

Newsletter: Budget 2016 analysis | PNG Update program out | PNG events in Canberra | Pacific mobility workshop

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Budget: fourth aid cut in a row

Another year, another cut to the aid budget. Stephen Howes [writes](#) that this year's budget gave aid its fourth real cut in a row, with a reduction of 7.5% after inflation. The reduction over four years is 30%. As a result, Australia's generosity index (aid/GNI) will hit a record low of 0.23% in 2016-17. There have also been big [changes](#) in sectoral allocations in recent years, with large cuts to health and education funding.

Matthew Dornan [examines country allocations](#), noting that they bear no relation to the performance of aid in those countries, with funding instead distributed in a way that is reminiscent of the period before the aid scale-up. Tony Swan [gives us the macro picture](#), highlighting the lack of budget repair, and the implications for aid. Paul Flanagan writes that we are down to giving [only two-thirds of a cup of coffee a week](#) in our support for the world's poor. And Robin Davies [points to the shift](#) away from country programming.

Our analysis has also popped up in a few other places – listen to Stephen Howes [chat to Fran Kelly](#) or [Pacific Beat](#), or read Robin Davies [on our sinking rankings on The Conversation](#).

Again we had strong interest in our annual aid budget breakfast event with around 130 people joining us here in Canberra, and a further 200 on the livestream. You can catch up on the event [here](#).

And our [Australian Aid Tracker](#) is all up to date with the new numbers from this year's budget – [check it out and share](#).

PNG Update program now available

The draft program for the PNG Update is now [available here](#). The Update will be on 16-17 June, and will feature more than 50 presentations over some 18 panel and keynote sessions. With topics from the macroeconomy to urban spaces, gender equality to the drought, and public-private partnerships to development strategies, don't miss out on PNG's premier forum for contemporary economic and policy analysis.

Event: New approaches to tackling gender-based violence in Papua New Guinea

While much is said about the levels of violence in PNG, less is heard about important work being done to

address this pervasive issue. At an event on Thursday 19 May (12.30pm, Barton Theatre), a panel of exceptional Papua New Guinean leaders from government, civil society and the private sector will discuss new approaches. The event, co-hosted with the Lowy Institute, will include Anna Solomon, Secretary of the Department of Community Development; Denga Ilave, Operations Manager for [Femili PNG](#); and Kymberly Kepore, CEO of Oil Search Foundation. [Register here](#) for what promises to be a fascinating discussion.

Speakers from Unitech in Canberra on PNG tax and tertiary reforms

On Wednesday 18 May we feature two eminent Papua New Guinean speakers. First, from 3-4pm the head of the recent Independent Tax Review of PNG, Sir Nagora Bogan (also the Chancellor of Unitech) will [speak](#) on tax reform and the challenge of economic diversification in PNG. Then, after a tea break, from 4.15pm to 5.15pm the Unitech Vice-Chancellor Dr Albert Schram will [speak](#) on Unitech's experience and tertiary reform in PNG. You need to register for both events separately: [here](#) and [here](#).

Pacific labour mobility research workshop

A workshop on Thursday 2 June will present a range of new policy-relevant research on Pacific labour mobility for review and discussion. Research will cover topics such as skill profiles and employment outcomes of Pacific migrants to Australia and NZ, opportunities in aged or disability care, a comparison of seasonal worker programs, the experience of Timor-Leste in sending unskilled labour to South Korea, Kiribati and Tuvalu migration scenarios and the need for national skill strategies in the Pacific. [The draft program is available here](#). Places are limited. If you are interested in attending, please send an expression of interest to Richard Curtain on richard.curtain@anu.edu.au by 20 May.

Upcoming events

Economic diversification and tax reform in Papua New Guinea
Wednesday 18 May, 3pm, Brindabella Theatre. [Register here](#).

University reform in Papua New Guinea: the Unitech experience
Wednesday 18 May, 4.15pm, Brindabella Theatre. [Register here](#).

New approaches to tackling gender-based violence in Papua New Guinea
Thursday 19 May, 12pm, Barton Theatre. [Register here](#).

2016 PNG Update
16-17 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

PNG's family and sexual violence units ['ghettoised' within police](#)

On PNG's court ruling [against Manus detention centre](#)

Vanuatu runway [update](#)

[Diabetes](#): a global and Pacific problem

On the blog

[Jackson's last gasp: bilateral aid in Australia's 2016 budget](#) by Robin Davies

[The budget repair that wasn't: implications for the aid budget](#) by Anthony Swan

[Scaled down. The last of the aid cuts?](#) By Stephen Howes

[Continuity with change: country allocations in the 2016-17 budget](#) by Matthew Dornan

[Health and education bear the brunt of the last budget's aid cuts: governance spared](#) by Stephen Howes

[The importance of developing new and improved vaccines](#) by Mark Rice

[Linking up buyers and sellers in urban spaces: a 2016 Hult Prize challenge proposal](#) by Arjuna Mohottala

[PNG Supreme Court ruling on Manus island detention centre](#) by Bal Kama

[Diabetes and development: the numbers, the costs and the response](#) by Ian Anderson

[Are PNG's family and sexual violence police units working?](#) By Ashlee Betteridge

In brief

[Fortnightly links: future of aid, ethical fashion, incentives, Nepal aftermath, and water ATMs](#)

[The way we were: mean and meaner still](#)

[ANU-UPNG partnership update: commencement of 3-year training program and other highlights](#)

[Pacific islanders in PNG's construction industry: PAILS Forum 2016](#)

[An update on Vanuatu's runway](#)

This is the fortnightly newsletter of the [Development Policy Centre](#) at Crawford School of Public Policy, The Australian National University, published every second Friday.