

Femili Tok

Quarterly Newsletter

FemiliPNG
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EHP Police Get TIC Training

Twenty-one Police officers attended the four-day Sensitisation training on Family and Sexual Violence (FSV) and its related laws, and Trauma-Informed Care in Goroka from 22—25 October 2019.

The participants were from the Goroka Family and Sexual Violence Unit (FSVU) and sub-stations in Kainantu, Aiyura, Henganofi, Water Bung, Asaro and Yonki in Eastern Highlands Province.

The training was facilitated by Femili PNG. The team included Ms Mellanie Olano (Volunteer with Femili PNG), Training Coordinator Mr. Andrew Zuhukepe, Case Work Manager Ms. Evan Bieso and Lae In-house Lawyer Mrs Anna Raymond.

Const. Knighton Philipus from FSVU in Goroka said he felt empowered after the training. He said, "this training is very helpful to me. I was only trained to be a police man and enforce the law." Const. Philipus said he has learnt something new

which is the first approach, how to deal with survivors of FSV, and the referral pathway.

One of the female officers who attended, Const. Marthelyn Ena was also very grateful for the training. She said that in some situations, we as officers don't know how to control our emotions and don't realise that we tend to make the survivors of FSV more traumatised.

The training ended on a high note with Femili PNG CEO Ms. Daisy Plana giving the closing remarks. Ms. Plana expressed her appreciation, saying that Femili PNG's first case was supported by the Goroka police. She added, "the only goal we (Femili PNG) have is to work with partners and improve access to services for survivors."

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Femili PNG's five-year journey



Femili PNG CEO & Senior Social Worker doing a presentation in Port Moresby

July was a special month for us. This year we celebrate five years of operating our first Case Management Centre (CMC) in Lae. It has truly been a journey for Femili PNG. In these five years of operation, we have grown in number, strengthened partnerships with core service providers, expanded our network, and helped many survivors by working together with existing services.

Looking back, we can't help but be proud of how far we've come as a local non-government organisation. The approach to establish a CMC in PNG was the first of its kind, and with the collective effort of a few passionate and committed individuals, this initiative was driven into existence. The need for a Case Management Centre was identified by Dr Kamalini Lokuge from the Australian National University when she did the external evaluation for the work done by Medicins sans Frontières (MSF) who provided support to the Family

Support Centre (FSC) at the Angau Hospital from 2008 to 2013. It was evident that survivors of family and sexual violence needed support to make informed decisions and be guided through the process of accessing justice.

Dr Kamalini Lokuge, who was Femili PNG's Technical Director, and Ms Daisy Plana, Femili PNG's CEO and Senior Social Worker, believed that creating Femili PNG would be a catalyst for change. The idea was that the organisation would accept clients and work according to their wishes, with guidance so that they could make informed decisions. Ms. Plana, originally from the Philippines, and who had been working with MSF at Angau Hospital, took the opportunity to stay on in PNG. She says, "I took part because of hoping to make a difference, a difference in the lives of many survivors."

With funding from the Australian

Government through OXFAM (at that time), and most employees initially coming from the MSF Lae project which had just ended, Femili PNG was established in mid-2014. In late June, an office space was acquired at Top Town in Lae. While the office was still being set up, the first staff meeting was held at the CEO's house on 23rd June with seven staff.

Reminiscing about how the organisation started brings tears and laughter today. Femili PNG didn't have a vehicle yet, so to make runs, the staff had to use a PMV bus. To register with the Internal Revenue Commission, Josephine Romokau (Femili PNG Administrator) got on the PMV bus with Daisy and Kamalini from town to market, then to Aigris (Wharf) and back. Everyone was staring because they rarely see expatriates on PMV buses. Another favorite memory concerns Ian, the previous Logistics & Security Officer, who carried two mop buckets on both of his shoulders and walked from BNBM Market to the office at Top Town.

Josephine is one of the staff who has been with the organisation from the beginning. Previously, she was working as the Admin-Assist with MSF. When Femili PNG started, she was employed as the Administrator. In the last five years, Josephine has also worked in the areas of finance and human resources, with assistance from Professor Stephen Howes, who continues to serve as the Board Chair. Josephine says that she had struggled in the beginning, but has learnt a lot from Daisy and Stephen. Other staff who have been with Femili PNG started as office cleaners, receptionists and drivers, but after learning and improving, have been promoted to positions with more responsibility.

