



FemiliTOK

Our Quarterly Newsletter

FemiliPNG

care. support. change.

April-June 2017

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ADDRESSING FAMILY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN PNG

Donations to assist Police Stations with FSV cases

China Town and Tent City Police stations received a computer and printer each from Femili PNG to assist with cases relating to family and sexual violence (FSV).

Femili PNG's CEO and Senior Social Worker Daisy Plana gave the donations to the representatives from the Tent City and China Town Police stations.



Tent City Shift Supervisor Graham Boramand and China Town Police Commander Gordon Matafimo after receiving the donation.

Femili PNG understands that there are many challenges that service

providers are faced with when addressing family and sexual violence issues. Therefore Femili PNG has taken up the initiative to support where needs are identified so they can work more effectively in providing the needed services.

China Town Police station Commander Gordon Matafimo, expressed his appreciation to Femili PNG upon receiving the donation. He said it would be set up in the station to help with FSV cases.

Femili PNG had previously donated a computer set with a printer, filing cabinets, chairs, a work table and other office accessories to the 3 Mile Police Station in October 2016.

All three of these Police stations in the Lae Metropolitan Command will continue to work towards addressing and treating Family and Sexual Violence in partnership with Femili PNG.



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Trukai Signs MOU with Femili PNG



Femili PNG CEO Daisy Plana and Trukai Industries CEO Greg Worthington-Eyre after signing the MOU

Trukai Industries and Femili PNG signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 30 March 2017, symbolizing their ongoing partnership.

CEO of Trukai Industries Limited, Greg Worthington-Eyre said it was a very special day for them and they looked forward to the continued awareness and training that Femili PNG provides to Trukai staff.

Trukai has been donating rice to Femili PNG since 2016 and Femili PNG carries out awareness sessions for Trukai staff, including at their Erap Farm.

Trukai makes a donation of 60 kilograms of rice each month to Femili PNG to support women and children who are referred to safe houses for protection.

After the signing of the MOU Femili PNG will continue with their scheduled visits to Trukai to carry out awareness and outreach programs.

Meeting with Partners: Data Dissemination and Challenges addressing FSV

Representatives from various Government agencies and NGOs were invited to the Femili PNG office on 31st March 2017 to discuss the dissemination of data from their various organizations.

The presentation regarding the dissemination of data was done by Dr Kamalini Lokuge former Research Director/Director of Femili PNG.

Attending the meeting were members of the Lae District Court, Welfare, safe houses, Yana Advocacy, Police Prosecution, Family Sexual Violence Unit, Sexual Offence Squad and Femili PNG staff.

During the meeting, partners actively participated in groups of their respective professions, sharing their challenges and what could be done for improvement.



Group discussion by a group of service providers during the meeting.

Recommendations on how these challenges should be addressed were further discussed, including how it should be brought to the government's attention.

Addressing family and sexual violence takes great drive and combined effort from all FSV service

providers to ensure that survivors are given access to the services they need.

It takes good communication and support for effective partnerships in addressing FSV issues, and therefore Femili PNG focuses on working closely with its partners.

Trukai Sponsors Femili PNG Fundraising Dinner

Femili PNG received a donation of K20 000 from Trukai Industries on 30th March this year.

The donation was made to cover expenses for the fundraising dinner "An evening with Rosie Batty" on 25th April at the Lae International Hotel.

The purpose of the dinner was to raise funds and awareness for Femili PNG's work. The funds raised from the dinner will be used to support survivors of family and sexual violence.

CEO of Femili PNG Daisy Plana received the cheque from Greg Worthington-Eyre, CEO of Trukai Industries after the signing of the MOU.



Femili PNG CEO Daisy Plana receiving the dummy check from Greg Worthington-Eyre, CEO of Trukai Industries Limited

Gender Mainstreaming Training in Hela



The Gender Mainstreaming training for Health Managers was conducted from March 20th- 24th this year at Nenege Lodge in Tari, Hela Province. The 24 participants were from the Hela Provincial Hospital and the Hela Provincial Health facilities.

The training gave the participants an understanding of gender, sex, and gender equality and equity. Facilitator was Sebastian Robert, Gender and Men's Health Advisor from the National Department of Health (NDoH).

This training is part of a one-year program that Femili PNG is working in partnership with the Oil Search Foundation (OSF) to deliver. The scope of the program is to continue the strengthening of mechanisms to deliver effective and culturally appropriate sexual and gender based violence training, support and mentoring programs in Hela Province.

Participants holding their certificates

Femili PNG is also working in partnership with NDoH and the national Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee (FSVAC) in collaboration with OSF.

Two of the participants share their thoughts about the training...



