



**FemiliPNG**  
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July - September 2016

ADDRESSING FAMILY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE CASES IN PNG

IN THIS ISSUE

# Soldiers give to FemiliPNG

by Watson Gabana

Australian Defence Force soldiers stationed in Lae for a six-week training exercise have donated K2,300 to Femili PNG.

The members of the 3rd Combat Engineering Regiment (3 CER), who were participating in Exercise Puk Puk at Igam Barracks, raised the money through several activities.

Corporal Dale Cupit, who led the initiative, said that the donation was raised through after-hour activities including hair braiding, shaving, and dancing.

Daisy Plana, CEO of Femili PNG and Denga Ilave, the organisation's Operations Manager, accepted the donation from Corporal Cupit and Major Matt Dobney on August 9, 2016.

Eighty-five members of the Phantom Squadron of 3 CER were also there to witness the cheque presentation and listened to Femili PNG staff speaking about the organisation's work.

"It is sad to say that PNG has one of the highest rates in terms of family and sexual violence issues, but it is also encouraging to recognise that this has alerted many individuals, stakeholders and the

government to be more proactive in working together to address this in various ways," Denga told the soldiers.

Denga spoke about how Femili PNG supports survivors of family and sexual violence (FSV) and the various stakeholders and partners they work collaboratively with.

Major Matt Dobney, Commanding Officer of Phantom Squadron, thanked Femili PNG for addressing FSV issues in PNG. He said although their contribution was modest, the soldiers were glad to give and support what the organisation is doing.

25 Support Squadrons from 3 CER in Townsville were joined by several other Australian Army and British Army members for the six-week exercise at Igam Barracks in Lae. Exercise Puk Puk has been running for 12 years now and rotates annually through the three main PNG Defence Force (PNGDF) barracks. 3 CER brings both PNGDF personnel to Townsville and sends Australian soldiers to PNG. The partnership will continue with Exercise Puk Puk returning to Port Moresby next year.



## Femili PNG celebrates 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary

All organisations were working in isolation until Femili PNG came into the picture two years ago. Their staff physically walked from office to office connecting all of us to address family sexual violence issues in Lae.

Page 2

## Shipping staff told to report abuse



Staff of one of the major shipping companies in Papua New Guinea were told to report any sexual violence and abuse cases to relevant authorities immediately.

Page 3

# Femili PNG celebrates two years of collaboration in Lae

by Watson Gabana

Femili PNG celebrated its two-year anniversary at an event in Lae last month attended by more than 40 partners and stakeholders.

The event was an opportunity to reflect on the progress that has been made through the power of partnerships since the organisation began its work in July 2014.

"All organisations were working in isolation until Femili PNG came into the picture two years ago. Their staff physically walked from office to office to connect all of us to address family and sexual violence issues in Lae," said Zuabe Tinning, the chair of the Morobe Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee (FSVAC).

"Femili PNG connected all of us together. For the past two years, you have done a lot on addressing FSV issues here in Lae. I congratulate you," she said.

The event also provided a chance for stakeholders and partners to reflect on their own progress after two years of collaboration.

Representatives from FSV organisations spoke of the partnerships that Femili PNG staff have established and continue to strengthen. The speakers included; Zuabe Tinning (Morobe FVSAC), Senior Sargent Cathy Rimbao (Community policing), Major Giam (safe houses), Colin Otto (Lae District Development Authority), and Denga Ilave and Daisy Plana of Femili PNG.

Every speaker acknowledged that with Femili PNG's support, their organisation had been able to overcome many challenges and to serve many survivors of FSV.



One of the significant achievements highlighted by the partners was the role that case workers play in moving from partner to partner, linking and connecting them. This was helping to progress clients' cases more quickly.

Femili PNG Operations Manager Denga Ilave highlighted the major achievements of the organisation in the past two years. Some of the achievements included providing support to more than 800 clients; bringing two cases to the National Court and seeing perpetrators prosecuted and charged; renovating the Salvation Army safe house; improving partner resourcing and supplying them with office equipment; and engaging local businesses to raise awareness of FSV among their staff.

