Australian National University

2020 Australasian Aid Conference

2020 ANNUAL LETTER

DEVELOPMENT POLICY CENTRE

2020 was our tenth anniversary, and what a year.

Of course, the COVID-19 pandemic changed everything, for us, for the region, and for the world.

Fortunately, we were able to get in our 2020 Australasian Aid Conference in February before the lockdowns commenced. It was our most successful yet. We put the conference on hold for 2021 and in the meantime, like everyone else, we have turned to podcasts and webinars.

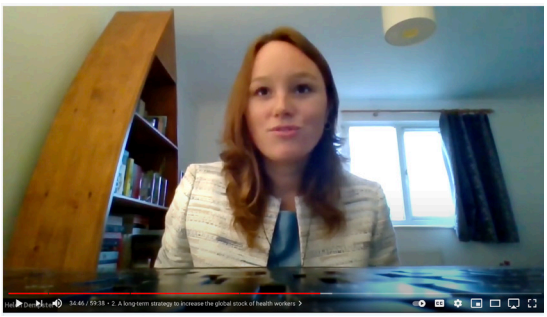
Just a month later, in March, most of our ANU team lecturing at The University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG) had to return to Canberra. Since then, they have been teaching remotely. I want to pay special tribute to our colleague, Dek Sum, who decided to stay on in Port Moresby and has been anchoring the project from there.

An independent **evaluation** of our ANU-UPNG partnership confirmed the good work we were doing, and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) has agreed to support a 3 to 5 year extension of the project.

We have completed a collected volume on contemporary issues in Papua New Guinea with our UPNG colleagues, and we look forward to the book's publication in early 2022.

Our other big research area is Pacific labour mobility. These temporary migration programs ground to a halt with the pandemic and border closures, but a restart was announced in August, with the added complexity of quarantine requirements and state-federal approvals, not to mention the ongoing debate over whether rival agricultural visa categories will be introduced. Our trans-Tasman team covers issues in Australia and New Zealand. Richard Curtain and I produced our **report** on the governance of Australia's Seasonal Worker Programme, while Charlotte Bedford co-authored a major impact **study** on New Zealand's Recognised Seasonal Employer scheme.

After years of cuts, the Australian government increased the aid program in response to COVID-19. We were also glad when



The new world of webinars. Top: Helen Dempster, CGD

DFAT said it would adopt our methodology for measuring the transparency of its aid program in determining its own aid transparency efforts. Aid has never been more important – especially aid for vaccines – and we are grateful to the Gates Foundation for its ongoing support towards our research in this area.

All of the Pacific economies have been hard hit by COVID-19. We established a COVID-19 Pacific Economic Response **database**, and kept it up to date, blogging our latest results as we went.

The Devpolicy Blog proved its worth amidst last year's crisis. The number of blogs went up to 365, a 36% increase on the previous year. Often we ran two blogs a day. Our readership went through the roof as well. Thanks to our Regional Communications Adviser, Sadhana Sen, based in Suva, an ever increasing number of our blogs are published via regional media outlets.

I want to finish by thanking everyone who supports us, whether financially, or by speaking, reading, writing, or participating. It's a collective effort.

Here is our financial statement for 2020. For more information, visit **devpolicy.anu.edu.au**.

Stay safe, and get vaccinated.

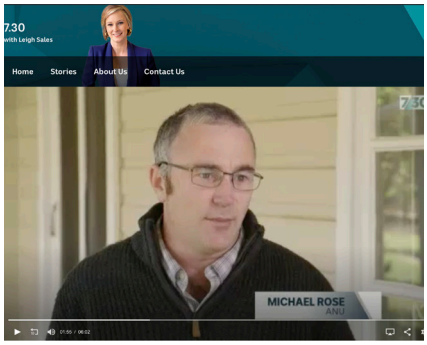
Sincerely,

Professor Stephen Howes
Director, Development Policy Centre

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Income	
DFAT	$3,481,093
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	$177,434
Other income	$327,234
ANU cash contributions	$150,000
Donations	$24,075
Total	*$4,159,836*
Expenditure	
Salaries	$2,864,564
Travel	$149,614
Scholarships and summer school	$306,025
ANU overheads	$371,349
Conference and other expenses	$406,799
Total	*$4,098,351*
Income minus expenses	**$61,485**

This statement summarises our funding and expenditure for the 2020 calendar year. Note that the figures do not include substantial in-kind support received from ANU. We also acknowledge the funding and support from our event partners.



(From top) In-person seminar at Crawford School, UPNG students meet PNG High Commissioner, Devpolicy Research Fellow Michael Rose on ABC TV, UPNG Summer Scholars visiting Sydney.