

## Newsletter: A life in PNG politics | NZ stakeholder survey launch | PNG & Pacific Updates call for papers | Syria + humanitarian funding

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### Sir Julius Chan: a life in PNG politics

Last week, we hosted the launch of the memoirs of former Papua New Guinea PM and current MP Sir Julius Chan, the first political memoir for PNG for 40 years. The book, *Playing the Game*, has sparked a wide range of reactions. Read Sir Julius Chan's speech [here](#), and responses and reviews by [Ross Garnaut](#), [Bill Farmer](#), and [Bill Standish](#).

### Launch of the New Zealand Aid Stakeholder Survey

On Thursday 31 March (5.30pm), we will be launching the findings of the 2015 New Zealand Aid Stakeholder Survey in Wellington. Like the Australian survey, NZ stakeholders were asked about aid quality, specific aspects of aid programme performance, and the political leadership of aid programs. Devpolicy's Terence Wood will be joined by Dr Wren Green, Director of NZ's Council for International Development. The launch will be held at Victoria University – [details here](#). Look out for the full report on our website and blog next week.

### PNG & Pacific Update calls 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 next week. More details on the conference and submission details are [available here](#). Looking beyond PNG, on 18-19 July we will 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 will close on April 30](#). For both conferences, we welcome abstracts from established and early-career academics, students, practitioners, and policymakers, on a wide range of topics, so don't be shy – it's a great chance to share your research.

### Syria and global humanitarian funding

Last week marked five years since the beginning of the Syrian conflict. Jo Spratt [writes](#) on the blog that Australia and New Zealand are still not pulling their weight when it comes to contributing funds to support the humanitarian crisis stemming from the conflict. Get an insider's view of the challenges facing Syrian women and families through [this interview with Dr Lama Mouakea](#), Executive Director of the Syrian Family Planning Association.

With Syrian appeals coming up short year after year, and even more resources needed, this conflict and others shine a light on the current failings of the international humanitarian financing system. In a [new policy brief](#) [pdf], Robin Davies argues that a global humanitarian fund, sharing some characteristics with the several vertical funds that now support action on infectious disease control, climate change and other things, could help bridge the \$10 billion humanitarian financing gap. He also discussed current issues in humanitarian financing recently in two blog posts ([here](#) and [here](#)).

### Upcoming events

*Australian aid evaluations: performance of Australian aid and Australia Awards scholarships*

Wednesday 20 April, 9.15am, Barton Theatre. [Register here](#).

#### *2016 aid budget breakfast*

Wednesday 4 May. Save the date! Registrations will open soon.

#### *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**

Backpacker taxes [could help Pacific workers](#)

[Explaining](#) NZ's seasonal worker success

Staggeringly high costs for clean water [in PNG](#)

### **On the blog**

[Reflections on Australia and PNG: Sir Julius Chan's remarks at the launch of 'Playing the Game'](#)

[Bill Farmer on Julius Chan](#)

[NZ's seasonal worker success: lessons for Australia](#) by Richard Curtain

[Pacific countries still struggling to provide access to safe water](#) by Luke Lovell and Tom Muller

[Sir Julius Chan reviews a life in PNG politics](#) by Bill Standish

[Return to Abuser: limited options for survivors of violence in PNG](#) by Ashlee Betteridge and Abdul Wasey

[Backpacker tax under review: implications for the Seasonal Worker Program](#) by Richard Curtain and Stephen Howes

[Serving Syrian families: an interview with Lama Mouakea](#) by Camilla Burkot and Lama Mouakea

[Antipodean apathy on Syria continues](#) by Jo Spratt

[Will gender equality promises be kept? Accountability and the 2030 agenda](#) by Somali Cerise

### **In brief**

[Congratulations Ball!](#)

[Ross Garnaut on Sir Julius Chan](#)

[PNG Business Coalition for Women seeks addressing violence project manager](#)

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