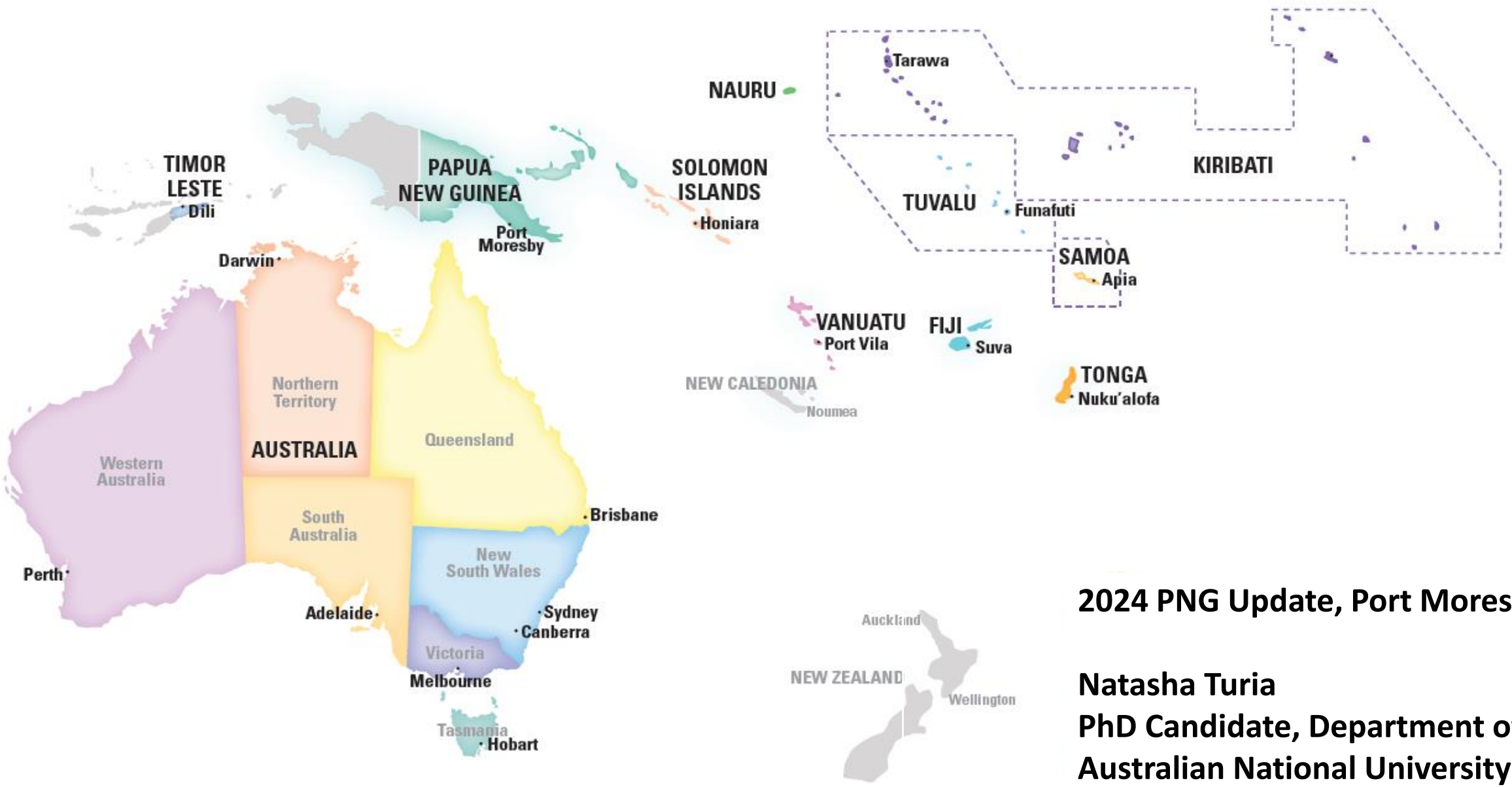
Papua New Guinea in Pacific labour mobility schemes



