



**Australian
Aid** 

Dr. Amanda Watson

**Research Consultant
Economic and Public Sector
Program**

*This initiative has been funded by the Australian Government,
through a research grant from the Economic and Public Sector Program*



**Australian
Aid** 

Facilitating economic development through the use of mobile phones

Dr. Amanda Watson

Three research trials



Childbirth Emergency Phone



Rural
health worker



Labour ward
staff member

This initiative has been funded by the Australian Government, through a research grant from the Economic and Public Sector Program



Childbirth Emergency Phone



Photo: Sr Daina Parascos at Garuahi Health Centre making a call

This initiative has been funded by the Australian Government, through a research grant from the Economic and Public Sector Program



Childbirth Emergency Phone



Photos: women at health facilities in Milne Bay Province

This initiative has been funded by the Australian Government, through a research grant from the Economic and Public Sector Program



Childbirth Emergency Phone



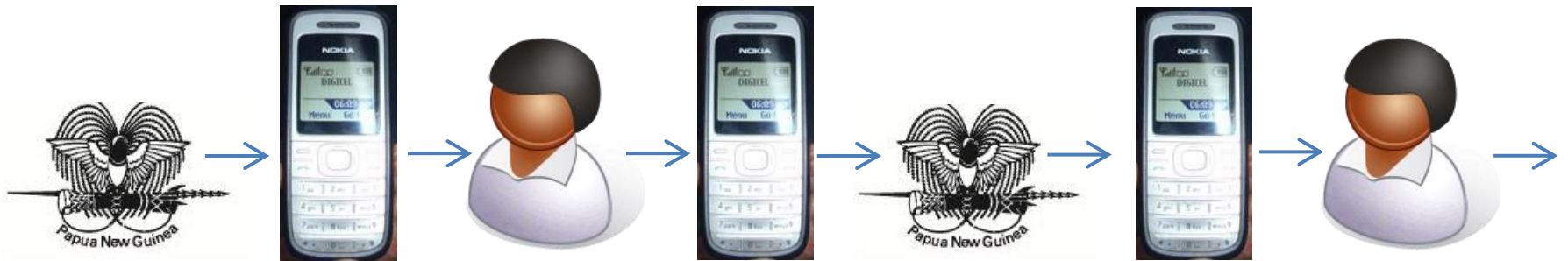
Photo: The emergency phone in the labour ward in Alotau

This initiative has been funded by the Australian Government, through a research grant from the Economic and Public Sector Program

