

# Femili Tok

## Quarterly Newsletter

**FemiliPNG**  
care. support. change.

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#Trek2Protect2018 team (L-R): Anna Kirk (Sydney), Mehere Maladina (Sydney), Lillian Ipu (POM), Lindy Kanan (Canberra), Lisa Martin (Ballarat), Theresa Reu (POM) and Kene Kala (Melbourne).

## Aus-PNG team treks Kokoda to support survivors of violence

Nine Papua New Guinean and Australian women have trekked the Kokoda track in September and October 2018 in an effort to raise funds for Femili PNG.

Femili PNG is a local NGO which helps survivors of family and sexual violence to access the services they need.

The first team of seven (pictured above) completed the gruelling 96 kilometre trek over 9 days from 4 to 12 September 2018. They then travelled to Lae to visit the Femili PNG case management centre which supports women, children and men who are survivors of intimate partner violence, sexual assault and child abuse. The second team of two women (Roa Slater and Mary Kanawi Vracar of Canberra) completed the walk over 6 days from 1 to 6 October 2018.

The team was supported by many high-profile Australians, with donations coming in from 2015 Australian of the Year Rosie Batty and former Ambassador for Women and Girls Natasha Stott Despoja.

In PNG, Trukai Industries supported the team by donating water bottles and t-shirts. Trukai has been supporting Femili PNG for the past three years by donating rice to support women and children in Lae who have fled violent situations.

Femili PNG is supported by the Australian Government in partnership with the Government of Papua New Guinea as part of the Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development program.

Femili PNG's Lae Operations Director Denga Ilave said: "Femili PNG's success is due to the partnership between Australians and Papua New Guineans. It's wonderful to see these nine women from the two countries come together to raise funds so that Femili PNG can assist more survivors".

The #Trek2Protect2018 team members come from Port Moresby, Melbourne, Ballarat, Sydney and Canberra. So far they have collectively raised over PGK 88,000.



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To donate visit [femili-png-trek-to-protect-kokoda-2018.raisely.com](http://femili-png-trek-to-protect-kokoda-2018.raisely.com) or make a deposit into this account: Name - Femili PNG Incorporated, Branch - ANZ Lae Top Town, BSB - 018890, Account No - 15262993.



## Pikinini Protection Day 2018

Pikinini Protection Day was celebrated on Saturday 11 August 2018 at St. Mary's Primary School in Lae, Morobe Province. Hundreds of children, including their parents and others also came to be part of this annual event that promotes child protection.

The Femili PNG team provided handouts on child safety rules that children can use to protect themselves from abuse. The handouts include information about safe and unsafe touches, difference of good and bad secrets, good and bad gifts, and how to respond when someone tries to touch a private part. Many child abuse cases happen in the home and by someone the child knows. Therefore, the Femili PNG team aims to provide information on child safety rules to children so that they can protect themselves and prevent abuse. The children were also very excited to participate in the hand paint pledge activity which indicates their right in living in a safe community and saying 'NO' to violence.

Organisations and business houses including Laga Industries, Panamex Limited and others were also there to support the event and made it a success. Pikinini Protection Day is celebrated every year in Lae and is organized through the Papua New Guinea—Australia Policing Partnership. This event brings together the Lae community to acknowledge the importance of protecting children.



Children in front of the Femili PNG stall during the Pikinini Protection Day.

## Femili PNG now operating in the nation's capital



We were very pleased to welcome the 15 new staff who have been undergoing training for our Port Moresby programs, where Femili PNG is operating a new Case Management Centre as part of the Bel isi PNG initiative.

Bel isi PNG ("Peaceful PNG") galvanises leaders to change the attitudes of staff towards Family and Sexual Violence (FSV) and raise awareness on the importance of addressing the issue both in companies and in the broader community. It brings together the private sector, community-based organisations, the National Capital District Commission and is supported by the Australian Government in partnership with the Government of Papua New Guinea.

Bel isi PNG combines direct service delivery (by Femili PNG) and support to businesses (through the PNG Business Coalition for Women and the Oil Search Foundation) to access and implement improved FSV policies, procedures and training. The overall grant is managed by the Oil Search Foundation.

Bel isi PNG is working with NCDC and a range of other service providers to improve all support services in Port Moresby for survivors of family and sexual violence and child abuse

The Bel isi PNG initiative was launched in Port Moresby and the case management centre is now open to receive clients.

## #Trek2Protect2018 team visit Lae CMC

The seven amazing women who trekked the 96 kilometer terrain over nine days travelled to Lae on 13 September 2018. The purpose of the trip was to meet the staff of Femili PNG in Lae and learn about the work done in helping survivors violence.

Their flight from Port Moresby to Lae was delayed to 3pm in the afternoon. The weather in Lae was dull, with light rain as their bus pulled

in to the entrance of the Case Management Centre operated by Femili PNG.

The team received a Morobe welcome by a singing group from the Finschhafen District in Morobe Province. After a brief introduction, they had a tour of the Femili PNG office.

It was an emotional meeting as Femili PNG staff expressed their deepest thanks to the group of

women who trekked the Kokoda trail to raise funds to support Femili PNG in assisting survivors of family and sexual violence.

After learning from case workers about the work done, the team understood how the money raised will be used by Femili PNG

The team of trekkers also shared stories of their incredible, yet challenging journey.



## CLIENT STORY

*\*Names have been changed to protect the identity and safety of the clients.*

### Empowered through support

\*Sheila is a single mother from the highlands of Papua New Guinea. Her husband had left her to remarry another woman.