2024 PNG Update, Port Moresby

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Research participants

	Papua New Guinea	New Zealand	Australia
Governments	GoPNG stakeholder agencies: 4 Members of Parliament: 11 Recruitment hubs: 16	GoNZ: 3	GoA: 6
Employers		RSE: 6	PALM long-term: 7 PALM short-term: 3
People (applied, pending engagement, engaged)	Pending re-engagement: 4 Pending engagement: 2 Applied: 3	Engaged: 26	Engaged: 80
Others (Private sector/ NGO's	NGO: 2	Employer industry: 1	Employer industry: 2
	43	36	98
TOTAL	**177**		

Outline

- **Part A: PNG's labour mobility landscape**
  - PNG's national trajectory
  - PALM*: Regional ranking
  - RSE**: Regional ranking
- **Part B: How well is decentralised recruitment practices working?**
  - How it looks like in PNG.
  - Not equitable
- **Part C: Can PNG reach new 15,000 target?**
  - Evidenced based research needed
- **Tok stori (*discussion*)**

** Pacific Australia Labour Mobility*

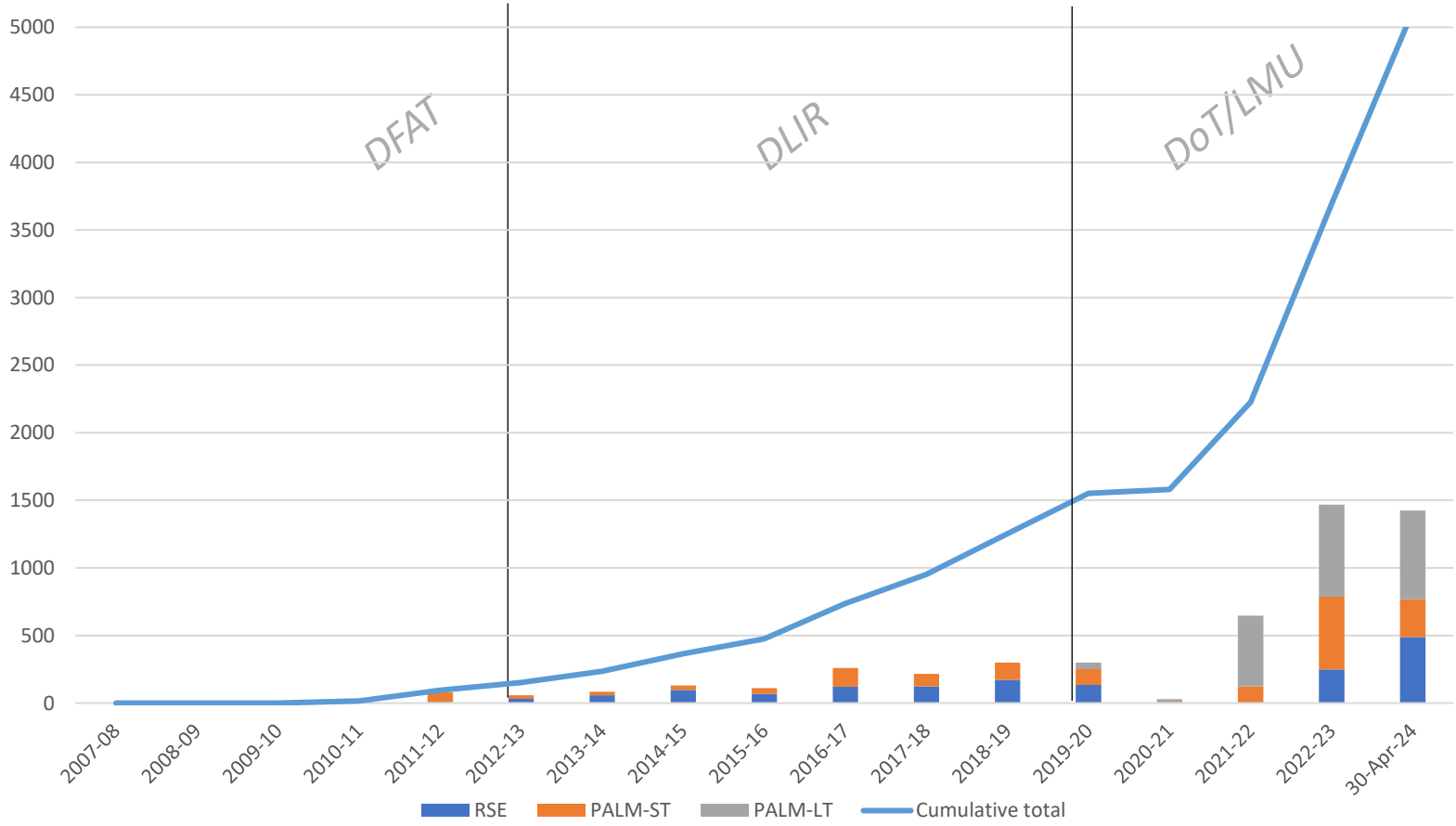
*** Recognised Seasonal Employer*

How equal is decentralised recruitment in unlocking Papua New Guinea's labour mobility aspirations?

Source: https://www.bizzbuzz.news/opinion/only-equitable-distribution-of-economic-benefits-can-ensure-last-mile-development-1206061

