

# The W P F *Alert*

October, 2018

## WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

- ✓ Provided a range of contraceptive services and conducted in-service training programs [Australian Doctors International **in PNG**]
- ✓ Held education discussions including contraception in women's and men's groups [CARE Australia **in Timor Leste**]
- ✓ Published *Rights, Respect, Resilience*, a learning resource with sex education for schools [ChildFund Australia **in PNG**]
- ✓ Improved services to young people and increased awareness of contraception among garment factory workers [Marie Stopes International Australia **in Cambodia**]

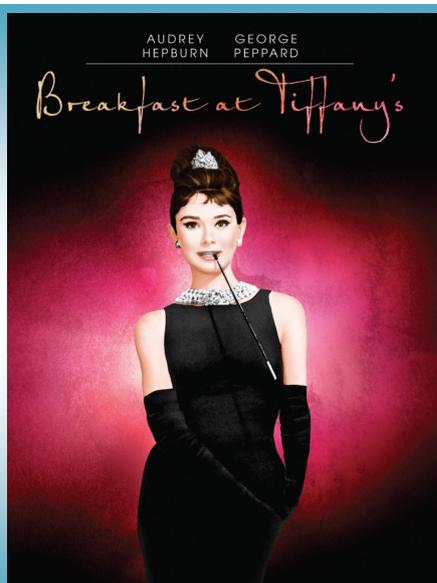
## WHAT ARE WE DOING?

Australia ranks as the third most fortunate and prosperous country in the world, yet our overseas aid budget has fallen over the past fourteen years to its lowest level. Donations make a statement.

How could we not share the access to contraception we value? This frees girls for education, women for careers, both genders for wise decision-making. The size of the next generation mustn't overwhelm Aid gains made. Women's Plans proclaims the interconnected benefits flowing from overseas aid programs in family planning: from health, to girls' potential, women's enterprise, population stabilization, environmental sustainability. Family planning for the human family is fundamental.

## WHAT DOES A GIRL HAVE TO DO?

## CAN A PLAYGIRL GAME ROMANCE? *Book your place, p.8*



## BREAKFAST AT TIFFANY'S

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**DRINKS & CANAPES 6.45 – 7.30 PM**

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**CONTACT:** ANYA POUKCHANSKI 0433 561 324

## CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Opportunities exist to volunteer to be part of the WPF team to assist us in extending our capacity to provide family planning as an integral part of overseas aid.

If you are interested in volunteering to assist with fundraising, organising events, communications, administration or if you can help us to increase our supporter and donor numbers on social media please send us an email ([WomensPlansFoundation@bigpond.com](mailto:WomensPlansFoundation@bigpond.com)) or contact Alice Oppen 02 9817 5175.

### INTRODUCING

WPF welcomes Berna Vural Gok in Administration. Berna blends skills in marketing strategy and design, with technological capacity. Berna was an Engineer in Turkey before she and her husband came to Australia. She is founder of an online children's shop and is keen to make an affirmative difference in working with WPF. Berna is fast becoming knowledgeable about the Australian NGO scene and overseas aid.

### FAREWELL AND THANKS

Liz Van Hooven has ably assisted WPF. Liz came from an executive career with a film company, runs sports businesses with her

husband, and they are moving to Queensland. Liz has been both supportive and exacting in her work, and we thank her for her charm and accomplishment.



Berna Vural Gok

Liz Van Hooven

### BEQUEST

From Suzanne Edwards, valued supporter: "When I was 20 years old I was at a friend's 21st birthday party and I had an epiphany that I would never have children. Apart from other reasons not to have children, I knew that I would be contributing to the world's future by a lack of overpopulating. Now, aged 43, I have finally made a proper Will with a lawyer and have bequeathed money to Women's Plans Foundation because their work is so much in agreement with my philosophy on life and lack of extra lives. As a statistician, every number is important to me. I thank the Women's Plan Foundation for their foresight and their dedicated work in making the world a better place."

## CHANGING THE CLIMATE - OVERSEAS AID



Women's Plans Foundation Symposium at The State Library of NSW, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, featured family planning solutions.

*Here are moments we must share, sharing vital approaches in overseas aid.*

Women's Plans Foundation aims to make family planning accessible in areas of need in the Asia Pacific. Through five NGOs we are bringing access to family planning in PNG, Timor L'este and Cambodia. You will hear from two of these fine organisations today.

Would most of us even be in this room if you and I lived in a patriarchal culture which entrenched women's role in maximum childbearing? Perpetual pregnancy affects ideas of what girls are and can be. Women's Plans' aim is to bring family planning to the millions of women now bearing children they struggle to feed, educate and socialise.

