



Australian
National
University



2025 ANNUAL LETTER DEVELOPMENT POLICY CENTRE

2025 was another busy and productive year for the Development Policy Centre, our 15th.

We successfully co-organised three international conferences: the Pacific Update in June, the PNG Update in August, and the Australasian AID Conference in December.

Of these, perhaps the PNG Update was the most significant as it coincided with the country's 50th anniversary of independence. We were delighted to have speak at the Update, co-organised with and hosted at the University of Papua New Guinea, not only Prime Minister James Marape, but such founding figures and stalwarts as Carol Kidu, John Momis and Bart Philemon to reflect on the last half-century.

At the PNG Update, PNG Treasurer Ian Ling-Stuckey launched our new economic history of PNG, *Struggle, Reform, Boom and Bust*, which is available free to download from the ANU Press website. Jointly written by a team of ANU and UPNG economists, the book had its Australian launch in November 2025 by famous Australian economist Professor Ross Garnaut.

2025 also marked an important milestone for our partnership with UPNG since it was ten years ago that we started receiving funding for that partnership from the Australian aid program. We are proud of what we have been able to achieve over the last decade by working with the UPNG's School of Business and Public Policy. You can find the booklet produced by our former centre manager and communications whiz Ashlee Betteridge, *Celebrating a decade of partnership, ANU-UPNG 2015-25*, on our website. Many thanks to the Australian government for its support for the booklet, and more importantly the partnership.

We commenced our fourth round of funding from the Gates Foundation in support of our research on Australian aid. The Gates Foundation is our longest-serving donor, and has been supporting us financially since 2014, for which we are extremely grateful. Long-term support like that enables us to take on decadal-and-longer research projects. We have conducted transparency audits of the



Photos from top left: Pacific Island Forum chair Baron Waqa, corruption panel and Bel isi Acting Executive Director Tovi Amona at the 2025 Pacific Update, University of South Pacific, Suva. Bottom left: PNG Prime Minister James Marape and UPNG Vice Chancellor Ian Findlay, PNG Treasurer Ian Ling-Stuckey, Dame Carol Kidu and Dr John Momis at the 2025 PNG Update, University of PNG, Port Moresby.

Australian aid program every three years for more than a decade: in 2013, 2016, 2019, 2022 and again in 2025. These audits have contributed to improved aid transparency at DFAT. We were delighted that in 2025, the Minister for International Development, Anne Aly, responded to our transparency audit the day after it was released, welcoming its release and calling it a “vital accountability mechanism.”

Our website and blog are core to our mission, and both were rejuvenated in 2025. Many thanks to Managing Editor Robin Davies and our Communications Coordinator Amita Monterola for their hard work on these two big projects.

In terms of staff movement, we said goodbye to Alyssa Leng. Alyssa worked with us for four years on the UPNG partnership, completing her Masters in International and Development Economics along the way (and topping her class). Alyssa is joining the World Bank this year and we wish her all the best and thank her for all she did for us. Finn Clarke, an ANU graduate, stepped into the role Alyssa played, on a part-time basis in 2025 and full-time starting in 2026. And Deputy Director Dr Ryan Edwards was promoted at the end of 2025 into the position of Associate Professor. Congratulations Ryan!



Stephen Howes

Professor Stephen Howes
Director
Development Policy Centre



Photos from top to bottom right: Prof Ross Garnaut; Eric Olander and Professor Jane Golley at the 2025 Mitchell Oration; Dr Helen Durham at the 2025 Australasian AID Conference dinner; and the Development Policy Centre Christmas Party, 2025.

Income		
DFAT	3,704,359.75	<i>This statement summarises our funding and expenditure for the 2025 calendar year. Note that the figures do not include substantial in-kind salary and operating support received from ANU. We also still benefit from earlier grants provided by the Harold Mitchell Foundation. We also acknowledge the funding and support from our event partners. Any surplus of income over expenses will be spent in the next year, or go to retained earnings for future expenditure. Expenditures are formally accounted for and audited as part of individual projects and/or as part of ANU finances.</i>
Gates	351,118.29	
Partnerships and conferences	316,573.44	
Donations	11,719.96	
Other income	209,698.50	
Total	4,593,469.94	
Expenditure		
Salaries	2,600,209.17	
Travel	357,749.10	
Scholarships	188,534.58	
Other expenses	288,862.01	
Total	3,435,354.86	
Income minus expenses	1,158,115.08	