body for five years and was involved in investigating and prosecuting corrupt offenders, penalising and recovering unpaid tax, identifying and recovering proceeds of crime, and working with other agencies. He is also a Council Member of the Papua New Guinea University of Technology.

Dr Rochelle Ball joined the Development Policy Centre in July 2017 as a Visiting Fellow on labour mobility. Her PhD from the University of Sydney on labour mobility from the Philippines was the first in the field. She has held academic positions at Cornell University, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, the University of Wollongong, UNSW and ANU. She has significant public policy experience working for the Australian government and as a workforce development advocate for the agrifood industry.

Interns

Morgan Marshall joined us as an intern for Semester 1 2017 as part of the Australian National Internships Program. She worked with Henry Sherrell, and researched the reasons for low levels of Indonesian migration to Australia.

Appendix A: Media mentions January – June 2017

1. [Australia's foreign aid program faces fresh scrutiny in wake of transparency audit](#), ABC News, 6 January.
2. [Australian aid under fresh scrutiny](#), Radio NZ, 9 January.
3. [The Seasonal Worker Program: who is coming to Australia?](#) Vanuatu Post, 28 January.
4. [Lessons for aid in the Trump era, from Australia](#), Devex, 26 January.
5. [Australia's foreign aid program faces fresh scrutiny in wake of transparency audit](#), ReliefWeb, 6 January.
6. [Lessons to be learned from across the ditch as Australia struggles with farm labour woes](#), NT Country Hour, ABC Radio, 24 January.
7. [Australia first' is opportunism – and politicians should be careful where it leads](#), The Guardian, 28 January.
8. [Nursing 457s on the decline as health sector chases workforce renewal](#), SBS News, 31 January.
9. [As climate change increases, floating cities look like less of a dream](#), Canberra Times, 28 January.
10. [Australian immigration in the Trump era](#), Lowy Interpreter, 2 February.
11. [FactCheck: What are the facts on Australia's foreign aid spending?](#), The Conversation, 31 January.
12. [Methodology: finding the numbers on Australia's foreign aid spending over time](#), The Conversation, 31 January.
13. [UPNG undergoes major infrastructure development](#), PNG Loop, 5 February.
14. [More UPNG programs to strengthen human resource](#), PNG Loop, 5 February.
15. [Award for feeding Africa's hungry a feather in vet's cap](#), the Age, 18 February.
16. Robyn Alders interview with Genevieve Jacobs, ABC, 17 February.
17. [Vet wins award for chicken vaccine work](#), AAP, 16 February.
18. [Australia responds to the 'global gag rule'](#), Devex, 15 February.
19. [4 takeaways from the Australasian Aid Conference](#), Devex, 16 February.
20. [Gag Rule? Julie Bishop Proves Australia Will Do Its Own Thing On Sexual Health](#), Huffington Post, 15 February.
21. [Nine Highlights from the 2017 Australasian Aid Conference](#), Asia Foundation Blog, 22 February.
22. [Aging, Depression and Disease in South Africa](#), Interpress Service, 20 February.
23. [New Australian aid announcements target famine and extremism](#), Devex, 2 March.
24. [UPNG launches Master of Economics program](#), PNG Loop, 17 March.
25. [New website for PNG election results](#), PNG Loop, 17 March.
26. [Election trends database in Port Moresby maps changing voter attitudes in PNG](#), ABC Pacific Beat, 16 March.
27. [New Master's program will continue UPNG tradition of leadership](#), ONE PNG, 16 March.
28. [PNG's Election History Preserved Online](#), PNG Today, 16 March.
29. [Election database launched](#), The National, 17 March.
30. [PNG currency needs a 20 per cent devaluation says think-tank](#), ABC Pacific Beat, 17 March.