Femili PNG always stresses the importance of values and discipline. Daisy, the CEO, says that she appreciates the courage of the individuals who have made the decision to be part of this organisation. It has also been a learning process for Daisy herself. She says, "Femili PNG has made me flexible in accepting changes and challenges."

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When asked what is Femili PNG's biggest accomplishment, Ms Plana says that it is the organisation's establishment as an on-going entity. This has demonstrated that there are people and organisations who care and are willing to work in partnership. Collectively, Femili PNG and its partners have provided services that have changed, and will continue to change, the lives of many survivors of family and sexual violence.

From seven staff, Femili PNG now has 25 staff in Lae, and 20 staff in Port Moresby (where it is now the operator for the Belisi PNG Initiative). All the staff are Papua New Guinean, except for the CEO, and the Development Manager, who is based in Australia. The Femili PNG Board is a mix of eminent and expert Papua New

Guineans and Australians, with several still there from the organisation's inception. Since its first client intake on 25th July 2014, Femili PNG has so far assisted over 2,300 women, men and children who are survivors of intimate partner violence, rape, child abuse, including sorcery accusation-related violence. We work with our partners to provide these clients with the practical support they need. Based on what we see and learn, we also undertake evaluation and research which provides the basis for our advocacy.

Femili PNG is very grateful to the Australian Government, who remains our main donor, in partnership with the Government of Papua New Guinea as part of the Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development program. But Femili PNG now also receives support from businesses, churches, communities,

individual donors, and even former clients. Femili PNG is also grateful for the tremendous fund-raising and technical expertise provided by supporters in Australia (through Friends of Femili PNG and others like Mundango Abroad and the Zonta Club of Canberra).

Femili PNG looks forward to continuing its partnership with existing service providers and partners in helping survivors of FSV access available services. The CEO, Daisy Plana, says that her hope is that the PNG Government will come more onboard. "We've demonstrated that case management and crisis support are essential to the lives of the many women, men and children who are survivors of family and sexual violence. I hope that the PNG government will not only acknowledge, but support and fund this approach."



Discussion by police officers during the training at Phoenix Hotel in Goroka, EHP.

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Eastern Highlands Provincial Police Training Coordinator Chief Sgt. Kaminiei Selot thanked Femili PNG for training the officers. He said that the workshop was helpful and he believes that his officers will be in a better position to deal with FSV and child abuse cases. In his address to the police officers, he concluded, "now that you have this training, go back to your respective stations and put this training into practice."

During the training in Goroka, Femili PNG Outreach team carried out awareness sessions in the Unggai-Bena District. The team worked closely with the community leaders who had participated in an FSV and child abuse sensitisation training earlier this year (April 2019) in Goroka.

The Outreach team conducted ten awareness sessions at ten different locations to over 2,800 men, women and children. The message covered in the sessions included the different forms of family and sexual violence, child abuse, and the related laws, the Family Protection Act 2013 and the Lukautim Pikinini Act 2015.

At the end of the training, Femili PNG arranged for the key contacts from Unggai-Bena to meet the police officers and exchange contacts. The short meet and greet was for the Unggai-Bena key contacts and leaders who were sensitised to work closely with the police, and can do referrals to them for FSV cases.



Outreach team doing awareness in Unggai-Bena District, EHP.

Morobe Show 2019: Colgate Health Expo

Pictorial Highlights



Femili PNG participated in the Colgate Health Expo at the Morobe Show this year from 12—13 October 2019.

During the 2-day event, a total of 626 men, women and children visited the Femili PNG stall to get information about the services we provide, and also pledge for 'Zero Tolerance' to all forms of violence.

Some children visited the stall and watched the 'safety rules' videos.

This year, Femili PNG was also privileged to win the third place prize of K500. First place was PNG Family Health, with Susu Mamas coming second place.

Other Updates

By Jonica Jay

(Femili PNG Communications & Fundraising Officer)

In July this year (2019), thanks to Femili PNG, I had opportunity to travel to Canberra for a week to do some communications training and speak at a fundraiser hosted by Zonta Club of Canberra to raise funds for Femili PNG. I was excited, and a little scared because it was my first time to travel overseas, and I would be traveling alone.

When I arrived in Canberra, I realized that July isn't the best time to take a trip down south, because it was winter and freezing. Something even the highlands in PNG didn't prepare me for.