Doreen Pius
Hela Information Manager
Hela Provincial Health Authority
Hela Provincial Hospital

"This training has made me realize that considering gender and sex before planning for a program is very important because it will guide us to make wise decisions that will generate a successful program.

Very interesting and educational is what gender is and the elements and components of gender which can be considered. When those aspects are being considered as managers, the chances of a successful program is great.

As I went through the program I could see gender and sex sets the fundamental for a decision to be made because it considers an equal and equitable consideration that will have the potential of effective and efficient decision making that will really or fully serve the purpose wholly. The outcome will likely to be 100% achievable.

With that I am very thankful for the opportunity to have attended this very impressive and well facilitated training".



Rodney Nasnas
Clinical HEO
Accident and Emergency Unit
Hela Provincial Hospital

"First and foremost I would like to praise Femili PNG with other partners for choosing Hela because we experience almost all forms of gender base violence every day.

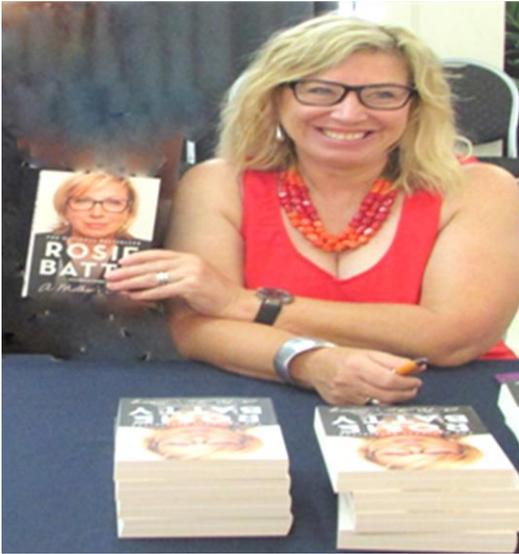
This gender mainstreaming or gender sensitizing workshop helps me and motivates me to think beyond my capacity specifying in gender equality and gender equity.

Hela is such a place that men take dominancy in almost all socio-cultural roles and hierarchical status. This training is relevant and has encouraged me to advocate to other men so that they too can change their approach in seeing things differently when they are gender sensitized also.

Finally, this workshop has helped me to be gender sensitized in any cross-cutting issues on gender implications and human rights elements and components which are relevant when conducting my daily activities either at work or within the community.

It is a divine intervention, thanks to Femili PNG".

Rosie Batty's visit to PNG



Femili PNG had the pleasure of hosting the 2015 Australian of the Year and anti-violence advocate Rosie Batty in Papua New Guinea from 24 to 28 April 2017.

Her visit was to share her experience as a survivor of family violence in support of Femili PNG's work in addressing family and sexual violence (FSV) in Lae and PNG. Her advocacy during her visit has also boosted the discussion on FSV in PNG, and enlightened many Papua New Guineans that FSV is a global issue that can affect anyone, regardless of who you are.

While in PNG, Rosie visited Lae and Port Moresby and met with survivors of violence, Femili PNG staff and family and sexual violence service providers.

She gave public lectures at the PNG University of Technology in Lae and the University of Papua New Guinea in Port Moresby, sharing panels and generating discussion of the issues among PNG men, women and youth. She also spoke at fundraising dinners in Lae and Port Moresby.

All funds raised through the fundraising dinners will be used to support the work of Femili PNG assisting survivors of family and sexual violence in PNG.

At the end of the visit, Rosie noted that there is still a lot of shame surrounding family violence in both Australia and Papua New Guinea, and that people are suffering in silence. She stressed the importance of survivors reaching out for help.

Femili PNG Case Work Manager Evan Bieso travelled with Rosie to attend other scheduled meetings in Port Moresby. Ms Bieso said that "survivors of family and sexual violence in PNG were empowered to learn from Rosie that not only Papua New Guinean women face this sort of violence, and that is a global problem".

Femili PNG thanks Steamships for sponsoring the two open lectures, Cardno for sponsoring the fundraising dinner in Port Moresby and Trukai Industries Limited for sponsoring the fundraising dinner in Lae. Femili PNG also thanks Business Coalition for Women, Guard Dog Security Services, Theodist, Post Courier, the Voice Inc, and others who have assisted through giving their time and in-kind support to make the events associated with Rosie Batty's visit a success.

About Rosie

Rosie Batty began her crusade against family and sexual violence in 2014 after her 11 year old son Luke was tragically murdered by his father Greg Anderson after cricket practice on 12th February 2014.

Rosie decided to use her personal tragedy and experience to advocate for better responses and service delivery for survivors of violence.

She is now the CEO and Founder of the Luke Batty Foundation. She is a leader in the crusade against family violence in Australia and has turned her personal tragedy into a fight to help others.

Her relentless work in this area resulted in Rosie being named the 2015 Australian of the year and the Pride of Australia National Courage Medal recipient.