Mobile phones as data collection tools

Challenge of collecting data
from remote places

Mobile phones as data collection tools

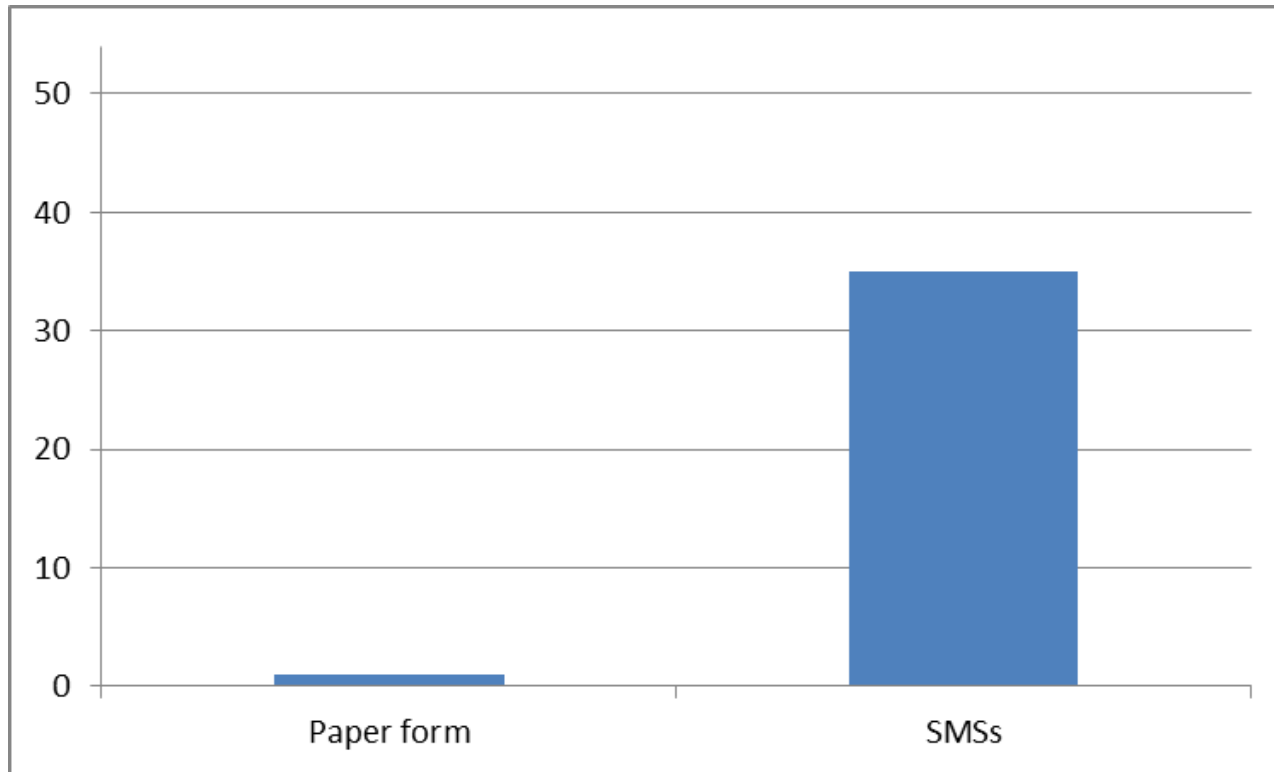


This initiative has been funded by the Australian Government, through a research grant from the Economic and Public Sector Program

Mobile phones as data collection tools

Have any imprisonment orders been
lodged with the District Court this week?
Please text Y for yes or N for no.

Mobile phones as data collection tools



This initiative has been funded by the Australian Government, through a research grant from the Economic and Public Sector Program

SMS Story



This initiative has been funded by the Australian Government, through a research grant from the Economic and Public Sector Program

SMS Story

Example SMS: story

Ben is a big man. He has a big dog.
The dog is dirty Don. Don likes bananas.
Ben picks bananas for Don the dirty dog.
But bananas make Don sick. Oh Don!

SMS Story

Example SMS: lesson plan

Teach new sound: 'b' (Ben, big). New words: big, man, bananas, sick, but.

Practise blending words on board with class using fingers to count sounds in the words.