Regardless of how cold it was, I had the best time because I got to meet some very interesting people and learn new things.



After meeting with Mr. Chris Moraitis—Secretary for the Attorney General's Department

L-R: Fiona Gunn, Mr. Chris Moraitis, Jonica Jay, Prof. Stephen Howes and Lindy Kanan



Zonta Club of Canberra hosted a trivia night to raise funds for Femili PNG. Jonica Jay spoke about the work Femili PNG is doing in PNG. Zonta Club donated AUD\$4000 to Femili PNG.



Femili PNG Development Manager Ms Fiona Gunn and Communications & Fundraising Officer Ms. Jonica Jay displaying bilums for sale as part of fundraising. Individuals also made a total cash donations of \$150

The 4th World Conference for Women's Shelters was hosted this year (2019) in November by the Garden of Hope Foundation, the largest NGO assisting survivors of domestic violence in Taiwan. The conference was a week long and was attended by 1,400 delegates from 120 countries, including two Femili PNG staff.

The conference consisted of five main plenary sessions, which included the following topics; Emerging issues in GBV, Arts and Advocacy, New methods in shelter management and social work, Policy and Legislation, and Equality & Economic Empowerment.



Bel isi PNG and Femili PNG took part with other organisations in having set up booths to provide information to BSP staff and their families during BSP's Family Fun day in Port Moresby on 19 October 2019. Apart from sharing awareness materials, we did the *hand-paint pledge* for kids and adults, supporting the 'Zero tolerance to all forms of violence.'

Pictured below is a family supporting the pledge.



Client's Story

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

This is Mia's story. A child who is a survivor of sexual abuse.

*Mia is finally home

It was a very emotional moment when *Mia was reunited with her family after 3 years. Her family thought she was dead and they had worn black clothes to show their sorrow and mourned for her.

This is the story of Mia, a child survivor of sexual abuse, who is now safe and reunited with her family.

Mia's parents had separated when she was little. Mia's father had moved to the city where he found a job. He then brought Mia to stay with him, promising his teenage daughter a better life and good education. However, those promises were not fulfilled. Instead, Mia was raped on several occasions by her biological father, and abused physically by him and his new wife. The sexual abuse by the father was brought to light and reported to the community leaders, and the case was mediated at that level, but the abuse continued.

After a few years of experiencing this ongoing abuse, Mia felt the longing to be reunited with mother and her family. That's when she escaped to get help from the nearest police station. She was taken to a safe house for accommodation until she was referred to Bel isi PNG (operated by Femili PNG) Case Management Centre to manage her case. A Case Worker was assigned to work closely with Mia in close collaboration with the Child Protection Officer from Welfare to help her with her case and access other assistance. However, she had to spend more than a year at different safe houses due to the complexity of her case.

Mia being away from family whom she grew up with was really hard. And though she wished to get justice for the abuse she went through, she also dreamt of being with her family for love and support. Family tracing and risk assessments were done but very challenging because the place where the child and her family comes from was a very remote area with no road access. There was a need for her Case Worker to travel to the respective province to do an actual family tracing and coordination with respective service providers for more accurate family location. It took two months for the Case Worker to identify Mia's family location and contact, and finally she was reintegrated back to her family. The effort was supported by the Provincial Community Development Advisor, Ms. Siviri Lalave.

It was a very emotional moment as Mia arrived home to her family, who all thought she was dead. Mia and the team who accompanied her were not only received by the family, but by the whole community. Mia's family expressed that they will look after her and support her to do her studies. It was agreed that Femili PNG and Mia's family will continue to follow up with the case to ensure that justice is served.

Ms. Lalave acknowledged the efforts that Femili PNG through the Bel isi PNG Case Management Centre and Safe House put into helping the client. She said, "We appreciate what Femili PNG is doing to help the

"One life is important, one life is special, one life is valuable."

Ms. Siviri Lalave
EHP Community Development Advisor

Government bridge the gaps that we have, and also assist us where we see that we can't do much because of situations such as financial crisis and limited resources." Ms. Lalave acknowledged the long journey travelled just to reunite one client with her family. Ms Lalave added, "one life is important, one life is special, one life is valuable."

Mia is looking forward to continue her studies and become a Social Worker so she can help others.

The Bel isi PNG initiative is an innovative public private civil society partnership. It 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, National Capital District Commission, Bank of South Pacific, Steamships Trading Co and Oil Search.



