

Femili Tok

Quarterly Newsletter

FemiliPNG
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FSV partners after the core service providers meeting in Port Moresby on 14 February 2019.

Femili PNG meets with Partners in POM

The core service providers meeting is an important quarterly activity that brings together family and sexual violence (FSV) service providers to discuss challenges and successes, and learn from each other to improve service delivery to survivors of FSV. As well stated by Sgt. Joseph Sangam from the Police Prosecutions in Port Moresby, "our purpose is to protect and ensure families are strong and safe."

Femili PNG staff, operating the Bel isi PNG Case Management Centre (CMC) and Safe House in Port

Moresby, met with partners on the 14th February this year. This was the second meeting since Bel isi PNG's operations started in Port Moresby in September 2018.

Bel isi PNG ("Peaceful PNG" in Pidgin) is a public-private partnership between the private sector, the National Capital District Commission (NCDC), the Australian Government in partnership with the Government of Papua New Guinea as part of the Pacific Women Shaping Pacific

Development program, and is managed by Oil Search Foundation (OSF).

CEO and Senior Social Worker of Femili PNG, Daisy Plana, gave the background to the establishment of Femili PNG and shared the organisation's objectives with the partners. Bel isi PNG Project Manager, Danielle Winfrey, also gave a brief insight into the Bel isi PNG initiative. This gave the partners a clear understanding of Bel isi PNG's role and how the staff will be

working together with the partners to assist survivors of FSV access services through its CMC and Safe House.

Partners who attended the core service providers meeting included representatives from the NCD Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee, Family Support Centre (FSC), Magisterial Services, OSF, Public Solicitor's Office, NCDC, safe houses, Lifeline, and the Police, including the Family and Sexual Violence Units (FSVU).

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Milestones achieved since the start of operations of Bel isi PNG were highlighted in the meeting, including a data presentation of the number of clients assisted.

There were a few concerns raised by the partners during the meeting. District Court Magistrate Ms. Tracy Ganaii stated that partners need to know safe house policies, and also be notified about safe house cases, so that the court could give priority to those cases. FSC Assistant Coordinator Mr Isidore Winkuaru also expressed concern that there are some clients who return to them even after obtaining an Interim Protection Order (IPO). This concern, raised by FSC, indicated that some perpetrators who breach the IPOs were not dealt with by the law. This problem identified the need to discuss responses to

breaches of court protection orders in the next meeting, and to determine why the penalties for breaches are not being pursued.

Femili PNG staff under Bel isi PNG also discussed some of the challenges they face when assisting clients. This included dealing with high profile perpetrators, the issue of almost all safe houses in Port Moresby being full, and the misunderstanding by some partners about the establishment of the CMC in Port Moresby.

The meeting ended on a high note with some partners conveying their thanks for the support from Bel isi PNG. The Manageress of one of the safe house in Port Moresby also thanked Bel isi PNG for assistance in providing gas for cooking. The partners who attended the meeting stated that they look forward to working

together. In agreement, Mr. Winkuaru from FSC said, "we would really like to see good networking among the partners in addressing the issue of FSV."

The Bel isi PNG initiative and Femili PNG are both supported by the Australian Government in partnership with the Government of Papua New Guinea through the Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development program.



Femili PNG and POM partners during meeting.

Senator Hon. Anne Ruston visit Femili PNG in Lae



(L-R) Femili PNG CEO Ms. Daisy Plana, Senator the Hon. Anne Ruston and Femili PNG Lae Operations Director Ms. Denga Ilave.

It was an honour to have Senator the Honourable Anne Ruston visit the Femili PNG main office in Lae and meet the hard working staff on Saturday 2nd February 2019.

At the time of the visit, Senator the Hon. Anne Ruston was the Assistant Minister for International Development and the Pacific. She represented Australia at international fora and built strong relationships with Indo-Pacific. Senator Ruston is now the Minister for Families and Social Services.