A. PNG's labour mobility landscape

PNG growth: PALM-LT, PALM-ST and RSE since 1 July 2007 to 30 April 2024



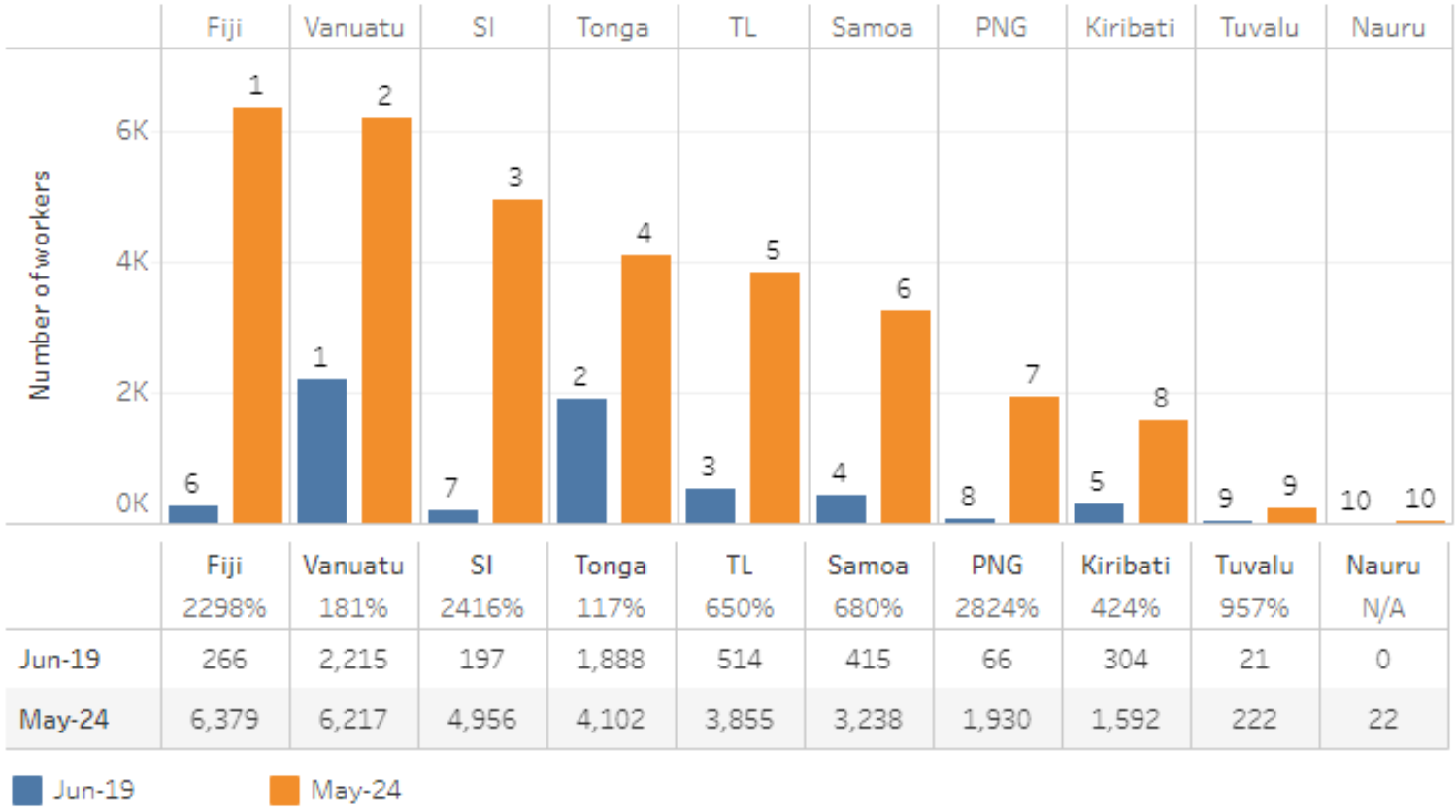
Source: Turia, 2024

National trajectory

- Overall growth total of 5,100 visas
- Two interpretations:
  - 8,000 per year by 2025 = 48,000
  - 8,000 by 2025
- Positive rapid growth
  - over 75 per cent (3,867)
- DEWR total stock numbers at June, 2024
  - 2,800 per cent increase from 66 in June 2019 to 1,935 by end of June.
  - More than 80 per cent are PALM long-term, predominantly abattoir sector.

A. PNG's labour mobility landscape

PALM cohorts from sending countries, 2019 and 2024



	Fiji 2298%	Vanuatu 181%	SI 2416%	Tonga 117%	TL 650%	Samoa 680%	PNG 2824%	Kiribati 424%	Tuvalu 957%	Nauru N/A
Jun-19	266	2,215	197	1,888	514	415	66	304	21	0
May-24	6,379	6,217	4,956	4,102	3,855	3,238	1,930	1,592	222	22

Jun-19 May-24

The data labels are ranks. The growth rates are for between the two dates shown.