We live in a world of risks fast becoming reality. Rising tides, extremes of drought, heat and huge fires are frequent news. Populations overflow from continents where women are expected to bear unceasingly. Migrant flows have run out of new continents, and are less welcome where they land, even in European countries we have admired for humanitarian responses. Slogans of protectionism, motives of competition in diverting aid to infrastructure to support trade – these won't solve the problem.

***We need to change the climate of human response!***

Can Not For Profit organisations show how much better the world will be if the cultural climate warms for the common good, rather than hotting up inequity, spinning off poverty and radicalisation?

## AID AT ITS BEST – PLANNING FOR CHILDREN



**NIGEL SPENCE** is CEO of ChildFund Australia, noted international development organisation, and is Vice President of prestigious ACFID (Australian Council for International Development), which undertakes policy and advocacy and administers the industry's Code of Conduct.

In Nigel's ACFID role, he detailed the significant challenges the aid sector currently faces. The ACFID Code of Conduct has had a strong protective effect; in addition, ACFID has commissioned a review, reassessing its aid worker code of conduct following allegations of sexual misconduct in a few organisations. Raising standards of fundraising practices and accountability is a continual pressure.

### *SMART AID – Focus on the Young*

Successive Australian governments have cut overseas aid funding significantly. There has been hostility within some parts of the Government towards overseas aid, and recent attempts to introduce legislation (the electoral reform act, the public disclosure bill) would penalise or muzzle advocacy which differs from Government practice and policy. Private donating to Aid is flat, and there has been criticism of fundraising practices, with declining trust of NGOs.

The freedom for NGOs to operate in developing countries has reduced. Sixty countries have passed laws deliberately aimed at shutting down NGO activity, particularly in relation to human rights and environmental activities, and overseas aid is facing a crisis.

Nigel Spence praised the partnership with WPF, "For ChildFund Australia the partnership with WPF is very important. It not only expands the delivery of family planning and health services for women, it also helps ChildFund to prioritise this area of work more broadly and deliver on our stated commitments to gender equity. It has strengthened our programming around family planning work. The benefits for children are proven and far reaching."

The need for Aid is growing. Large organisations rated their top ten concerns: equality; rate of urbanisation; number of people on the move; displaced populations; climate change resulting in more severe weather events; impacting more on poor people; the rise of nationalism; the ideal of assisting our neighbours in need; and population increase resulting in a mentality of 'put up the barriers, pull up the drawbridge'.

ChildFund Australia leads in child-centered development, done in partnership with parents, communities and government. Programs have to be child-centered, not just hoping for a filtered down effect. It is important to have quality design, the right information and to be results-focused. Programs should be authentic, grounded in local people interacting in local communities with compassion and respect. Examples of projects are:

- Primary education in Cambodia, for children to learn in high quality school environments, with intensive teacher training and innovations such as tablets.
- In PNG the Rights, Respect, Resilience project (with WPF) providing sex education, teacher and local health provider training. Modern methods of contraception are reaching many women and girls in PNG, mainly in Central Province. They see that young women are then able to take control of their fertility.
- Technology is the focus of online safety for kids in Vietnam, because the online world presents many positive opportunities but also many risks for young people, including instances of foreigners coming online grooming girls in Vietnam. An app is being developed to record cases of child abuse.
- Sport for development is an innovation in Southeast Asia, using rugby as a way to engage boys and girls, then progressing a life skills curriculum. This program is hugely successful.

NGOs traditionally have been transferors of resources, in an intermediary role between better resourced environments to those lesser resourced. Now it is easier for donors to go directly to overseas recipients, so there is a proliferation of arrangements and players. Global power shifts bring concern, as with the rise of China, concern about the rules based order that has been a significant principle in overseas aid. There is deep rethinking about how we respond.

What is aid at its best? ChildFund is strong around child protection, education, health, helping children to be heard. Aid at its best is well managed and efficient, participatory and advances human rights, including women's rights, sustainability, agreed standards and compliance with ACFID's Code of Conduct, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) accreditation.

ChildFund Australia is thinking of unconventional ways to engage, and Nigel Spence's presentation contributed the best in human motivation and intelligence, building our understanding of how good overseas aid can be.

## SMART AID – BUILD CAPACITY IN HEALTH



**DR PENNY UTHER**, BMed MEd FRACP, spoke from her volunteering as a Medical Officer on remote Health Patrols with Australian Doctors International (ADI) on a 6-month placement in Kavieng, New Ireland, PNG.

### Conceptions of Health in PNG

How far can a medical advance reach? Australian Doctors International is an excellent concept, and an enormously effective outreach, with Australian medical volunteers building capacity in health and social services where they are most needed.

