

working in the region

SH&FPA INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

Welcome to Working in the Region, the newsletter of Sexual Health & Family Planning Australia's International Program.

Since taking up the role of SH&FPA CEO I have had the pleasure of meeting most of our International Project partners, members of the SH&FPA International Program Advisory Committee and the Family Planning NSW team contracted to administer SH&FPA's International Projects.

I look forward to building SH&FPA's relationships and hope you enjoy reading this edition of Working in the Region.

Naomi Knight, SH&FPA CEO

From the Manager

SH&FPA's International Program continues to be very active in the region and on our own shores. In Australia, we continue to be busy and focused in our preparation for AusAID re-accreditation. Compiling our successes and challenges since we last achieved Full Accreditation is both demanding and gratifying. We have to submit our profile by 31 October 2009 and then look forward to a site visit by the review team around the end of January 2010. AusAID has been very supportive and offered, and we have accepted, the assistance of an independent consultant to review our draft profile and provide advice about our preparation.

We continue to have staff movements in the International Program. Sadly, in the last year we have said goodbye to our COMPASS Project Coordinator, Leissa Pitts as well as Catherine Jones in Administration and Angie Soares of the Common Ground project. We wish them all the very best with their new endeavours and thank them for their tremendous hard work and support. We welcome to the team Joana Finchley who brings with her a wealth of experience in the region to assist in both the Asia Pacific Alliance Common Ground Project and ANCPs. We also welcome Alanna Galati who is working part time on the PNG COMPASS project.

Family Planning NSW continues to provide the operational management of the SH&FPA International Projects, under contract to SH&FPA. They have been carrying out this role for over 18 months and it has been a challenging and rewarding time, developing and implementing

and monitoring and evaluating our development projects.

The SH&FPA ANCP ADPlan has been submitted to AusAID for approval and we look forward to expanding our current programs in Fiji and Solomon Islands as well as embarking upon a new program for Men and Boys Behaviour Change in Timor-Leste in 2009-2010. Work continues in the Solomon Islands with Live and Learn Environment Education's project "Population Environment Community Education" and SIPPA's "Strengthening Youth Participation and Enhancing Empowerment in Sexual Reproductive Health". We are into our second year of our work with Fiji Family Health Association on HIV/ AIDs education - "Addressing HIV/AIDS in Fiji" and recently completed a reproductive and sexual health capacity building project aimed at youth in the Cook Islands.

In July 2009, SH&FPA and FPNSW had the pleasure of attending the International Planning Parenthood Federation (IPPF) meeting in Singapore for five days of presentations and discussion around strategic issues in sexual and reproductive health in the East South East Asia and Oceania Region. Our relationship with our partners in this region is essential for our effectiveness in addressing reproductive and sexual health issues and it was great to meet again and share ideas and experiences and explore opportunities.

Ann Brassil
CEO

Family Planning NSW
SH&FPA International Projects

From the CEO

From the Manager

**Men & Boys Behaviour
Change Project Evaluation**

2009-2010 ANCP Projects

In HER own words...

Did you know?



**Sexual Health &
Family Planning
Australia**

Leading the way in sexual and reproductive health

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2009-2010 ANCP Projects

Throughout the 2009-2010 financial year, SH&FPA will continue to work with the Reproductive and Family Health Association of Fiji on the Youth for Health program which aims to reduce the incidence of HIV, STI and infectious diseases and unplanned and unwanted pregnancies amongst young people up to 27 years in the Bua Province in Fiji.

We will also be working with Solomon Islands Planned Parenthood Association on the "Strengthening Youth Participation and enhancing empowerment in Sexual Reproductive Health" project which seeks to empower youth by the use of youth FM radio, face to face provincial workshops, schools focus groups and a youth friendly health centre and drop- in centre.

Our other Solomon Islands project, "Population Environment Community Education" will see our partners at Live and Learn Environment Education build the capacity of their community educators to deliver high quality reproductive and sexual health information as part of the developed Population and Environment for Sustainable Livelihood Learning Circle module.

Finally, SH&FPA will begin to design, implement and evaluate a three year project in Timor Leste building capacity to engage men and boys in improving reproductive health knowledge and health seeking behaviours and to promote behaviour change to reduce gender based violence through a gender-transformative approach.