SMS Story

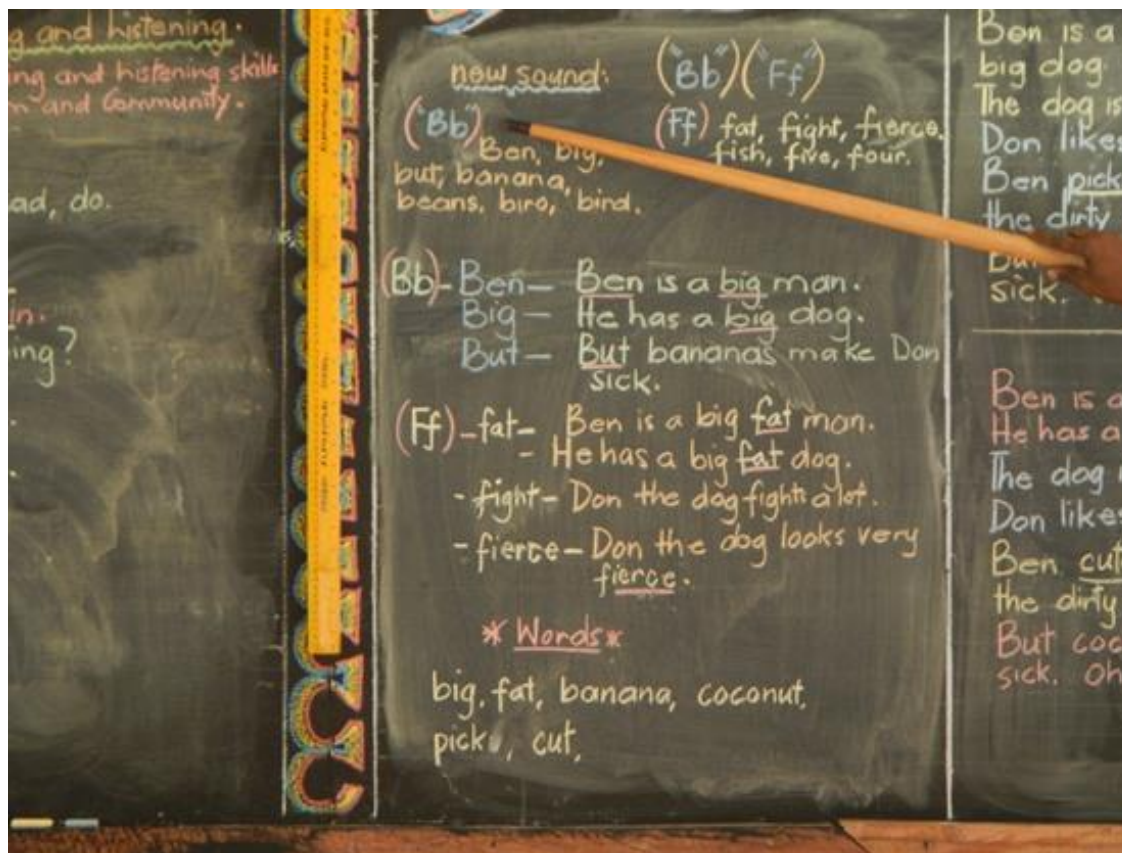


Photo: Teacher pointing to new sound on chalkboard

SMS Story

Active

Control

SMS Story

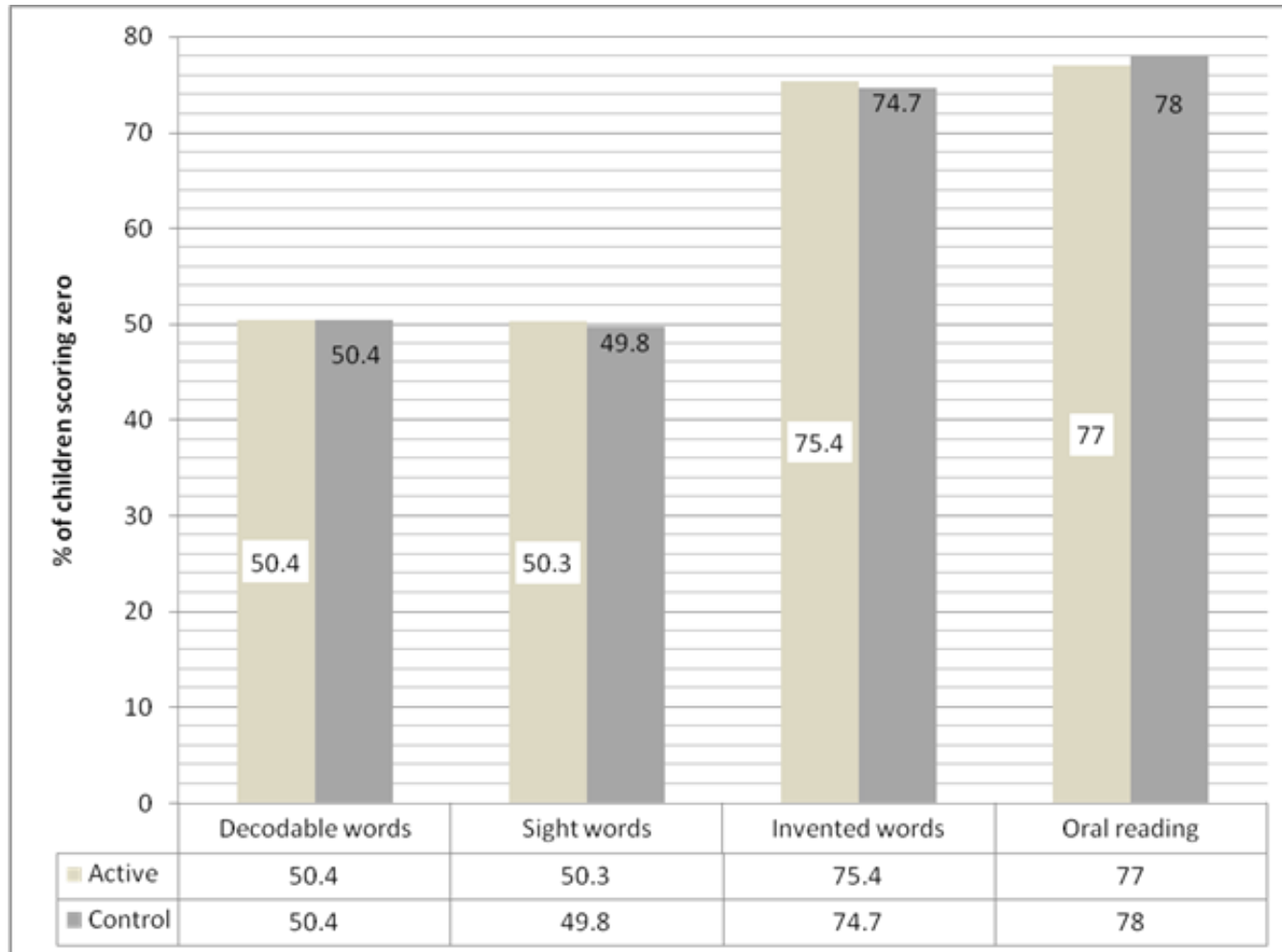


Figure: Percentage of Zero Scores in Term 1
 - by Treatment Group and Sub-test

This initiative has been funded by the Australian Government, through a research grant from the Economic and Public Sector Program

