

The W P F *Alert*



We are renewable energy

June 2019

Our Man in PNG



New Board member, **Sam Durland**, in PNG for his engineering consultancy, is contributing his knowledge of conditions and inputs gained in his career.

Sam visited ChildFund Australia's PNG Country Director, Bridgette Thorold, to talk about the program we are funding. We hear that the messages around family planning and contraception are reaching young people and generating interest in accessing sexual and reproductive health services. The program is designed to reach out-of-school youth, an important demographic group. Bridgette believes that the out-of-school youth have truly been effective in delivering the SRH messages to their peers, in valuable outreach.

On sustainability, Bridgette is keen to explore the possibility of working with leaders of youth groups, who could become "champions" in continuing to deliver these messages.

This is exciting and innovative work, and WPF is encouraged in reaching the young people who will benefit most from gaining and sharing knowledge of contraception.

Meet our other new Director—Marianne Christmann, G.A.I.C.D., holds Master and Bachelor degrees in Law and a Bachelor degree in Science. Marianne has led programs in Commonwealth and NSW State Government, in chief operating officer and regional operational roles working for organisations such as the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, and the Family Court. She has a strong focus on women's issues and worked for the former Department for Women in NSW.



Our work in the Asia Pacific Region

Women's Plans is making grants totalling \$115,000 in 2019-20, for contraception and family planning programs in PNG, Laos and Cambodia to five fine organisations – Marie Stopes International Australia, ChildFund Australia, CARE Australia, Save the Children Australia and Australian Doctors International.

Ingenious ways of educating and serving young people are being developed, using online links and chat boxes.

Local midwives are being trained in long acting contraceptives, especially for implants in the arm. Some are reaching remote areas which lack health services.

In more urban areas there are education sessions about and access to modern contraception for vulnerable young factory workers in from the country.

WPF values the sensitivity of these NGOs in local cultures, engaging with men as well as women and girls. (Read about these on page 2)

Your Gifts at Work 2019-20

Australian Doctors International, in the remote New Ireland Province in PNG, will conduct further training of local educators to increase understanding of family planning and support women's informed choice about the most suitable form of contraception for them. Further in-service training will be provided to health workers. The project will deliver community education on gender equity and reproductive rights. ADI's outreach patrols will include a family planning officer and a gender equity trainer.

Care Australia in its Mamayo project will improve reproductive and maternal health in the Lufa District in the Eastern Highlands of PNG, by training community leaders and couples, training village health volunteers, and for maternal health outreach patrols. The goal is to increase family planning and improve reproductive and maternal health and wellbeing of women, their families and communities in rural, disadvantaged areas by promoting gender equitable relations and decision-making.

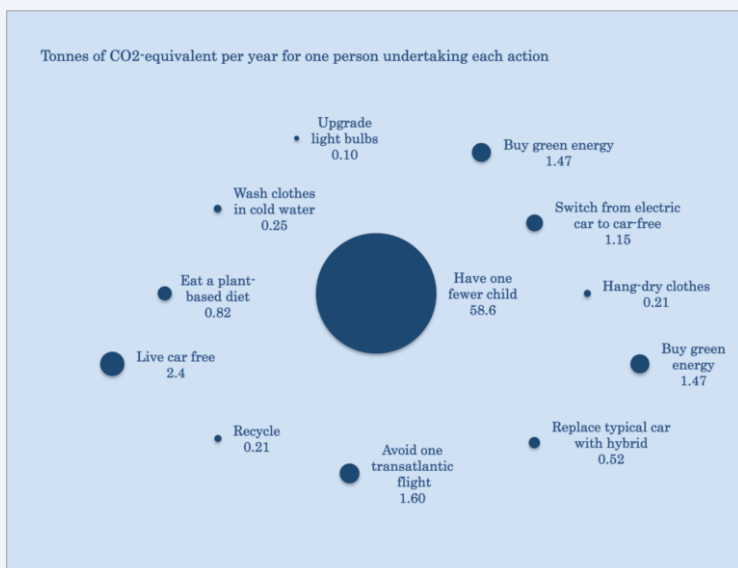
ChildFund Australia's Rights, Respect and Resilience curriculum module has been developed for secondary school students and for young people outside the school system in Central Province and National Capital District of PNG. This focuses on prevention of violence and promotion of gender equality via provision of comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and gender rights education. In this third year of the project, ChildFund is receiving funds from WPF to work with teachers to further refine the curriculum, to enhance collaboration between service providers and schools and youth groups and to provide continuing support to peer educators working with out-of-school youth at risk from gender based violence in target settlements in Port Moresby.

Marie Stopes International is scaling up access to contraception for young people in Cambodia, especially focusing on the barriers to access and uptake of contraceptive services by adolescents in rural areas in four additional provinces. A wide range of innovative approaches for working with adolescents includes adolescent-friendly branding and materials, digital media, the mobile outreach Chat Box Facility, Youth Health Service cards providing discounts for contraceptive and other sexual and reproductive health services, and training videos for health providers on how to deliver youth friendly services. The project will expand and strengthen the referral network to increase access to Sexual and Reproductive services. This year, the project will also be working with Government to ensure that a supportive environment exists for adolescents to access Sexual and Reproductive Health Services and to improve uptake of services, including contraception. The Government has introduced a Comprehensive Sexuality Education curriculum in the schools. This project will be working towards improving the skills and confidence of teachers to deliver the curriculum.

