

Spotlighting international scholarships, the elephant in the Australian aid budget:

Examining the effectiveness of educational exchange for sustainable development and public diplomacy in the Pacific region

Pacific Update 2023, University of the South Pacific, Laucala Campus, Suva, Fiji
13 June 2023

Mr Noa Seru – Chair (Technical Consultant, Climate Change)

Dr Hazel Lang (Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade)

Ms Lorissa Hazelman (Alinea International)

Dr Daniel Edwards (Australian Council for Educational Research – ACER)

Panel convened by **Ms Amanda Haddow** (ACER)



Attachment A: Australia Award Tables

Table 1: AUSTRALIA AWARDS EXPENDITURE BY REGION, 2015-16 to 2022-23								
	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimated Actual
Region	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Pacific	80.1	71.2	69.2	73.2	69.1	61.3	54.2	99.3
Southeast, East Asia and Other Asia	170.1	163.2	155.7	141.6	122.1	83.7	76.5	117.2
South and West Asia	39.3	33.4	38.2	37.7	32.3	23.2	12.6	33.9
Africa and the Middle East	33.0	31.7	35.7	37.8	34.8	17.3	4.9	4.5
Rest of the World	6.4	3.8	1.7	.2	.7	.1	2.5	-
Total Australia Awards expense	328.9	303.3	300.5	290.5	259.0	185.6	150.7	254.9



AAPS Intake Numbers 2015 - 2023										
Table 1- Summary for FNU and USP	Intake Years									
Countries	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
Fiji	22		8	9	18	4	4	16	7	88
New Caledonia	4									4
Kiribati	19		19	15	22	13	13	13	2	116
Micronesia, Federated States of Micronesia	14		15	9	13	17		3	7	78
Nauru	7		8	15	10	11	1	11	2	65
Samoa	20		20	20	10	4	8	9	12	103
Solomon	10		22	8	6	5				51
Tonga	37		21	14	16	16			20	124
Tuvalu	16		12	11	13	13	3	5	5	78
Vanuatu	17		3	4	4	3		6	3	40
Niue					2	4		1	3	10
TOTAL	166	0	128	105	114	90	29	64	61	757



Australia Awards



WLI Steering Committee Phase I (2017–2022)



Ali'imalemanu Alofa Tuuau
(Steering Committee Chair)
Samoan Politician & Former MP
Alataua West

WLI Steering Committee Phase II (2022–2026)



Adimaimalaga Tafuna'I
(Steering Committee Chair)
Executive Director,
Samoa Women in Business
Development Inc.
(WIBDI)



Hon. Kessy Sawang
(Steering Committee Member)
MP Rai Cost, Papua New Guinea





Australia Awards



Examples of WLI Women's Developmental Leadership Program alumni



Vasiti Soko (Fiji)
Director, National Disaster
Management Office Fiji
(NDMO)



Dr Pamela Toliman (Papua New Guinea)
Senior Scientific Officer
PNG Institute of Medical Research



Tagiilima Neemia (Samoa)
Principal PC /Network Officer
Ministry of Finance, Samoa



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Impact lens for exploring long-term outcomes of scholarship alumni

Australia Awards alumni from Pacific & PNG—reporting on contributions from individual to international

(n. 446)

My work and career opportunities have improved
96%



MICRO

Impact of a scholarship/fellowship on an individual alumni and their family.

I use my new knowledge & skills to improve local communities
90%



I use my new knowledge & skills to improve my organisation
95%

MESO

Impact of scholarship(s)/fellowship(s) on an organisation, institution or group of people.

I use my new knowledge & skills to contribute to development in my country
93%



I use my new knowledge & skills to contribute to regional or international development
80%

MACRO

Impact of scholarship(s)/fellowship(s) on a society, country, region or internationally.

Australia Awards Pacific Scholarships alumni contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals

Percent of all AAPS and ARDS alumni who are contributing to each SDG



Beyond individual gains

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



I have been involved in writing of School Annual Improvement Plans, as well as administration and management of schools. This has involved carrying out consultations regarding policy/school curriculum, professional developments etc. I studied all these roles and responsibilities as part of my AAPS.

Alumna, Tuvalu

The skills and knowledge gained from my scholarship really helped me with my roles, especially in organising and conducting in-service training and professional development to Early Childhood Education teachers across Tonga in all sectors to ensure they are offering quality ECE services to our young children.

Alumna, Tonga

Beyond individual gains

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



Upon return from award, I took up a leadership role as I was appointed as the Team Leader for our hospital. Being young and having to lead the hospital nurses was very challenging especially when some of these nurses are older than me. But with the qualities learned from my scholarship, I am able to overcome these challenges and lead these nurses by example.

Alumna, Fiji

I have helped with the extension and empowerment of a dental preventive program where we perform demonstration of tooth brushing in Primary Schools. The fourteen remote Islands have no oral health care worker so we have developed a partnership program with the Ministry of Education to equip teachers with the skills to do this.

Alumnus, Tonga

Beyond individual gains

5 GENDER EQUALITY



I have had an opportunity to utilise the knowledge and skills I gained at the local community level, especially working with women. Specifically, I have led a small group of women in our local urban community to help raised funds for our community activities. It is my desire to lead this women's group and its members to improve their financial management/literacy skills, at the same time to learn other life skills (e.g. sewing, cooking, floral arts etc.) that can help us generate additional source of income.