Denga said that Femili PNG is looking forward to continuing to extend its services and to hopefully expand to provide assistance to other parts of the country.

Colin Otto, representing Lae District and the Community Development Program, acknowledged the support of Femili PNG in providing training for case counselling. He said that the skills and knowledge gained through this training is now being utilised in the community.

There are still many challenges ahead, however. Senior Sargent Cathy Rimbao raised some of those still faced by police, including; the challenges of monitoring gender-based violence,

particularly due to people moving around; the need for further awareness on FSV in the police force; the need for more knowledge in communities on FSV; and the limited resources that survivors often have, which can be a barrier for them in accessing services or reporting violence to police.

A note written by Femili PNG chair, Stephen Howes, acknowledging the importance of the partnerships and networking among the stakeholders was also read aloud during the celebration.

Femili PNG CEO Daisy Plana made the closing remarks. She emphasised that FSV affects every human life, and it is affecting individuals, family, society and PNG as a whole.

Daisy said that achieving justice for clients depends on how effectively the partners work together to deliver services, and their individual commitment to help.

The event was attended by representatives from:

- City Mission
- Welfare offices
- Salvation Army
- Community Development
- Sexual Offences Squad (Police)
- Family Sexual Violence Unit (Police)
- Public Prosecutors Office
- Public Solicitor
- Suburban/Community Police
- Stakeholder partners
- Local businesses
- Media organisations



# Employees told to report abuse cases immediately

by Watson Gabana

Staff of one of the major shipping companies in Papua New Guinea were told to report any sexual violence and abuse cases to the relevant authorities immediately.

More than 30 staff members of Consort Express Limited, a subsidiary of Steamships Group of companies were told to be aware of all the different forms of violence happening in the workplace and as well as communities, and to report the incidences to authorities.

In a lunch hour awareness session, Denga Ilave, the Operations Manager of Femili PNG told the staff that it was illegal for staff members to be subjected to any form of abuse including, sexual favors, sexual harassments and intimidations.

She said that there are many forms and types of violence they should know and avoid.

"Many women and girls are unaware of these forms of violence," Denga said.

"If this is happening in the workplace or in the communities you live in or know, it needs to be reported immediately," she said. Denga talked about all the different forms of abuses and the services available to survivors.



Femili PNG CEO, Daisy Plana informed the 32 Consort staff attending that the organisation was established to address family and sexual violence issues and to assist those in need of immediate help.

"There are services available to those experiencing family and sexual violence too," she said.

Femili PNG also introduced the staff to some of the service providers in Lae including the Family Support Center, police and the judicial services.

# Femili PNG provides business start-up kit to survivor

Femili PNG assisted a mother of six who came from one of the rural villages in Morobe.

The woman received K680 worth of store goods for selling and to have an income to support her children while the case against her husband who allegedly raped her eldest daughter Tanya is investigated.

As per the client's statement, it was in 2014 when the rape incident happened. After the abuse Tanya ran away from the village and came to Lae to live with her grandparents to escape from her abusive father.

The village has no police presence or any government institutions where this type of abuse can be reported.

Therefore, the child's mother reported the case only in 2016 to Senior Constable Odilia Samoa of the Provincial Police Headquarters and Noma Keno, Welfare Officer of Huon District welfare, whilst they carried out a rural patrol in the area.

The police and welfare officers immediately searched for the child and supported her in filing the complaint.

While the child completed her statement, the case was referred to Femili PNG, and with no delay, the child and her mother were provided with temporary accommodation as well as food and toiletries.

Before too long, the perpetrator was arrested.



The perpetrator was bailed out, but re-arrested and police are in the process of completing the case file, hoping that the accused will be prosecuted and charged.

The case of Tanya is awaiting to be committed to the national court, indeed still a long journey for justice. While waiting for this, Tanya and her mother were supported by Femili PNG with boat fuel to be able to return to their village.

*If your organisation is interested in partnering with or supporting FemiliPNG contact us on [info@femilipng.org](mailto:info@femilipng.org)*

# FemiliPNG

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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](http://www.femilipng.org)

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



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*femiliTOK*

is a quarterly in-house newsletter published for our partners, sponsors and friends involved in family and sexual violence advocacy