Save The Children, in Reaching the Children Left Behind: Maternal, Newborn Child Health and Nutrition Project in Lao PDR, is introducing adolescent-friendly services and upgrading the skills of health care providers (midwives and community volunteers) through mentoring, training, on-site practice and internships. Some of the skills relate to family planning, and the project is providing outreach family planning services to remote villages work to improve family planning practices as part of a suite of reproductive, maternal, new born, child health and nutrition practices.

These impressive organisations are accredited by AusAID, now a part of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. It is hoped that AusAID's focus on reproductive health will continue in areas where men's views of ownership of women make continual childbearing a default setting for the woman's role. Violence in gender relationships, or virility measured by the number of children, create barriers to women's entry to health clinics where rapid population increase is perpetuating poverty. The proportion of the reproductive health allocation expended on behavioural programs for men as a prelude to reaching women and making contraception possible, means that existing levels of funding may not provide sufficient rural and urban family planning for a sustainable society.

Tonnes of CO2 Equivalent per year for one person undertaking each action



The benefits of contraception are wide-ranging and long lasting for women, girls and their communities. When women are able to manage the number and spacing of their children, they can provide better family health and education and contribute to family income and decision making.

As Melinda Gates has said, *Contraceptives are simply one of the best anti-poverty initiatives the world has seen.*

Contraceptives are vital in meeting the world's challenges.

Your ongoing support of Women's Plans Foundation is growing our ability to supply contraception and family planning to those in need in the Asia Pacific region. Both in annual grants to our overseas aid partners, and in the Trust Fund which powers future years' grants, your contribution is significant.

CELEBRATE WPF's newest AMBASSADOR—HESTER FRASER

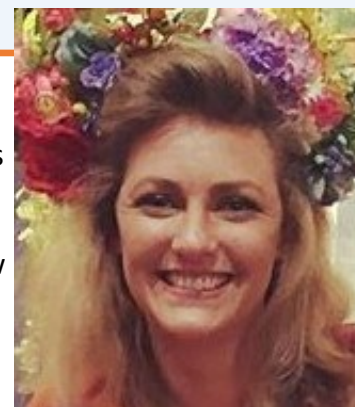
WPF is proud to announce that Hester Fraser is an Ambassador of Women's Plans Foundation.

Joining the eminent Professor Jill White AM, Hester Fraser signifies to a new generation the vital importance of women's control of their own lives.

On May 30th, Hester launched her new song, applauded by a WPF group at the event. Her album GOLDHEIST was launched in 2017, and in 2018 was selected for Sydney's VIVID Festival. Touring outback and regional NSW, GOLDHEIST toured outback and regional NSW with painter James Needham, performing live art and music, exploring the spirit of place and the ways in which our surrounds impact and inspire.

Hester Fraser has charmed audiences as a Finalist for three years running in the Tamworth Country Music Festival, and was Winner of the prestigious People's Choice Award in 2016, and 2nd Place Winner of the Judges Choice in 2017.

In tribute to her grandfather, the late Right Honourable Malcolm Fraser, Hester wrote "The Camellia Tree", in on-going musical support reflecting Malcolm Fraser's post-PM years of a humanitarian overseas aid focus.



Social Media volunteers are poised to advance our fundraising and advocacy to lively young generations. Can they equal the feminist wave of the 1970s? Let us all hope so. Young people are becoming activist about climate change – now we need to make, tactfully, the connection with population size and choices.



EVENTS

MYTHCONCEPTIONS: OVERCOMING MIXED MESSAGES

Stories and strategies from our partners in the field to deal with myths about conception and contraception — informative and entertaining

Thursday, 29 August 2019, 10 am for 10.30 am—12.30

The Women's Club, 4th Floor, 179 Elizabeth Street, Sydney

Over morning tea, hear the panel of NGOs funded by WPF, talk about the work they are doing in PNG, Cambodia and Laos, specifically the myths about conception and birth control and how they address these issues.

PAYMENT: \$35 per person. **On-line** at www.WomensPlans.org OR **cheque / credit card** to 3 Madeline St Hunters Hill NSW 2110 OR **direct debit** by 20 August.

SAVE THE DATE: HIGH TEA, 3pm, Sunday 20 October, MythBusters, the Musical

BOOKINGS & DONATION FORM

NAME E:

POSTAL ADDRESS:.....

BOOKINGS @ \$35 \$..... DONATION \$..... TOTAL

VISA MASTERCARD CARD NO. EXP. DATE CVC

NAME ON CARD SIGNATURE

DIRECT DEBIT: BSB 313 140 ACT 1217 1137 A tax deductible receipt will be sent for all donations.

WPF's **new Direct Debit** details are: **BSB 313 140**, Bank Australia, **Account 12171137**. Bank Australia is appreciative of For Purpose organisations and proclaims its social and environmental credentials.

Directors: Carolyn Blanden, Marianne Christmann, Sam Durland, Joanne Epp PhD, Pauline Markwell, Anya Poukchanski, Alice Oppen OAM, Dr. Lina Safro, **Observer:** Georgina Roukis

Events Committee: Emma Challen, Ros Espie, Jenny Hall, Jeannette Kalek, Anni Macdougall, Pauline Markwell, Margaret Milne, Leon Muller, Alice Oppen OAM, Trish Procter

Development: Pauline Markwell, **Evaluation:** Sue Funnell, **Administration:** Natalie Brandon

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