Senator Ruston was welcomed at Femili PNG's Lae office with other important delegates, which included Advisor Bernadette Abraham, First Secretary (Economic) Ed Wilkinson, Consul-General to Lae Paul Murphy, Director for PNG Economic and Infrastructure in Canberra Glen Elson, and the Australian Consul-General from the High Commission Jo Stevens.

Femili PNG CEO Daisy Plana welcomed the guests and gave a brief background to the establishment of the organisation and

provided insight to its work in assisting survivors of family and sexual violence.

Senator Hon. Anne Ruston expressed that the issue of domestic violence is an issue that is faced everywhere around the world. She stated that one of the things that the Australian Government is keen to achieve, especially with its programs which are part of the partnership with the Pacific, is ensuring that the issues of gender are embedded in the programs. She added, "in countries that they respect their women as much as they respect their men, and the women are seen as equal to their male counterparts, are countries that go from success to success." She continued that the work done here plays a fundamental part of making sure that success is built into this country.

Senator Hon. Anne Ruston was very interested in listening to a few of the cases that were shared by the Case Work team during the discussion. However, time didn't allow to hear more on the many cases that Femili PNG assists with in coordination with other service providers.

Client's Story

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

This is Lina's story. A survivor. She is a mother and wife who endured severe abuse from her husband, who is also the father of their children.

Since her marriage, Lina has experienced severe violence from her husband (perpetrator) for over nine years. She constantly lived in fear with her children. Lina said that in order to avoid being beaten, she obeyed her husband and tried to do whatever he asked. She thought it was the only way.

Before Lina got married, her husband had lied to her that he was getting a divorce and he was single. When Lina found out that he was lying, it was already too late as she was already pregnant with her first child. After Lina had the child, her husband gave the baby to his first wife and restricted Lina from seeing the child. She was constantly beaten, and restricted from socializing with others, including her family. Lina had escaped several times, but the perpetrator always managed to find her. And when he did, he would beat her up again and bring her back to their home. Lina also tried to get help, but her husband was very influential, and she felt that all her efforts were in vain, leaving her feeling helpless.

When Lina was pregnant with her second child, she was still continuously beaten by the perpetrator. The perpetrator's first wife had left him, so Lina's child was reunited with her. Even after their fourth child, the beatings didn't stop, the abuse just got worse. She was also continuously threatened. Lina shared that her husband had pushed a 9mm pistol into her mouth and said, "I will kill you and say that you killed yourself."

The abuse Lina endured included physical assault, marital rape, stalking, threatening, emotional, psychological, and also financial. Because Lina had tried to escape before, her husband didn't give her extra

money, but just enough to buy food for the family. Meanwhile, the perpetrator went around with other women.

Some of the ordeal that Lina lived through was too painful to share. She recalled how her husband would force her to find another woman so that he could have sex with them both. Lina couldn't bring herself to do that. So the perpetrator forced Lina and a young woman, who was his relative, to have sex with him. He would even forcefully have sex with his relative, and force Lina to watch. And when they refused, he would beat them up. Lina was even forced to remove her clothes and stand naked in front of her children, while he would tell them, "Your mother is a slut, a pamuk."

Lina had ended up in the hospital so many times with bruises, and would get treatment, but not issued a medical report because of her husband's influence. She was not only scared for her safety, but also the safety of her children who had witnessed the ongoing violence perpetrated by their father. She made up her mind that she had enough, and that her life, and the life of her children, was more important. She knew that she would not get help in the province they were living in, because of her husband's influence. She had to leave with her children.

But leaving her husband wasn't going to be easy. The only way was for Lina to make him believe that she would be an obedient wife, and would never leave him. While doing that, she was also giving some money, not much, from what she could sneak out to her aunty to save up for her and her children's tickets out. She told her aunty to inform her once she has enough

to purchase their tickets.

With enough money saved, Lina waited for an opportune time. At that time, Lina's husband had trusted her enough to send her to do his flight bookings for his trip out of the province. That was her chance, the opportunity she had been waiting for. She did his bookings, and at that same time, booked her and her children's flight out of the province.