SMS Story

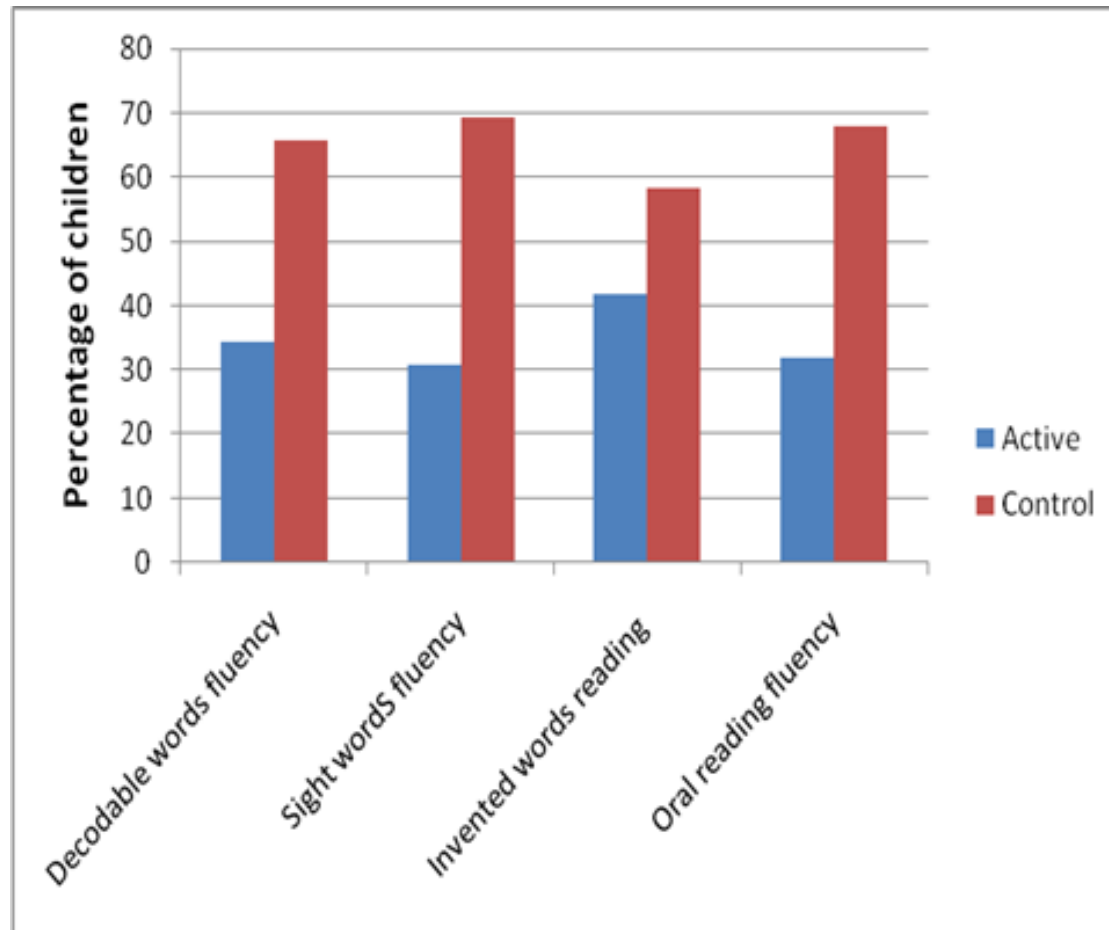


Figure: Percentage of Zero Scores in Term 4 - by Treatment Group and Sub-test

Lessons learnt from three projects



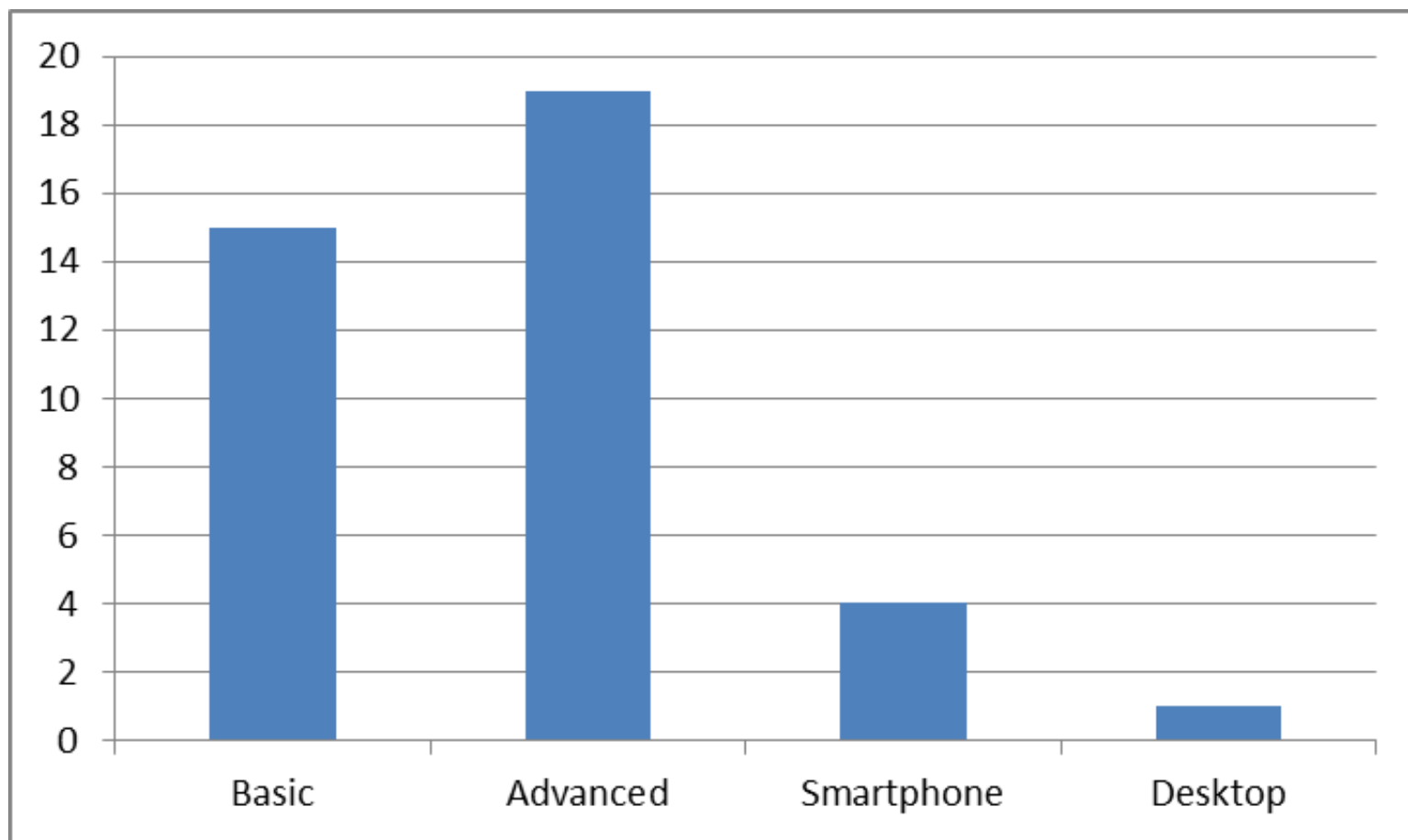


Lessons learnt from three projects

1. People do own or have access to mobile phones.



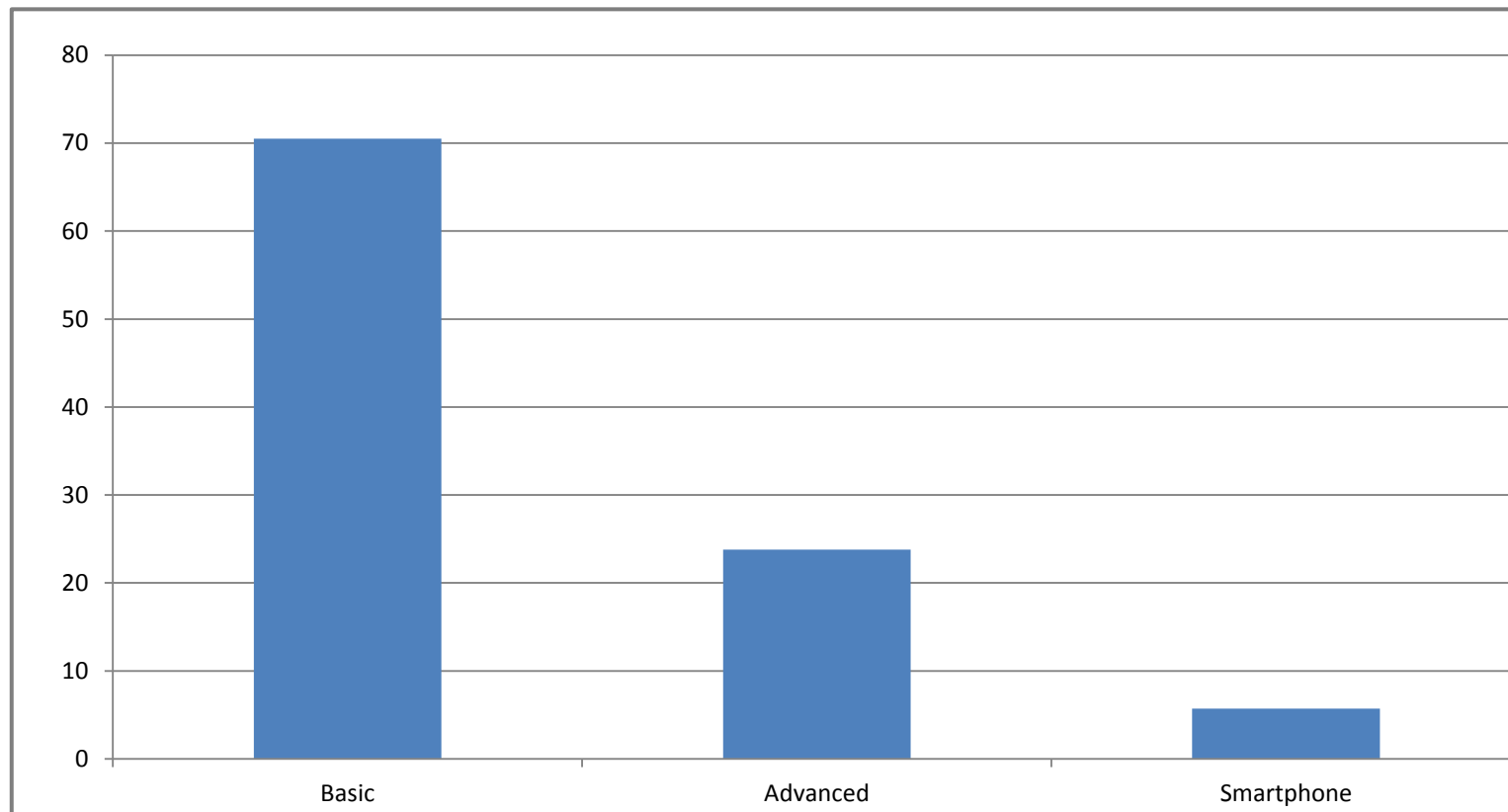
Handsets



Graph: number of users of mobile phone handsets (clerks at District Courts)

This initiative has been funded by the Australian Government, through a research grant from the Economic and Public Sector Program

Handsets



Graph: percentage of users of mobile phone handsets (teachers at rural elementary schools)



Lessons learnt from three projects

2. Voice calls and text messaging (SMS) work well in the PNG context.



Lessons learnt from three projects



Photo: a PNG villager's mobile phone



Lessons learnt from three projects

3. Recharging of mobile phone handset batteries remains a challenge.



Lessons learnt from three projects



Photo: Sr Rose Elliot at Omarakana Health Centre charging her mobile phone

This initiative has been funded by the Australian Government, through a research grant from the Economic and Public Sector Program



Lessons learnt from three projects

3. Recharging of mobile phone handset batteries remains a challenge.



Lessons learnt from three projects

4. Phone numbers change.



Lessons learnt from three projects

....



**Australian
Aid** 

Facilitating economic development through the use of mobile phones

Dr. Amanda Watson
www.ahawatson.com