Client's Story

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

*Tammy's story

*Tammy is a survivor who experienced ongoing family and sexual violence. As a mother and wife, she tried to provide for her family by selling vegetables at the market.

After enduring ongoing physical, verbal and sexual abuse for a long time, she made up her mind to get help. Tammy heard about Femili PNG from someone she knew, who also gave her directions to the Femili PNG Case Management Centre (CMC).

Tammy went to Femili PNG for assistance and reported the abuse. She was provided informative counselling and legal consultation. She was also assisted to access other services, which included medical assistance from the Family Support Centre. From there, she found out that she was pregnant.

A Femili PNG Case Worker assisted Tammy to prepare her statements to apply for an Interim Protection Order (IPO) to prevent her abusive husband from continuously abusing her. However, she had missed her first hearing because she was sick at the time of the hearing. With further assistance from the Court and the Police Family and Sexual Violence Unit (FSVU), the IPO was served.

Tammy reported that her husband had filed a Defence against the IPO, accusing her of attempted murder. Because of this she was assisted with legal consultation and responses for the Defence. From this hearing, the Court advised that the Police case that was

reported against Tammy by her husband be sorted out with the Police, but the IPO hearing will continue. Tammy's husband and his relatives took advantage of this and had Tammy locked up.

Femili PNG was not notified until the client's relative informed her Case Worker that Tammy was in police custody. The Case Worker with the In-house Lawyer quickly went and checked her in jail.

Tammy appeared in court the next day and was allowed bail. However, she was unable to pay, so she was sent to prison to wait for the adjourned date of hearing. After being in jail for a while, Femili PNG assisted Tammy with her bail and she was released. Shortly after her release, Tammy gave birth to a beautiful healthy baby.

At the end of the court hearing, her IPO was successfully made into a Permanent order. And the case laid against her was struck out because the complainant (husband) never appeared in court, and there was not enough evidence. The bail that was paid by Femili PNG was also reimbursed by the court.

With tears, Tammy expressed her gratitude for Femili PNG staff who visited her while in jail, and with all the support provided to her, making her feel not alone. She was thankful to God, and for an organisation such as Femili PNG to be helping people like herself.

Outreach team in Markham District

From 13 to 19 December 2019, Femili PNG Outreach team carried out awareness sessions in the Umi-Atzera LLG in the Markham District for a week. The team included two Outreach Officers and the Communications Officer. With the help of two Outspan officers and a community leader in the Kaiapit area. The team managed to conduct awareness sessions in 15 wards (out of the 30 wards in the Umi-Atzera LLG), reaching more than 1,700 men, women and children.



Like many other rural areas in PNG, people didn't know about the two laws protecting families and children; the Family Protection Act 2013, and the Lukautim Pikinini Act 2015.

Many community leaders requested for ongoing awareness sessions in their communities in 2020. The Outreach team looks forward to continue to work with the leaders and provide more awareness.



Thank you for supporting us!

Femili PNG continues to work with the support of partners to help survivors of family and sexual violence (FSV) which includes child abuse.

We remain thankful and acknowledge the support of the Australian Government in partnership with the Government of Papua New Guinea as part of the Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development program.



We are also grateful for the amazing support we get from business houses like Trukai Industries, Zenag, Colgate Palmolive, including churches like Pilgrim SDA Church who provide ongoing assistance to our clients in Lae. Others who have also provided assistance include Brian Bell Group in Lae, Zonta Club of Canberra, community groups and individuals. Also Mundango Abroad has made it possible for our Outreach team to provide more awareness on the issues of FSV, child abuse and related laws to many rural areas in Morobe Province and other provinces.

We also thank all the donors, partners and subscribers supporting the Bel isi PNG Case Management Centre and Safe House which is operated by Femili PNG in Port Moresby.

Picture: Staff of BSP Core Banking Program posing with their 'Zero Tolerance to all forms of violence' promotional shirts during their family fun day event in Port Moresby.

Femili PNG is selling these 'Zero Tolerance to all forms of violence' and 'stop violence' shirts for K35 and mugs for K30 as part of our fundraising and awareness.



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POLICE EMERGENCY TOLL FREE

Digicel



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Call the free hotline for help!

Toll-free confidential phone counselling service providing information and support for anyone experiencing family and sexual violence in PNG.

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.lae@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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