



FemiliTOK

Our Quarterly Newsletter

FemiliPNG

care. support. change.

January - March 2017

ADDRESSING FAMILY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN PNG

READ MORE IN THIS ISSUE...

Core service providers' quarterly meeting: "together everyone achieves more..."

The quarterly Lae core service providers' meeting was held on 23 February 2017. The theme for this first meeting of 2017 was **"Together, Everyone Achieves More."**

This theme affirms that in combating the complex and challenging issues of family and sexual violence (FSV), a collaborative effort is required. The theme was timely as, as the service providers start the new year, they are also renewing their commitment to advocate for the best interests of survivors of FSV.



We can say that this initiative was successful: partners were given a conducive venue and an opportunity to discuss cases and challenges in allowing clients to easily access services. Also, through this meeting, the service partners worked together to

come up with resolutions and agreements to respond to the different challenges.

The meeting was attended by 26 participants coming from different organizations including Lae District Court, Police (Police Prosecution, Family Sexual Violence Unit, Sexual Offence Squad, and Provincial Police Headquarters), Huon Gulf Welfare, Salvation Army, Angau Hospital Family Support Centre, City Mission, Yana Advocacy and staff from Femili PNG.

Mr. Pais Tapil, the Senior Provincial Magistrate from the District Court gave assurance to everyone present by ensuring to fast-track the release of Interim Protection Orders (IPOs). This has been a long-standing issue and everyone present was delighted with the good news he shared.

Success stories were also shared as proof that all shared efforts are important. A representative from Bank of South Pacific (BSP) also attended this meeting to show support for the initiative.

Indeed, what a great note to start the year on, with **"Together, Everyone Achieves More."**



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The Lutheran Church advocates for FSV

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea (ELC-PNG) is making a big step forward as they collaborate with Femili PNG to respond to the challenging issue of FSV in Lae and Papua New Guinea. 2017 got off to a great start for Femili PNG as we signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) ELC-PNG on 23 January 2017.

The partnership aims to provide access to necessary services for survivors of FSV. To support Femili PNG, ELC-PNG is providing a space where FSV survivors can come to meet Femili PNG case workers for intake interviews, follow-up consultations and other activities. The goals of both Femili PNG and ELC-PNG is to ensure the best interest of the clients.

Provision of a safe and welcoming environment, where FSV survivors can comfortably come and share their experiences is a positive step in combating FSV. ELC-PNG is also considering other ways to be support the activities of Femili PNG, to better serve the clients. The challenging and complex issue of FSV is everyone's concern. As ELC-PNG steps in, it shows that collaborative efforts among different stakeholders such as churches, civil service organizations and the government is making a significant difference.



BCFW: Taking care of business



On 8 February 2017 Femili PNG launched an official partnership with the PNG Business Coalition for Women (BCFW). BCFW provides tools and resources for its member businesses to help drive women's economic participation and promote gender equality.

Through this partnership BCFW and Femili PNG hope to make the support services offered by Femili PNG accessible to more working women and men in Lae, in particular those employed by BCFW member companies, and to increase the reach and scope of services offered by Femili PNG to anyone in the Lae community who is impacted by family and sexual violence.

To mark the beginning of this partnership, BCFW and Femili PNG hosted an MOU signing ceremony at the Lae International Hotel. The guest of honour at the launch was the Australian Consul-General in Lae, Mr Paul Murphy, who was invited in recognition of the Australian Government's generous support to both organisations.

BCFW Chair (and Origin Energy CEO) Lesieli Taviri, and Femili PNG Operations Manager, Denga Illave both spoke before signing the MOU. "More than a third of the BCFW's member businesses are headquartered or have operations in Lae, PNG's very important industrial hub" said Ms Taviri.

"We are looking forward to this partnership, not only so we can support business employees who are affected by FSV, but also so that we can build support for our work among the private sector, to help us to become a more financially sustainable NGO" said Ms Illave.

Oil Search Foundation Partnership

Femili PNG and the Oil Search Foundation have entered a partnership to strengthen existing health and survivor's referral systems in Hela province to respond to Gender Based Violence (GBV).

The agreement signed on the 2nd March 2017 brings together our two local Papua New Guinean organisations and will improve access to response services and health providers including referral where needed for GBV survivors and communities.

