

Devpolicy news: Debating RAMSI | Service delivery at risk in PNG | Annual report

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Debating RAMSI

Last year, we ran a [number of blog posts](#) to mark the tenth anniversary of RAMSI. The series ran to 13 articles, making a collection that deserved to be put together – which we have, [in this volume](#) [pdf]. Stephen Howes and Terence Wood summarise the wide range of views on the progress or regress of Solomon Islands, and the success or failure of RAMSI in this [blog post](#).

Service delivery at risk in PNG

Our Promoting Effective Public Expenditure (PEPE) project recently held its fourth budget forum at the National Research Institute in Port Moresby, with more than 120 participants in attendance. Our [analysis](#) [pdf] of the 2014 PNG Budget argued that further massive increases in the development budget and slow revenue growth threaten the ability of the government to fund core frontline service delivery functions. Dr Ken Ngangan, PNG's new Finance Secretary, [presented](#) [pdf] on reforms underway to improve accountability and transparency of expenditure. Paul Baker, Director of PNG's Institute of National Affairs, [hit the headlines](#) with his call for government spending to be better prioritised.

Further analysis of PEPE survey results were presented on PNG's [free education](#) [pdf] and [health policies](#) [pdf]. While the tuition fee-free policy has increased school enrolments, average class sizes are increasingly exceeding government limits, which will require more teachers and classrooms. Health survey data indicates health facilities are mostly starved of funding and user fees are their most reliable source of revenue to deliver basic services. Dr Scott Dooley, Administrator of the Nazarene Hospital, Jiwaka Province, [presented](#) [pdf] on how the free primary health care policy will create significant funding shortfalls for his hospital.

2013 Annual Report

The digital version of our 2013 Annual Report is [now available](#) [PDF]. Please take a look. For a hard copy of

the report, contact [Macarena Rojas](#).

Seeking Research Fellows

We are currently recruiting for one or more Research Fellows to join the Development Policy Centre. We are looking for outstanding early or mid-career researchers with a strong commitment to high-quality, policy-based research; a PhD in economics, public policy or a related field; and expertise in one or more of the three fields in which the Centre specialises (Australian aid effectiveness, development in PNG and the Pacific, global development policy).

We are particularly interested in anyone who might have an interest working on *and in* PNG.

More details on selection criteria and the application process are available at [ANU Jobs](#). If you have questions, contact us at devpolicy@anu.edu.au.

Aid policy: insights for policymakers and practitioners

Devpolicy Director Stephen Howes will be teaching a one-day Executive Course at the Crawford School on May 16 introducing aid policy and literature and the major debates. Watch a short video of Stephen explaining the course [here](#), read about it [here](#) or get registration details [here](#). It's an excellent opportunity for those working on aid in the newly integrated DFAT, or in other government departments, to gain an understanding of the issues in aid policy.

Upcoming events

2014 Aid Budget Breakfast

The Federal Budget will be handed down on May 13, and we will once again be holding an event the very next morning to break down what it means for aid. [Register here](#).

The Age of Choice

Annalisa Prizzon from ODI will present case studies illustrating how developing countries are managing the new aid landscape in an event on May 22. [Register here](#).

2014 PNG and Pacific Update

The PNG Update will be at the University of PNG in Port Moresby on June 12-13 and the Pacific Update will here at ANU on June 16-17. More details on both [here](#).

Blog highlights

New ANU research shows foreign aid [improves recipient public opinion](#) of the US.

Is a public-private hospital partnership [bankrupting Lesotho's Ministry of Health](#)?

Robin Davies on [why DAC ODA did increase](#) last year after all.

Blog summary

You can find a list of all posts since our last newsletter on April 17 in the list below.

[Behind the ODA curtain: why did global aid rise in 2013?](#) By Robin Davies

[The high cost of cheap water supply and sewerage services in Kiribati](#) by Allison Woodruff

[Debating RAMSI](#) by Stephen Howes and Terence Wood

[Beating the trolls of competition and control – can we do it?](#) By Cath Blunt

[Doing well by doing good: foreign aid improves opinions of the US](#) by Benjamin E. Goldsmith, Yusaku Horiuchi and Terence Wood

[The need for leadership and ambition in Australian development policy](#) by Bob McMullan

In brief

[Commission of Audit recommends flat aid and independent ODE](#)

[Digicel and Bemobile at Vision City](#)

[The ADRI-Sustineo Pacific Index – measuring commitment to development in the Pacific](#)

[IMF joins economic monitoring party in the Pacific](#)

[Want your own immigration queue? Host Australian asylum seekers](#)

[Australia's aid ranking takes a tumble](#)

[USAID launches Global Development Lab](#)