The next day after her husband left, Lina picked up her children from their school, packed a few clothes into a plastic bag, and took the next flight to Port Moresby. She had learnt that Femili PNG was operating the Bel isi PNG Case Management Centre and safe house in Port Moresby. She had called a Femili PNG staff member in Lae when boarding the plane. When Lina and her children landed at Jackson's airport, she had no place to go so she called another Femili PNG staff member in Port Moresby, and was advised to go straight to the Bel isi PNG Case Management Centre operated by Femili PNG with her children. From there, she and her children were assisted with safe accommodation.

Lina was assisted by a Femili PNG Case Worker to access other existing services such as the police, medical care, court and Welfare. The Court ruled in her favor, granting her a Permanent Protection Order after she had obtained an Interim Protection Order (IPO).

With support from her family, Lina is now safe, and starting over with her children. She said, "My biggest concern is my children. The ongoing problems affected their education. But now, as long as they are safe and happy, I am happy."



Sensitisation Training in Goroka a success

Three days of sensitisation training on family and sexual violence (FSV), child abuse, and the related laws facilitated by Femili PNG ended on a high note in Goroka on 11th April 2019. Femili PNG staff facilitating the training included the Training Coordinator Andrew Zuhukepe, Lae In-house Lawyer Anna Raymond and Lae Case Work Manager Evan Bieso.

Thirty-six participants, including men, women and youths from the Unggai-Bena District attended the training which started on Tuesday 9th April 2019 at the Hotel Phoenix in Goroka.

The sensitisation training provided an in-depth understanding to the different forms of FSV and child abuse, its signs and symptoms, and the effects. Femili PNG Lae In-house Lawyer also facilitated the discussion on the United Nations Rights of the Child (UNCRC), the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and the related laws; the Family Protection Act 2013 and the Lukautim Pikinini Act 2015. The participants were also asked to discuss and present their action plan based on what they will be doing in their respective communities with the information gained from the training.

The training was requested by Sallyn Lomutopa from Ginipa Coffee, an organisation working in partnership with Care International under the Coffee Industry Support Project which is supported by the Australian Government in partnership with the Government of Papua New Guinea through the Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development program.

Mrs. Lomutopa identified that people in the Unggai-Bena district, especially community leaders, needed to be sensitised on the issue of FSV and child abuse, and that was why she requested for the training. The training also included some family members, church leaders, community based volunteers, village court magistrates and village court clerk, and also a ward counselor. She said that after 17 years, they have received other trainings but this was the first of its kind that made them understand what FSV and child abuse is. Mrs. Lomutopa added, "the network is already there, and everyone who will move this work forward are here in this training. Therefore, I am very grateful that Femili PNG has provided this training, because the information has been provided to the right group of people and it will not go to waste." She concluded,

"now we are able to identify someone who is experiencing any form of abuse, especially children, and with this training, we feel the responsibility to work together as a team and extend this awareness into our communities."

Peter Wawe, a father of nine from the Lower Bena LLG attended the training with his son Mohe. After the training, he expressed regrets about certain abusive actions he had done in the past as a father and husband. He was very emotional as he apologised to his son and asked for forgiveness. He wished that he had attended this kind of training when he was young. Mr. Wawe said, "I will practice what I've learnt in this training, starting in my home with my family, then in the small groups that I am associated with in the community." Mr Wawe's son Mohe also admitted that he used to abuse his younger siblings, but will stop.

Femili PNG CEO Daisy Plana acknowledged that violence is a learnt behaviour that we have accepted as our culture and practised in our communities. Ms. Plana said, "our aim is to educate as many as we can with the hope that all this learning will help us change our mindset and violent behavior." She concluded the training on a high note, and expressed that we all need to work together to ensure that our young generation will grow up in a non-violent, supportive family environment and a safer community.

Eastern Highlands Provincial Community Development Advisor Siviri Lalave was also present during the closing of the training. She appreciated the training, and emphasised that we should above all look at our children as the primary resources as they are the future of our country. She said that the protection and wellbeing of our children should be of paramount importance. She also said, "those who have attended the training are the agents of change and are the ones who will be bringing change into their communities."