Rosie is a founding member of the Council of Australian Governments advisory panel on preventing violence against women. Rosie is now leading a Victim Survivors' Advisory Council for the Victorian Government as a response to Australia's first royal commission into family violence. She has also been inducted onto the Victorian Honor Roll of Women.

Rosie is also the author of "A Mother's Story". In the book, she shares the story of how her son was tragically murdered by his father.

Highlights:

Rosie Batty's visit to PNG



Femili PNG Operations Manager Denga Ilave welcomes Rosie Batty to Lae.



Rosie Batty meets with Lae service providers.



Ms Batty speaks at a dinner on 25th April 2017, Lae International Hotel

Cardno presents "an evening with Rosie Batty" on 27th April 2017 at Gateway Hotel. From left: Ms Evan Bieso (Case Work Manager – Femili PNG), guest and keynote speaker Ms Rosie Batty, and Ms Lesieli Taviri (Chairperson – PNG BCFW and CEO of Origin Energy PNG)



General public encouraged to speak out against violence



Panel at the PNG University of Technology in Lae on 25th April



Panel at the University of Papua New Guinea on 27th April 2017

The open lectures at the PNG University of Technology in Lae and at the University of Papua New Guinea in Port Moresby provided a platform where the issue of family and sexual violence was discussed and well received by students, staff and general public.

Keynote speaker Ms Rosie Batty encouraged the general public to speak out about violence whenever encountered and not to be silent about it. She encouraged survivors of violence to seek help, and to not suffer alone. Femili PNG also took the opportunity to raise awareness for its Lae-based case management centre and how it has been assisting FSV survivors in PNG.

Note: If you or someone you know is affected by family and sexual violence and would like to speak with a counsellor, please call the toll-free 1-Tok Kaunselin Helpim Lain on 715-08000 from anywhere in PNG. This service is open from 7am to 7pm, seven days a week. (This service is operated by Childfund PNG).

Couple sentenced to 50 years for abusing minor in landmark FSV case

Watson Gabana

In a major breakthrough for survivors of family and sexual violence, in May 2016 the National Court in Lae sentenced a couple to a total of 50 years in prison with hard labour for persistent sexual abuse of a child under the age of 16.

Judge Frazer Pitpit sentenced the perpetrators – identified as the victim's aunt, Regina, and her de-facto partner, Gideon – to 25 years imprisonment each. The female perpetrator, however, was deemed to be an accomplice and will serve 10 years in prison and the other 15 years on a good behaviour bond.

The victim, Anna (not her real name), was sent to live with her aunt and her partner after the death of her father. She was 13 years old when the couple began sexually abusing and physically assaulting her. As a result, she fell pregnant and was forced to abandon her education, and experienced severe psychological trauma.

In November 2014, she was referred to Femili PNG by the Office of the Public Prosecutor. While awaiting the National Court hearing, Femili PNG helped repatriate Anna and her mother, who reported the abuse to police after becoming aware of it, to Wewak.

"Femili PNG was very new at that time when I consulted them for their help," said the Victim Liaison Officer (VLO) at the Public Prosecutor's Office.

In May 2016, the Victim Liaison Officer and the Investigating Police Officer requested Femili PNG's assistance again.

Femili PNG met all travel, food and accommodation costs for Anna and her mother to appear before the court

"Without Femili PNG's assistance, we could not have executed the case," the VLO said.

"I am very pleased with the timely assistance Femili PNG provided. Without [their] help, we could not have achieved this result," she said.

After an eight day trial, on Thursday, 19th May, National Court Room No. 3 was at capacity. The atmosphere was tense as curious members of the public stood shoulder to shoulder to witness the outcome of the landmark case.

At exactly 9:43 am, the judge entered and the two accused were summoned. Judge Pitpit read aloud the findings of the trial. Both accused categorically denied guilt. After three long hours of deliberation, the Judge concluded that there was overwhelming evidence to sentence the pair.

Judge Pitpit concluded that the couple lied to the court and their plea of innocence was untrue. He said the statements provided by the victim and the witness were factual.

In the past, authorities have struggled to prosecute such cases, making this outcome particularly significant.

"This was one of the very few cases we've successfully executed," the Arresting Officer said.

"Most times, when there are no witnesses, cases like this are thrown out. But with good networking and collaboration with other organizations and individuals, we have created history," she said.

Anna and her mother were very thankful and expressed gratitude towards all the institutions who supported them, including Femili PNG

Anna's mother said that without Femili PNG, they could not have come back to Lae to provide their statements. She acknowledged all those who assisted them from the very beginning of the process until they achieved justice.