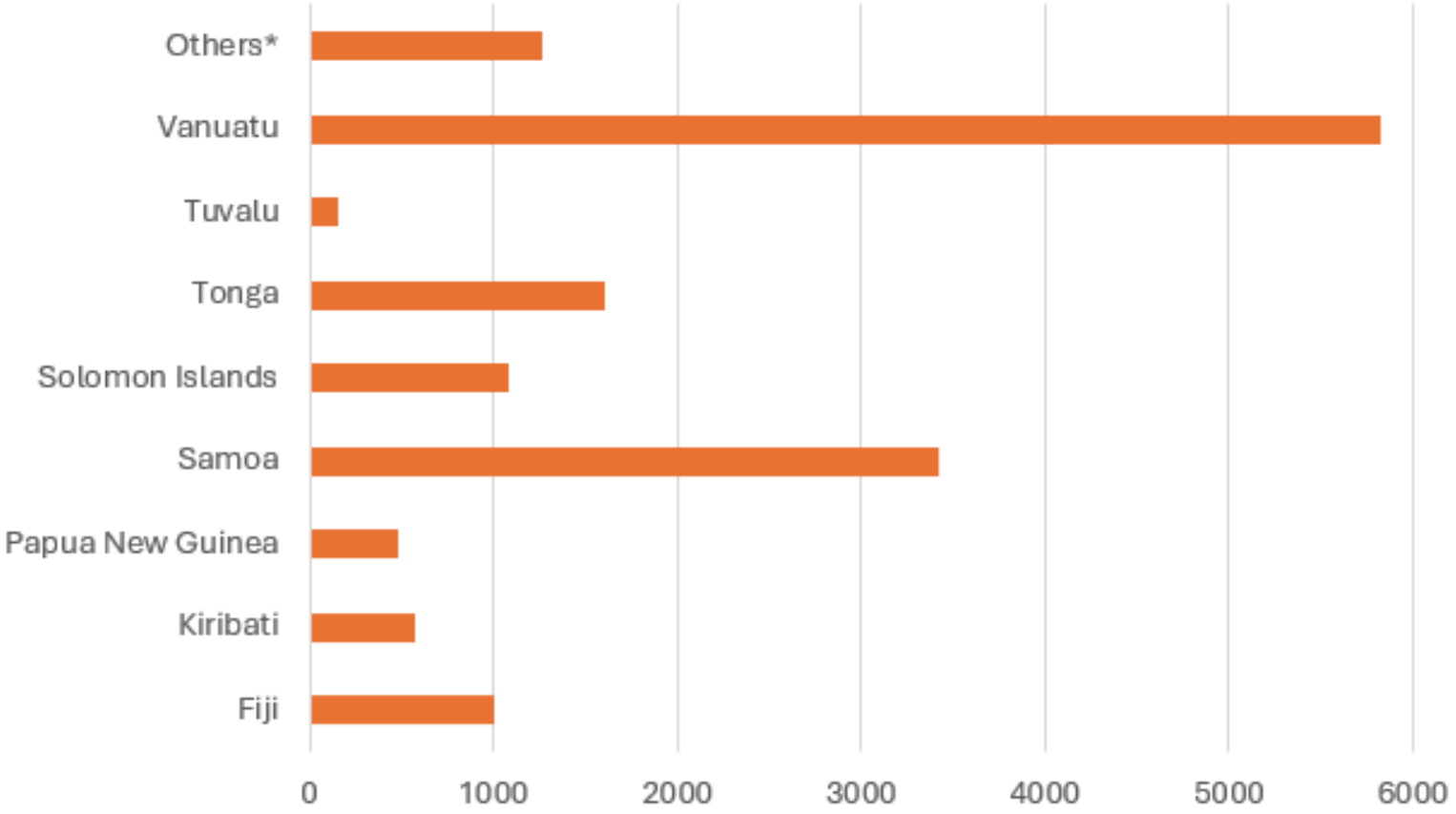
Source: Curtin and Howes, 2024

PALM: Regional ranking

- Fiji (6,695), Vanuatu (6,400) and Solomon Islands (5,805).
  - More than 50 per cent market share (18,900)
  - PNG less than 6 per cent of PALM jobs
  - Of 479 approved employers less than 10 per cent engaged
  - Employers consistently prefer to recruit from other countries.