It was very tough being a single parent, Sheila needed support for her children, so she went to the Welfare to seek assistance. The Welfare assisted her with a maintenance summons, which led to the ex-husband being given a court order to pay maintenance for their children.

The ex-husband continued to pay maintenance for the children, but could no longer do so when he was unemployed. Due to his unemployment, he made an appeal to get full custody of the children so that he wouldn't have to pay maintenance.

Sheila didn't know what to do, as she was also being wrongfully accused and heard that her ex-husband and the police were after her. In the midst of her problems, she heard about Femili PNG from a stranger who she sat next to in the bus. From there, she learnt about the location of Femili PNG office and made her way there to get help.

A Femili PNG case worker took Sheila in as a client. The case worker quickly assisted her to seek legal advice from Femili PNG's In-house Lawyer as a permanent protection order was raised against her in the attempt for her ex-husband to stop providing maintenance.

With the help of Femili PNG's In-house Lawyer, the court's decision was in favor of Sheila (defendant). However, regardless of the court's decision being made, Sheila's ex-husband and his wife arranged with the police and Sheila was wrongfully arrested and detained.

After being bailed out for K400.00, Sheila wanted to know the reason for her arrest, and discovered from the magistrate that her ex-husband accused her of getting maintenance of children that were not his.

Since there was no evidence in arresting Sheila, the court announced that it was an illegal arrest and detention, and the bailed money should be returned.

Sheila really appreciated the timely assistance by Femili PNG, which provided coordination with partners, legal advice and informative counselling so that she could make decisions for herself.

It was identified that Sheila always wanted to make noni oil and soap, but didn't have enough money to start. She was really happy when Femili PNG supported her with 2 dishes, soap cases, cups and a plastic jug to help start her small business.

With the support given, she now has been making and selling noni oil and soap, and has also moved on to sewing and selling 'meri blouse'. She is now able to sustain herself and support her children.

Sheila said, "I praise God that I came to Femili PNG and that was when I was enabled to support myself and my children." She said that she was a business minded person, but she just didn't have the support to start.

She added, "thank you Femili PNG who help a lot of mothers, and I am one of them." she continued that she is now strengthened. "Your support is not a waste, it has impacted me personally."

Sheila is empowered and looks forward to growing her business.



### Our Children

Children are precious  
They came through you but not from you  
They are with you  
Yet they belong not to you

Give them love, care and protection  
But not your thoughts  
They have their own thoughts  
You may house their bodies  
But not their souls

Set them in the paths of righteousness  
And let their arrow go swift and far  
For they will not disappoint you  
If you set their foundations well



*Poem by Betty Tom*

## Tent City AOG youths gets sensitized on FSV



In July 2018, a 3-day sensitization training on family and sexual violence and child abuse was provided to 26 participants from the Tent City AOG Church in Lae. Femili PNG's In-house Lawyer also provided insight to FSV related laws.

Gala PNG donated water bottles, packets of Gala Burst Energy Food Drink, packets of Gala Instant Whole Milk powder and Gala ice-cream to support facilitators with the training.



## Training & Awareness in Finschhafen District



Participants from the Yabem Women's Association with their certificate of participation.

In mid August, Femili PNG's Outreach and Training team travelled to the Finschhafen District in Morobe province for a week to carry out training and awareness from 13th to 17th August 2018.

Femili PNG's Training Coordinator and Case Work Manager facilitated a 3-day sensitisation training to 33 participants from the Yabem Women's Association upon their request. The

training covered topics on family and sexual violence (FSV), child abuse and FSV related laws.

During the training, Finschhafen MP Mr. Rainbo Paita made a visit with the District Mayor to see the first training ever done in the district. Mr. Paita was very pleased to see women having the initiative to establish an association and looked forward to working with them. He also appreciated Femili PNG for providing the sensitisation training and said that this was the start of the partnership with Femili PNG.

While the training took place in Gagidu station, the Community and Outreach team visited and provided awareness on FSV, child abuse, and FSV related laws to schools, market places, Braun Hospital, and Kamlawa village in Finschhafen District.

The Community and Outreach team reached over 2000 men, women and children in the Yabem/Mape LLG with the provided awareness.



Finschhafen MP Mr. Rainbo Paita and the Finschhafen District Mayor at the training.



Community and Outreach Officer speaking to students at Dregafen Secondary School.

## Updates and highlights



Awareness with business house continues with a session done to staff of Outspan PNG Limited.



Femili PNG facilitated its 3rd quarter core service providers meeting on 23rd August 2018 with an attendance of 30 participants from Femili PNG and partners.



The Pilgrim SDA church continues to support Femili PNG clients with its 3rd quarter donation of food and necessities. The donation was given on 2nd September to Femili PNG staff.

## FemiliPNG

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To support the work of Femili PNG, please do not hesitate to contact the Communications and Fundraising Officer on:

Phone: +675 7080 5378 Email: [comms@femilipng.org](mailto:comms@femilipng.org)

### About us:

Femili PNG is a local NGO that operates Case Management Centres in Lae and Port Moresby to assist survivors of family and sexual violence to access the services they need. Our target population are women, men and children who are survivors of intimate partner violence, sexual violence and/or child abuse. We work closely with partners, such as the police, courts, Welfare, Family Support Centres (FSCs), safe houses, the government and other NGOs to ensure that survivors access the available services and positive outcomes are achieved.

Femili PNG is supported by the Australian Government in partnership with the Government of Papua New Guinea as part of the Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development program.



**PACIFIC WOMEN**  
SHAPING PACIFIC DEVELOPMENT