Dr Penny Uther described her adventures in neighbouring PNG, only 6 km from Australia at its closest point. Penny is an Australian Paediatrician based in New Ireland, with a population of 200,000 and hospitals at Kavieng and Namatanai (though Namatanai has no doctor, no running water, no lights), with Health Centres and Aid Posts in rural areas. Transport is largely by banana boats.



Penny travelled to remote areas with a local team including dental services, physiotherapy and optometry, providing health care and training. Barriers to contraception uptake include Catholic health services, long distance access, and myths about implants, eg. men think women won't be able to work, and women are worried it causes cervical cancer.

Australian Doctors International (ADI) demonstrates its commitment to upholding the universal right to health care by working with local partners to provide and strengthen health services in rural and remote communities. Reducing preventable diseases and increasing the capacity of local health workers can be difficult, through lack of equipment and difficulty of travel. Partnerships are meaningful and valued. Initiatives such as this must attract Government notice, because ADI's specialist input, when multiplied by DFAT funding, can be an enormously efficient and targeted way of preventing disease from reaching Australia from our near neighbour. Even those described by ACFID above as hostile to sending aid overseas, should be convinced that building health services in the region is of benefit to all.

**SMART AID - THINK OF THE FUTURE**



**GRAHAM WOOD** is President (NSW) Sustainable Population Australia. He turned his experience as an engineer to risk analysis, comparing scientific evaluation of risk of aircraft innovation with political and social decision-making affecting population and climate change.

**Do we want to know in time? Risk -**

Graham noted that there is inconsistent Duty of Care in Government planning. Whereas engineers apply very high standards to minimise risk, political leaders seem not to recognise the same need in anticipating the dangers of climate change. Politicians have postponed acting on proven evidence; engineers failing to act on proven evidence are judged criminally negligent.

Politicians make decisions which expose the public and future generations to grave risks, with the probability that there will be climate change risks exceeding 99.999%.



Sydney's New Coastline

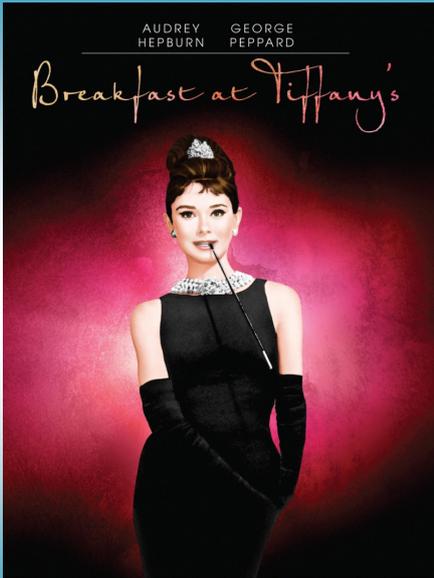
security of our being. Whether particular Ministers are sceptics about climate change or only sceptical of particular schemes which can effectively move to a new paradigm, delay is risk. Delay is also a decision. The Government should form an independent bipartisan committee empowered with the financial resources and a charter to take every reasonable action to minimise and reverse the impact of overpopulation and climate change. Our Government should lead the world by example, develop a "Green High Tech" industry to replace our carbon exports and build a secure future for children with minimal risk.

Study	No of Papers (Sample Size)	% for ACC	Numbers For ACC
Verhegge	1,868	90.0%	1,681
Powell	9,136	99.9%	9,127
Cook	11,944	97.1%	11,598
Farnsworth	998	97.0%	968
Anderegg	1,372	97.5%	1,338
Oreskes	928	100.0%	928
<b>Totals</b>	<b>26,246</b>	<b>97.7%</b>	<b>25,639</b>

**% Climate Scientists Agree in Anthropogenic Climate Change**

Graham's conclusion is that our democratic political system seems unable to make tough, expensive decisions even though they are vital for the long term

*Women's Plans Foundation's focus is the world-wide impact of involuntary population rise, and the need for all-party, all-nation acknowledgement that we all have a duty to act responsibly. WPF thanks the speakers and the forum for enlarging on the role of family planning and the inclusion of women in decision-making in meeting this crisis, this need for a revolution in our global thinking.*



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## BOOKING & DONATION FORM

Name ..... Tel. ....

Donation \$..... Cash  Cheque  Credit Card  Master Card  Visa  PayPal on WPF website

Booking for *Breakfast at Tiffany's* film 1<sup>st</sup> showing..... 2<sup>nd</sup> showing..... (\$50 per person) \$.....

Card No ..... Card Expiry ...../..... CVC .....

Signature .....

Email .....

Address (for tax receipt) .....

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