EVALUATION: Men and Boys Behaviour Change Program

HELP-Resources, East Sepik Province, PNG in association with FPNSW/SH&FPA

Obstetrician and gynaecologist Dr Miriam O'Connor recently conducted an evaluation of the design, efficiency and effectiveness of the Men and Boys Behaviour Change (MBBC) Project auspiced by HELP-Resources in the East Sepik Province of Papua New Guinea. This former ANCP program has now been phased into the PASHIP COMPASS project, also in PNG.

The Evaluation found this MBBC program to have a well conceived and innovative strategy, which has been well received by the primary target audience, with great promise for value-adding or transfer across a variety of other settings in PNG as well as across the Pacific. It is extremely popular with many participants continuing on to hold awareness and training activities on their own initiative.

The evaluation revealed the importance and the acceptance of the fundamental rationale for the MBBC program at community level: the clear, expressed need for the men and boys of PNG to redefine their masculinity and their roles as Man, Partner, Father and Decision Maker in their personal lives, as well as within their families and as an integral part of their community/village life, but set in a recognisable PNG context (in relation to culture, tradition and the need to develop new ways of living in the PNG of the 21st Century). Lessons learned and recommendations made for both Help-R and SH&FPA are currently being under consideration and review.

Sexual Health & Family Planning Australia (SH&FPA) is an NGO representing family planning organisations throughout Australia. We provide high quality sexual and reproductive health services both nationally and internationally through our clinics, professional training, research and community education programs.



In her own words...

Tanya Wells-Brown

Manager, Maternal and Child Health Alola Foundation, Timor Leste

Working with Men and Boys in Reproductive Health

Fundasaun Alola, a local NGO based in Dili Timor Leste was delighted to invite Sexual Health and Family Planning Australia to host a "Men and Boys in Reproductive Health" training course in April 2008. Fundasaun Alola's core mandate is to advocate for women and children in health, education, legal rights and economic development opportunities. The Maternal and Child health department of the Alola Foundation works in communities promoting breastfeeding, family planning and safe motherhood. In the past, this education had been directed towards women in the communities. Many of the women have reported that even if they wanted to use family planning their husbands would not allow it. This training allowed an opportunity for health promotion staff to deliver education to men and boys who have not had the opportunity to learn about reproductive health or prevention of pregnancies. This is vital as Timor-

Leste has one of the highest fertility rates in the world with most women having at least eight births (UNICEF, MICS, 2002) with approximately 65% men and women having no knowledge on family planning. The training was delivered to 18 male and female health promotion staff of the Alola Foundation and other NGOs such as Marie Stopes International Australia and Health Alliance International in Dili.

A group of 17 men in Liquicia, a one hour drive from Dili, received the benefits of the training session conducted by the group. The trainee participants conducted education sessions in the village chief's house. They were very pleased to be invited because they knew very little about family planning, especially about how high fertility rates can affect the health of a woman and her children. They said that they knew women in their communities were educated about family planning but none of the men



knew. They suggested that this type of information be more widely available to men. They had heard about condoms but had never seen one. Some men did not know that pregnancy could be prevented. They would like to learn more!



Did you know?

Did you know that for every dollar you donate to our Overseas Aid Fund we can receive up to five times that amount in matched funding from AusAID on approved projects like the Solomon Islands Youth Program, the Men and Boys project in PNG and the Sexual and Reproductive Health Nurses Training Project in Timor Leste?

In Australia 1 in 13,000 women die from pregnancy related causes. In Timor Leste the maternal mortality rate is 100 times higher than this. For every 1000 babies born about 80 will not live to see their first birthday while 125 don't survive beyond the age of five.

In places such as Timor Leste, access to quality reproductive health and family planning services is essential in order to

improve the health and well being of women, children & their families, reduce poverty and save lives.

We need your help. Each year SH&FPA relies on financial support from the Australian community to allow us to continue to access funding from the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) for our overseas development projects. 100% of your donation will directly benefit people in developing countries in our region.

All donations to our Overseas Aid Fund are tax deductible. Please fill out the form below or donate via www.ourcommunity.com.au/shfpadonations.

Naomi Knight, CEO, SH&FPA



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