"It's a critical need in Hela. By strengthening existing services, we're not only reaching and informing communities about the issues, we can also help to make sure survivors get treatment closer to their villages and if needed, referred to the Hela FSC or other support services in a holistic manner." says Foundation CEO, Kymberley Kepore.

The comprehensive program will include training at all levels of the Hela Provincial Health Authority; district health workers; community prevention and awareness activities; outreach; communication materials; mentoring and counselling support for the Hela FSC.



Training for Oxfam Partners: Learning to unlearn things the right way...

Attending a training is an opportunity for an individual to learn new things and to unlearn things that one person is used to doing. For service providers who are working for a long time some may forget to follow certain protocols because of overwhelming cases handled or the other way around, for the new service providers to be lacked of knowledge and skills on handling and managing cases.

To address these concerns, Oxfam together with Femili PNG conducted a five-day training course on case management for partners on February 6-10, 2017. It was attended by 15 participants from different Oxfam Gender Justice partners in Papua New Guinea, including Family for Change, Nana Kundi Crisis Centre, Saint Anna's Crisis Centre and many others.

The aim of the training was to build the partners' capacity and knowledge on family and sexual violence case management. This included the important protocols on victim handling and a basic orientation on trauma-informed care, so that the participants would better understand the plight of women and children survivors of family and sexual violence.

The training was facilitated by three Femili PNG staff including Ms Daisy Plana, CEO/Senior Social Worker, Ms Konnie Yoifa, Training Coordinator and Ms Evan Bieso, Case Work Manager.

All the topics covered are important for effective case management and role play was used to ensure understanding of the training content and for the participants to practically see and experience what effective case management can look like. At the end of the training participants made individual plans of action on how they will implement the things that they had learned.

Participants' feedback: *"I am very pleased with this training. I have been working with Kafe Urban Settlers Women's Association and was glad to be included and given proper training on case management. The skills, knowledge I learned made me feel competent to do my job and in working for the improvement of the lives of my clients."* – Roselyn Erick, Counsellor/Case Manager, Kafe Urban Settlers Women's Association



FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT...

This is a story of a 14 year old girl who was sexually abuse by her step father in the Eastern Highlands Province. She considers those days as the darkest part in her life because of the ongoing abuse which started in November 2014. Her stepfather threatened to kill her if she told anyone about the sexual abuse. In March 2015, when she thought the abuse might never end, she finally built up the courage to disclose it to her mom. Her mom believed her and they together escaped to Lae, hoping that they will find the light towards a better life. Their decision did not fail them for they found the support system they need: the Family Support Center (FSC), who then referred the case to Femili PNG on 26 March 2015. Necessary interventions were made, including referral to partners like the Family and Sexual Violence Unit at the police station for making a statement, coordination with police Sexual Offences Squad in Goroka and the Goroka Welfare Officer. With the collaborative efforts of all these stakeholders, the case was committed to the National Court. After the arrest of the perpetrator and a series of trials, the perpetrator was convicted and on 6 February 2017 he was sentenced to 16 years of imprisonment.

After all these days of darkness, finally justice has been served. The child survivor is now living back home in Goroko and is now on the road to healing from the trauma, and trying to enjoy the light of her remaining days of childhood free from abuse.

A Day in Her Life - By Betty Tom

The day is downing
 She wakes up while the house sleeps on
 Her day has began
 She lights the fire and roasts the sweet potatoes

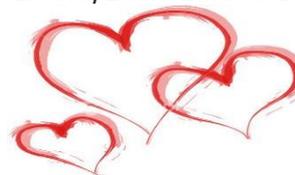
She is weak and tired from the previous day's work
 Bur what can she say and do?
 When she knows this is her life

Her man sits in the shade of the trees
 Discussing events of no importance
 Idling the day away
 She continues her errands
 Putting food on the table
 And knows, this is her life...

Family Poem – By Evan Bieso

Family is not always your bloodline,
 It is the people in your life, who want you to be in their life.
 They give you love and a place to belong,
 They accept you from whatever roots you came
 They would do anything to see you smile and be happy,
 No matter what problems you have,
 This family will always be with you in good times and bad times.

Thank you FEMILI PNG, LONG LUKSAVE LONG FAMIY....



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