A. PNG's labour mobility landscape

RSE data 1 July 2023 to 30 April 2024



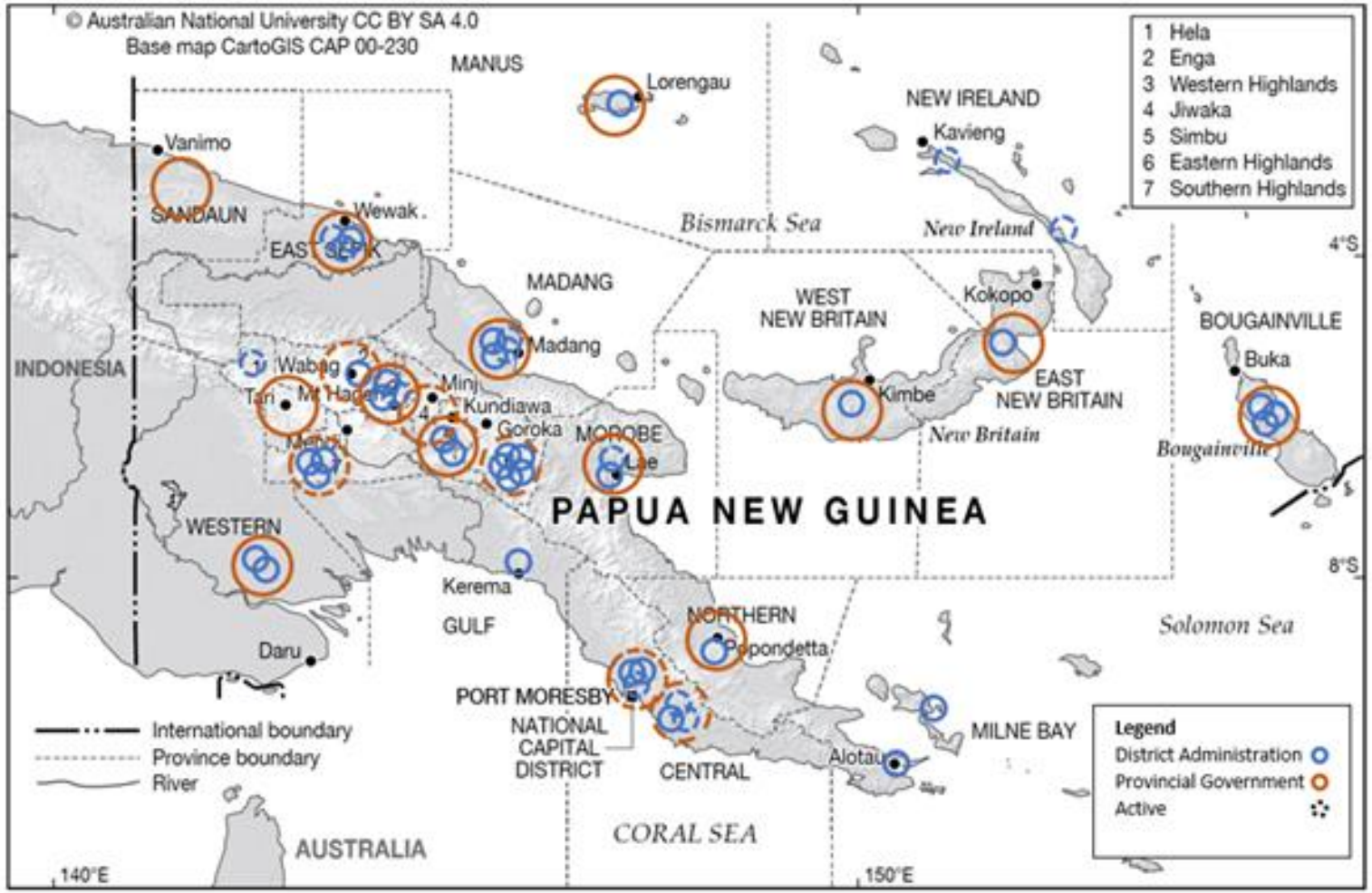
Source: Turia, 2024

RSE: Regional ranking

- Vanuatu (5,819), Samoa (3,415) and Tonga (1,610).
  - More than 70 per cent market share (10,844)
  - PNG less than 3% of market
  - Of 203 employers, less than 10 per cent engaged
  - Employers consistently prefer to recruit from other countries.

B. How well is decentralised recruitment working?

Registered and active recruitment hub clusters in PNG at November, 2023



Source: Turia, 2023

Not equitable

- Restricted access to registered recruitment hubs, yet other pathways used
- Varying levels of political, fiscal and administrative support to hubs
- Lack of information:
  - How to become a hub
  - Who are the hubs and contact details
  - Transparent recruitment processes
- Perceptions of preferential access & accounts of bribery
- To date: no report on total numbers by province/district published

C. Can PNG reach new 15,000 target

Joint Action Plan agreed at the 30th PNG-Australian Ministerial Joint Communiqué Forum, June 2024

Source: https://twitter.com/SenatorWong/status/1803386260804841690

Evidence based research need

WINS AND RISKS

Tok stori

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Source: Bottom L- top R: PALM short-term cohort (PNG LMU FB page), PALM short-term (PALM website), Age care cohort (APTC FB page) & Age care cohort (PALM FB page)

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