"I am very pleased and thankful to Family Support Center at ANGAU Hospital, Welfare, Australian Federal Police, Victim Liaison Office, the police and everybody who helped us in this case. All your hard work in assisting my daughter has paid off. I wish to specifically thank Femili PNG. We did not have any money to pay for plane tickets and you helped. Thank you," she said.

"Now, I am looking forward to focusing on my children's education and to build a better future for them," she said.

"The pain will be with me for many years to come...but I'm happy that justice has been done," said the victim, Anna.

"I am happy to be back at school. But it will take a long while for me to forget what happened to me," she said.

Client Stories...

The following stories provide just a small sample of how Femili PNG's case management center (CMC) in Lae supports survivors of family and sexual violence to access justice and to rebuild their lives.

The clients have kindly given permission for their stories to be used. All identifying information has been removed to protect their safety.

***Emily's story**

Emily* and her children were repatriated to Port Moresby by Femili PNG (working with partner organizations) after family tracing and discussion with her family occurred. Emily's background involved ongoing intimate partner violence and sexual violence from her husband since the start of her marriage. All of her children showed physical signs of malnutrition and one was hospitalized. Femili PNG arranged safe house accommodation for Emily and her children, where they stayed for seven weeks while waiting for the outcome of legal proceedings. Femili PNG supported Emily as she reported her case to the police. Her husband was arrested and charged, and the court ordered his employer to directly pay PGK 400.00 every fortnight into Emily's bank account. In this case of repatriation, Femili PNG worked closely with the Child Protection Officer of the Welfare Department based in Port Moresby. The Child Protection Officer conducted further family assessment work in Port Moresby prior to the repatriation occurring, collected the Emily and children at Jackson airport, initiated re-integration with the family and purchased goods to assist Emily to start a small business in Port Moresby. Client follow-up and monitoring over the longer term will be handled by the Port Moresby Welfare Department.

* Names changed and all identifying information removed to protect the safety of clients

*** Isa's story**

Isa* was initially seen at the Family Support Centre in Lae with history of ongoing intimate partner violence from her husband. She was referred to Femili PNG to help her to seek an interim protection order from the courts. Isa is illiterate, and couldn't write a statement. The case worker helped her to write her statement and assisted with a referral note to the court clerk, who registered Isa's case before a magistrate. Her case was deferred many times due to conferences and magistrates being sick, however Isa persevered. Eventually the case was heard. Isa's husband did not turn up so a warrant of arrest was issued by the magistrate and taken to the Family and Sexual Violence Unit at the Police by Isa. Her husband was called in and was arrested. He was held in police custody, but was then bailed out for K300.00. They appeared again in court, which ruled in Isa's favour and a two year restraining order was issued.

Life of a Woman

*The life that she has
Slowly the sun sets over the horizon
She walks wearily towards her hut
With a bilum of sweet potatoes over her head
And a bundle of firewood on her back
She is greeted by the squelching of her pigs
Who demand attention at once
She is a woman
She was born and raised for this life
She will continue
Until she is no more*

By Betty Tom

STUDENT INTERN

Ruth began her 3-month internship at Femili PNG's Case Management Centre (CMC) in Lae on 23rd March 2017. She was engaged to assist the organization's Communications and Fundraising Department under the supervision of Femili PNG's Communication and Fundraising Officer. She helped to organise Femili PNG's fundraising and other events, and also assisted the Case Workers with their work.

Below, Ruth shares her experience in her own words...

I had never heard of Femili PNG until a family friend told me they had a job opening that I might be good for. I went online to read about them and after the first sentence I was hooked. Family and sexual violence is an issue plaguing society, we grow up seeing it everywhere and it's just refreshing to see that there are people out there helping survivors of abuse.

On my first day, I was a little nervous and worried it would take a while to adjust. The nervous vibes didn't last long though because everyone were genuinely friendly and you couldn't help but feel like you belonged.

The people that make the CMC what it is are truly inspirational. Everyone always has so much to do and even with all the stress involved in the day to day operations, they still managed to keep themselves good natured and helpful, I experienced this first hand. So I don't really want to go back to school just yet.

Name: Ruth Pulagis
Age: 22
School: PNG UOT
Year of Study: Final

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Femili PNG's Lae Case Management Centre provides:

- Referrals to other services, such as safe houses, police, or medical care.
- Support through the process of making statements to the police or going to court.
- Case conferences with stakeholders to ensure the best outcomes for complex cases.
- For some clients, relocation or family reunification.
- If a client has not achieved the outcome they were hoping for, our Case Workers can advocate on their behalf.
- When in a safe house, clients and their children often have no means of subsistence. We often help meet their basic needs, such as food and clothing.
- Secure transport to help clients move from the safe house, to the police, to court or to seek medical care.



Learn more about our work

www.femilipng.org

Femili PNG is supported by many Australian and PNG organisations and businesses, including:



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