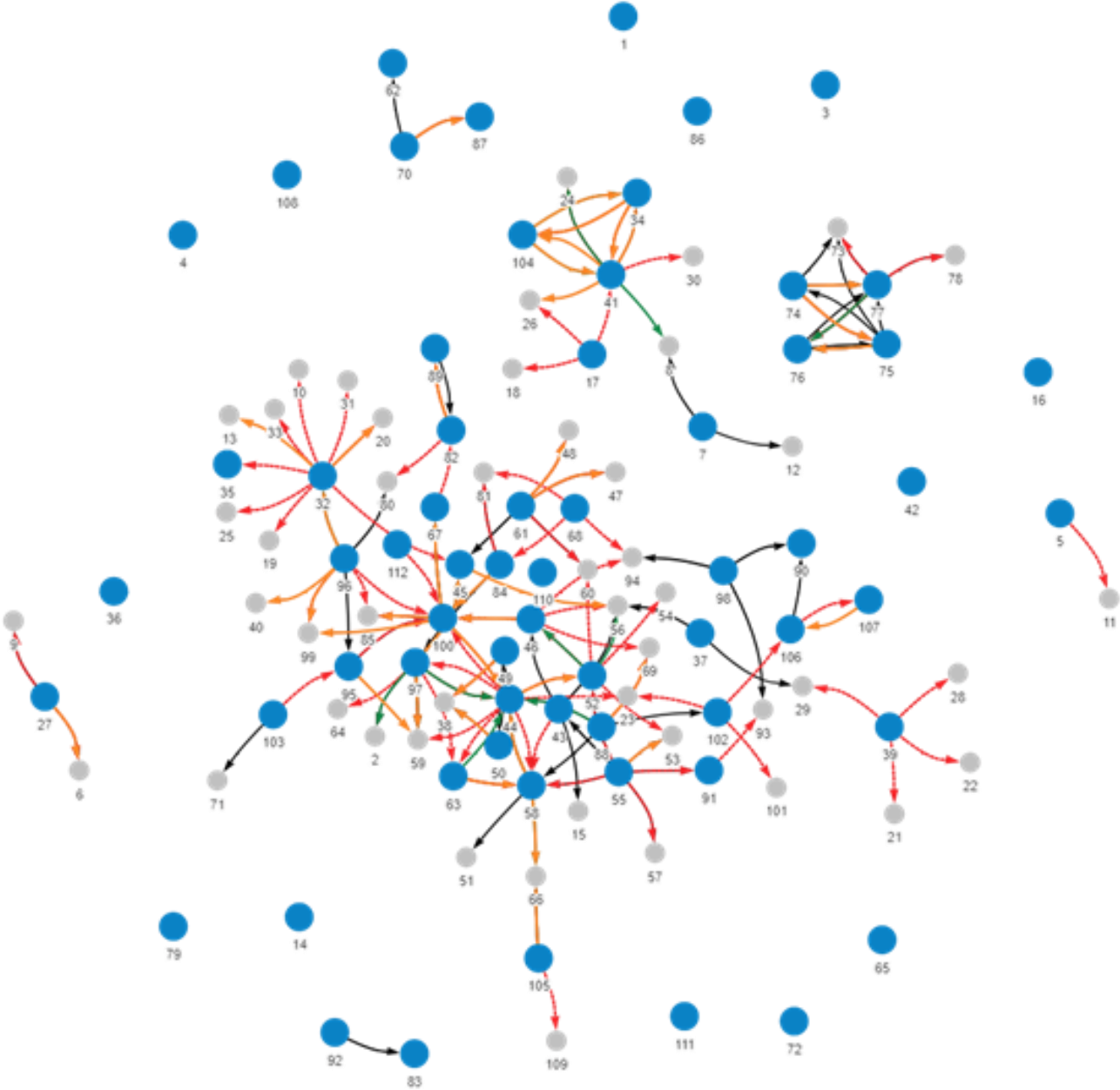
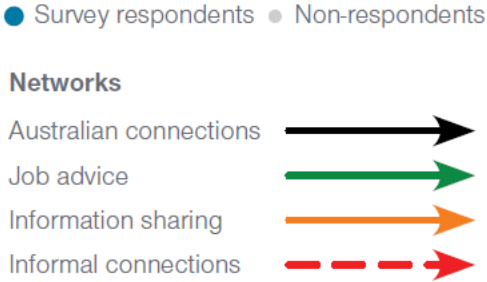
Alumna, Solomon Islands

Among my responsibilities, I participated in developing and delivering two Continuous Professional Development (CPD) programs for all In-Service and Pre-service teachers in Kiribati. The focuses of these 2 CPDs are to provide a deep understanding of how to mainstream Gender in teaching practices as well as to train teachers from primary to secondary schools on how to support people with and without disabilities.

Alumna, Kiribati

Beyond individual gains

Kiribati Alumni Network – sharing and connecting beyond award



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Australia Awards

*Global Tracer Facility
publications*