Staff get refresher training on Trauma-Informed Care

The refresher training course on Trauma-Informed Care for Femili PNG staff commenced on April 29 in Port Moresby and May 6 in Lae this year. It was a 4-day workshop for selected staff, especially Case Workers, Safe House staff and new hires in Port Moresby and Lae.

The training was aimed to build the capabilities of staff interacting with survivors of trauma. It was also aimed to provide information and practical tools to engage with survivors of trauma in a way that is sensitive to their past experience and their current functioning, while supporting their recovery and engagement with public justice system as they pursue legal cases against their perpetrators.



Ms. Mellanie Olano speaking to Femili PNG staff during training in Lae

Ms. Mellanie Olano, a senior Social Worker facilitated the training in Port Moresby and Lae. The training covered two particular topics: Trauma-Informed Crisis Intervention, and Trauma-Informed Care.

FSV sensitisation training for BSP Guards



Guards who participated in the training

A one-day sensitisation training on FSV was conducted for the BSP Security Guards in Port Moresby early this year.

The training was provided to guards who are usually on regular shifts providing security for the Bel isi safe house which accommodates high risk survivors of FSV and child abuse.

The topics covered included: different forms of FSV and child abuse, and the

referral pathway. The training was facilitated by Femili PNG's Port Moresby based Case Work Manager Mrs. Konnie Yoifa and Community and Outreach Officer Mr. Paul Kunump.

The participants really appreciated the training as they now understood the abuse that survivors at the safe house had been through.



POM Operations Director Ms. Dianne Revit providing information to visitors at the booth.

The Grass Skirt Project launched the inaugural Hevea Cup Carnival & Wellness Expo on Friday 8th March 2019 in line with the International Women's Day. It was a two-day event from 8th to 9th March in Port Moresby at the Oil Search National Football Stadium.

Femili PNG at Hevea Cup

The event aimed to bring men and women together from around Papua New Guinea and the Pacific region to participate in sport-oriented community building and engagement through a dynamic and exciting new Rugby League competition. The Wellness Expo was hosted in parallel with the Rugby League carnival.

Femili PNG participated with 19 other non-profit, non-government and community-based organisations at the Wellness Expo, providing information about its services to the general public who visited the booth. The Femili PNG team provided information

about its case management services under Bel isi PNG to over 800 women, men and children who visited our booth.

Other organisations that participated included: ChildFund, Oil Search Foundation, Marie Stopes, St John Ambulance, Equal Playing Field and others. The Wellness Expo also provided the opportunity for organisations to interact and establish partnerships.

(Information from Grass Skirt Project website).

Supporting Police to address FSV in Lae



Ms. Denga Ilave (Femili PNG) handing over donation of stationary and a computer to the Lae Voco-point police.

The police are one of the core service providers that play a key role in dealing with FSV cases. Despite their commitment and efforts, many are faced with the challenge of limited resources to ensure cases are effectively dealt with.

With its allocated partner-support budget, Femili PNG continues to support the Lae police, including other core service providers dealing with FSV cases with stationary and items that will add value, and also to some extent, lessen their struggle. Ink cartridges and paper are some of the most requested and essential stationaries needed, basically to assist core service providers in preparing statements that are used to help with the client's case in court (eg; obtaining IPO/PO).

Femili PNG continues to work closely with the police and other partners in Lae.

(Pictured from Left to Right)
Picture 1: Femili PNG Operations Director Ms. Denga Ilave handing over stationary support to Police Prosecutions OIC Inspector Hove Genderiso.

Picture 2: Lae FSVU Sgt. Ruth Murup received stationary support from Femili PNG Administrator Mrs. Josephine Romokau.

Picture 3: 3mile FSVU police



officers First Const. Roger Itagau and Const. Deborah James receiving stationary from Femili PNG Operations Director Ms Denga Ilave.