31. [Insight: Importing a Workforce - 10 Years of Seasonal Workers](#), Radio NZ's Insight, 26 March.
32. [PNG per capita budget spending hasn't increased for 30 years](#), ABC Pacific Beat, 27 March.
33. [The conundrum of foreign aid](#), Fairfax papers, 20 March.
34. ['Aid is not charity': minister rebuffs request from Papua New Guinea](#), Fairfax papers, 28 March.
35. [The humanitarian crisis: Australia fiddles while the world burns](#), Independent Australia, 27 March.
36. [Six places where Peter Dutton was wrong on 457 visas](#), SBS News, 22 March.
37. [Lessons from India on migration's role in trade policy](#), Lowy Interpreter, 11 April.
38. [Bickering Over Beef and Biscuits Shows China's Task on Trade Pact](#), Bloomberg, 6 April.
39. [Locals run to help family and sexual violence victims through Femili PNG](#), Canberra Times, 26 March.
40. [Australian government axes 457 work visa: experts react](#), The Conversation, 18 April.
41. [457 abolished: How the Temporary Skill Shortage Visa works](#), News.com.au, 19 April.
42. [Impact of international students on Australian job market finally revealed](#), SBS News, 27 March.
43. [Too many cooks? Peter Dutton's options for cutting 457 visas](#) SBS News, 23 March.
44. [457 visas for tech under attack](#), InnovationAus.com, 5 April.
45. [Most effective anti-corruption messages in PNG focus on local impact: researchers](#), ABC Pacific Beat, 28 April.
46. [The end of an error, or two: Murray McCully and New Zealand aid](#), Incline, 28 April.
47. [Rosie Batty talks domestic violence in PNG](#), AAP, 27 April.
48. [Family, sexual violence a problem: Firm](#), The National, 24 April.
49. [Campaigner to visit PNG](#), The Post Courier, 27 April.
50. [Australian of the year to speak on FSV at UPNG](#), PNG Loop, 27 April.
51. [Rosie Batty talks domestic violence in PNG](#), SBS News, 27 April.
52. [A new class of migrants: the never-to-be-citizens](#), Inside Story, 27 April.
53. [Abolition of the 457-visa scheme is unnecessary: Henry Sherrell](#), ABC News PM, 18 April.
54. ["Australia first" means the door is closed to goat farmers and racing jockeys](#), Quartz, 19 April.
55. [457 visas: All Australia had to do was hold the line](#), Lowy Institute, 19 April.
56. [Migrants On 457 Visas Don't Steal Jobs Or Drive Down Wages](#), Huffington Post, 19 April.
57. [The hidden time bomb in immigration visa changes](#), SMH, 20 April.
58. [Universities fear 457 visa changes will harm ability to attract academic talent](#), The Guardian, 20 April.
59. [Australian government axes 457 work visa: experts react](#), Indian Link, 20 April.
60. [Australia Plans to Raise More Barriers to Citizenship](#), New York Times, 20 April.
61. [Business Council of Australia attacks new visa system as CEOs shafted](#), AFR, 21 April.
62. [457 visas: we are deporting a policy that works](#), The Australian, 21 April.
63. [Refugees will be hardest hit by changes to Australia's citizenship test, experts say](#), The Guardian, 21 April.
64. [Australia now a 'frightening, uncertain' place for Kiwis](#), NZ Herald, 4 May.

65. [Fears Australia could charge NZers to go to school](#), Radio NZ, 4 May.
66. [457 visas and their impact on Australian businesses](#), ABC Nightlife, 3 May.
67. [457 visa restrictions on CEOs violating World Trade Organisation obligations](#), AFR, 3 May.
68. [Labor plans to triple cost of temporary work visas to ensure Australians are hired first](#), The Guardian, 3 May.
69. Amanda Watson, NBC panel discussion, May.
70. [Researchers recommend more reform in PNG aid adviser program](#), ABC Pacific Beat, 1 May.
71. ["It has opened my mind" - anti-violence campaigner Rosie Batty visits PNG](#), ABC Pacific Beat, 9 May.
72. [Budget 2017: Not Everyone Is Going To Get What They Want](#), Huffington Post, 9 May.
73. [Funding for PNG and the Pacific largely shielded in Australia's aid budget cuts](#), ABC Pacific Beat, 10 May.
74. [Julie Bishop says foreign aid will stay in freezer until budget reaches surplus](#), Fairfax, 12 May.
75. [Let climate refugees into Australia, NZ – report](#), NewsHub NZ, 9 May.
76. [Performance of Australian aid: 6 key insights from the 2015-16 report](#), Devex, 12 May.
77. [Budget 2017-18 brings welfare crackdown and increased defence and security funding: experts respond](#), The Conversation, 10 May.
78. [Australian aid cuts may hit Asia-Pacific development](#), SciDevNet, 23 May.
79. [A long time ago, in a reality far away, was a wonderful budget](#), Fairfax, 23 May.
80. [Australia's aid budget in the spotlight](#), Devex, 10 May.
81. [Academic says Australia and New Zealand likely to listen to advice of former Fiji Foreign Affairs boss](#), ABC Pacific Beat, 29 May.
82. [Conference Creates Link between Research and Policy](#), Scoop NZ, 20 June.
83. [Convergence of stakeholders](#), Fiji Times, 20 June.
84. ['Blue Pacific' offers powerful narrative](#), Fiji Times, 21 June.
85. [Growth rate a concern](#), Fiji Times, 21 June.
86. [Labour market](#), Fiji Times, 21 June.
87. [Unemployment youth rate a concern](#), Fiji Times, 21 June.
88. [Regional focus](#), Fiji Times, 19 June.
89. [2017 Pacific Update Conference to be held at USP](#), Pacific Scoop, 14 June.
90. [Solomon Islands rescue mission explained](#), News.com.au, 25 June.
91. [Travellers look for environmentally responsible experiences](#), Scoop News, 26 June.
92. [PNG goes to polls looking to write new chapter](#), AAP/Daily Mail, 23 June.
93. [Papua New Guinea votes with corruption and economic woes key](#), Washington Post, 27 June.
94. [PACER Plus is not much to celebrate](#), East Asia Forum, 2 June., (republished by Vanuatu Daily Post)
95. [Not much to celebrate ahead of PACER Plus signing](#), ABC News Radio, Pacific Beat, 7 June.
96. [Vanuatu says it won't sign PACER Plus next week](#), Radio NZ, Dateline Pacific, 9 June.
97. [Pacific trade deal under scrutiny ahead of signing](#), Newsroom (NZ), 14 June.
98. [Women Bear the Brunt of Violence in Papua New Guinea](#), InDepth News, 29 June.