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by Development Policy Centre

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Introducing the Mitchell Global Humanitarian Award and Aid Profiles

As announced at our 2016 Mitchell Oration last week, we have launched a new initiative, the Mitchell Global Humanitarian Award.

The Award will recognise Australians and others supported by Australian aid who have made an outstanding contribution to the cause of international development. The Award will be given annually (starting in 2017) to a contribution to the cause of international development which inspires others, which is of lasting and significant value, which has a link to Australia, and which has not yet been adequately recognised.

The successful awardee will be selected from a short list of [Aid Profiles](#). We published our first aid profile this week, on Robyn Alders' fascinating work to control Newcastle disease in Africa, or 'measles for chooks'. [Read it here](#).

Learn more about the award, including our distinguished selection panel, [here](#).

Nominations for the award and Aid Profiles are invited: contact us at devpolicy@anu.edu.au.

And if you were unable to make it to the Mitchell Oration to hear from Mark Dybul, head of the Global Fund, listen to the podcast [here](#) or watch a video [here](#).

Celebrating International Women's Day

March 8 was International Women's Day, and to mark the occasion, we shared two posts on the challenges facing women in our region on the blog. [The first](#) was on community-based approaches to ending gender-based violence in PNG, written by one of our Greg Taylor Scholars from PNG, Logea Nao. The second was [a first-hand account](#) of the challenges of entering politics as a woman in Vanuatu, by Mary Jack Kaviamu. We've also [shared analysis](#) on the number of women in the PNG public service—they are well-represented in central government agencies, but still in low numbers in leadership and at the service delivery level.

The work of our friends at [Femili PNG](#), which Devpolicy supports in a pro-bono capacity, was also featured by *The Guardian* newspaper ahead of IWD2016. Two powerful stories feature Femili PNG's work with local safe houses and other partners and document the challenges faced by survivors of violence.

Read the stories:

- [Women seek islands of refuge in Papua New Guinea's sea of violence](#)
- ['He might track me down and kill me': fleeing domestic violence in PNG](#)

[Femili PNG](#)'s team in Lae does tremendous and difficult work to help survivors of family and violence, overwhelmingly women, to achieve better outcomes. If you'd like to support their efforts, [donate here](#).

Australian aid: heading toward the budget

While the exact date of this year's budget is still unknown, it's getting closer. We've had two posts on the blog looking at [the pressure cooker that is the Australian aid budget](#), particularly if it faces the planned further cuts, and on whether aid campaigners should be getting involved in decisions around other areas of the budget [to carve out more space for aid](#). New polling data also reveals that Australians are [losing their appetites for further aid cuts](#).

2015 Annual Report now available

Our 2015 Annual Report is now available in print and online. It details our achievements from last year, progress on our various projects, and our plans for the year ahead. [Download it here](#).

Costing the Syrian crisis

A new report from World Vision and Frontier Economics tries to quantify the costs of the conflict for both Syria and the region. Join us for a discussion of this report on Tuesday 15 March (5.30pm-6.30pm, Acton Theatre). Panellists include Sahar Yassin of World Vision Jordan, Emma Wanchap of World Vision Australia, Kevin

Boreham from the ANU College of Law, and Devpolicy's Stephen Howes. [Register here.](#)

Sir Julius Chan memoirs launch

On Thursday March 17, we will be launching Sir Julius Chan's memoirs, *Playing the Game*. Sir Julius was Prime Minister of PNG in the 1980s and 1990s. One of PNG's founding fathers, he has had a remarkable career spanning almost 50 years, including as Prime Minister of PNG in both the 1980s and the 1990s. Sir Julius himself will be speaking at the launch. So will the PNG High Commissioner to Australia, Charles Lepani, and former Australian High Commissioner to PNG, Bill Farmer AC. The launch will begin at 5.30 pm and will be in the Canberra Room in the Crawford Building. [Register here.](#)

ODE forum

Our first evaluation forum for 2016 will be on the morning of April 20. We'll be examining the [2014-15 Performance of Australian Aid report](#) and the recent ODE report [on women's leadership and scholarships](#). [Register here.](#)

PNG Update call for papers

Our call for abstracts for the PNG Update, to be held at the University of Papua New Guinea on June 15-17, will close at the end of March. More details on the conference and submission details are [available here](#).

Pacific Update call for papers

On 18-19 July we will once again hold the Pacific Update conference at the University of the South Pacific in Suva together with the USP School of Economics and the Asian Development Bank. The [call for papers has just been issued](#).

Upcoming events

The cost of conflict: five years of the Syria crisis
Tuesday 15 March, 5.30pm, Acton Theatre. [Register here.](#)

Playing the game: the memoirs of Grand Chief Sir Julius Chan
With The Hon. Sir Julius Chan. Thursday 17 March, 5.30pm, Springbank Room. [Register here.](#)

Australian aid evaluations: performance of Australian aid and Australia Awards scholarships
Wednesday 20 April, 9.15am, Barton Theatre. [Register here.](#)

2016 PNG Update

15-17 June, University of Papua New Guinea, Port Moresby. [Details here.](#)

2016 Pacific Update

18-19 July, University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji. [Details here.](#)

Blog highlights

Head of CARE [on Europe's refugee crisis](#) and aid

Pacific [fisheries](#), sustainability and revenue

Vanuatu's [airport quagmire](#)

On the blog

[A big country or not?](#) By Bob McMullan

[Vanuatu's neglected international airport](#) by Jonathan Pryke and Matthew Dornan

[Aid and refugees in Europe: an interview with Wolfgang Jamann](#) by Camilla Burkot and Wolfgang Jamann

[Thinking local on International Women's Day: supporting community-driven action on ending family and sexual violence in PNG](#) by Logea Nao

[The long journey: political acceptance of women](#) by Mary Jack Kaviamu

[Achieving a larger Australian aid program will require broader budget changes](#) by Garth Luke

[State of the service: women's participation in the PNG public sector](#) by Nicole Haley

[Under pressure: calls on Australia's 2016 aid budget](#) by Robin Davies

[Pacific tuna fisheries: an interview with Dr Transform Aqorau](#) by Matthew Dornan and Transform Aqorau

[Policies without borders: a review of Peck and Theodore's 'Fast Policy'](#) by Grant Walton

In brief

[Fortnightly links: Brexit, RCTs, Afghanistan, global finance, effective aid, and more...](#)

DEVPOLICYBLOG

Lazarus with a triple bypass: the 'political parties for democracy' program is back, and in the news

Polling suggests Australians do not want further aid cuts

Robyn Alders: saving chooks, empowering women

Femili PNG's work on FSV featured by The Guardian

Mitchell Global Humanitarian Award

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