Reaching communities with FSV Awareness

The Femili PNG Outreach team has reached over 8,000 men, women and children in the communities in Morobe Province, and more than 35,000 people in total in the past year from July 2018 to June 2019. This include communities, villages, health centres, schools, and business houses. So far, Femili PNG awareness sessions have been delivered in 30 schools, 9 business houses, 13 villages, 53 communities and 18 health centres in Morobe Province. The focus is on the prevention of child abuse and FSV, and also the available services for survivors to access.



Awareness at Tanam block community near Nadzab, Lae.

After awareness sessions, many survivors have come out and tried to seek assistance. However, the challenge that our partners face are resources and manpower to assist these survivors.

Some communities, like Tanam, have taken the initiative to work together and mobilize the community so that the Outreach team can provide awareness. The mothers have also brought together their fresh produce from their gardens and donated to Femili PNG. This food donation was distributed among the safe houses providing accommodation to high risk survivors of FSV and child abuse.

Philippines Exposure trip: A shared experience

Since November 2015, Femili PNG has coordinated with the Child Protection Unit (CPU) at the Philippines General Hospital and so far has facilitated four exposure trips for its staff and partners. The aim of the exposure trip is to provide an opportunity for staff and partners to undergo a week of training at the CPU, and learn some of the best practices in dealing with child abuse cases from an international perspective. And to bring back these learnt lessons, share with other partners, and see how some of these lessons can be used to improve the services in PNG.

The fourth exposure trip took place in April this year with eight participants: two Femili PNG staff with two partners from Lae, and two Femili PNG staff with two partners from Port Moresby.



One of the participants from Lae, Ms. Leonie Miroi (Victim Liaison Officer - Public Prosecutors Office) briefly shared her experience:

As a participant I have learnt so much. I had the privilege of experiencing and observing how service providers in Manila assist survivors with its multi-disciplinary approach.

The CPU utilizes a multi-disciplinary approach to assist children identified as child victims of abuse, neglect, and exploitation. The term multi-disciplinary refers to services provided by doctor, police, other professionals and the Barangay (which in Papua New Guinea is equivalent of a local level government).

The week-long program was intensive. We were given lectures, Kids Court Exposure, a tour of the Philippines General Hospital, shelter visits, and a home visit by the end of the week. We observed a case conference, and took part in an actual patient debriefing.

Lectures provided were on the topics of: Recognising Child Abuse and Neglect, Safety and Risk Assessment, and Case Management.

The training has broadened my understanding of the types of abuse and how children cope with that abuse. With this better understanding, I can be able to effectively work with and speak with the victims of sexual abuse when interviewing them, and I am be able to point out what types of assistance they need in terms of referrals. This is in line with one of the core duties of a Victim Liaison Officer in providing referral options for victims of crime, and also writing effective impact statements.

Supporting Femili PNG



Our supporters in Australia continue to participate in the Australian Running Festival to raise funds for Femili PNG. This year, over \$29,000 was raised - a record amount. Special thanks to all of our runners and donors.



Early this year, the Bahai Community in Lae donated food and clothes worth up to more than K700.00. The donation was given to our clients who are survivors of FSV and child abuse.



Pilgrim Seventh-Day Adventist church in Lae continues to do quarterly donations of food and other necessities to assist our clients.

All donations and support given to Femili PNG goes directly to assisting our clients who are survivors of family and sexual violence, and child abuse.

Quarterly Stakeholders meeting ongoing in Lae



Femili PNG Corporate Manager Ms. Erica Marcus giving the closing remarks during the Core Service Providers meeting in Lae on 13 June 2019.

Femili PNG and partners in Lae continue to have a quarterly core service providers meeting.

At the last core service providers meeting on 13 June 2019, 13 representatives from partner core service providers attended, including two visitors from the Development Policy Research & Management Consultants.

As usual, successes and challenges were discussed, and partners provided updates from their respective organisations, departments and offices.

Also, during the meeting, the Philippines Exposure trip participants shared their experiences and what they learnt during the one week trip. This included Femili PNG's In-house Lawyer and a Case Worker, and the Victim Liaison Officer from the Public Prosecutors Office in Lae.



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Femili PNG Lae Case Management Centre

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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

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.



PNGAus Partnership

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