

# The W P F *Alert*



## Will you TREK with us?

June 2021

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### *Letter to Donors and Supporters*

This year we have granted the largest amount ever, allocated among our NGO delivery partners. We have stretched, in this most dramatic time of need.

#### **Will you stretch so we can continue?**

- ◇ in the face of Government cuts to overseas aid (approximately 30% since 2014)
- ◇ the need for family planning for the human family as we out-consume our resources
- ◇ in the face of increasing natural disasters as temperatures rise
- ◇ and, of course, the pandemic which is ravaging off our shores, in PNG.

#### **What can we do?**

Fund programs which assist women to make decisions about childbearing and programs which educate everyone about the fundamental benefits of family planning for health, girls' access to education, poverty reduction and sustainability.

At the heart of our efforts is the knowledge that girls and women are half the population, and can make the world a better place.

Please donate and we will do as much as we can.

In good faith,

Pauline Markwell

Director, Women's Plans Foundation

### **The Flipside:**

Professor Short quoted Peter Scott, 'You know, when we started the World Wildlife Fund, its objective was to save endangered species from extinction, and I'm now near the end of my career and we've failed completely. We haven't saved a single endangered species. And if we'd put all that money we'd collected into condoms, we might have done some good.'

And I remember thinking, God, what a thought! Good heavens! Of course, he's right! What am I doing here wasting my time in a vet school teaching? I really ought to be leading a research group in human reproduction and seeing if we can get contraception working out there and available to everyone, because it's human population growth that's the transcending problem of our times.

(Heard on the ABC's The Science Show, May 15, 2021)

# OVERSEAS AID CUTS

## International news from Family Planning 2030, May 15, 2021:

The UK has been steadfast in its commitment to family planning and, in 2019, was the world's second-largest donor, making up 25% of total bilateral funding for family planning, its highest level since FP2020 was created.

It is deeply troubling, therefore, to see the UK make drastic cuts in its financial support for family planning, one of the best investments in global development. In April, the [UN Population Fund \(UNFPA\)](#) **learned** that the UK, its single largest donor, would be cutting its support for UNFPA's flagship supplies program by 85% and its core funding support by 60%. The UNFPA Supplies Project ensures reliable reproductive health commodities stocks — including contraception and medical equipment — for family planning programs in dozens of countries around the world. With these funds the UNFPA Supplies Partnership would have helped prevent around 14.6 million unintended pregnancies, 4.3 million unsafe abortions, and 250,000 maternal and child deaths.

## And in Australia, budget analysis reveals:

### Government cuts aid in the middle of the pandemic

By Stephen Howes May 12, 2021

#### 1. Aid will fall in 2021-22.

After inflation, aid is being cut by 4.9% in 2021-22 relative to 2020-21. Australia's economy is doing better than expected. Many parts of the world are doing worse than expected. This year, the government did increase aid (on budget night last year and over the course of the year) by an amount that is now estimated to be 6.3%. (All growth rates are after inflation.) But next year's aid budget wipes away most of that increase with that 4.9% cut. Most initiatives announced this year are wound down next year, no new initiatives have been put in place (except for a very small one for India), and there is no indexation for inflation.

#### 2. Aid cuts continue through the forward estimates.

The forward estimates for aid show that it is set to fall every year to 2024-25, by a total of 12% from the current year: as mentioned, 4.9% in 2021-22; then 5.5% in 2022-23; 0.3% in 2023-24; and finally 1.9% in 2024-25.

#### 3. No aid total is presented for 2020-21 or 2021-22.

Last year's DFAT aid budget summary didn't actually (for the first time ever) tell you how much aid the Australian government was planning to provide in aid that year. Instead it mentioned one amount, a "\$4 billion ODA [Official Development Assistance or aid] program" and then a second amount, \$304.7 million to be spent over two years on a COVID-19 response package.

What is the point of putting out an aid summary without the actual total? While the reader can work it out for themselves, it is confusing, and we don't have accurate budget figures for aid by country any more."

From **Act for Peace** email:

Despite last year's welcome boost to the aid budget at the outset of the pandemic, this year's budget, which was reduced by \$144 million, falls well short of 'our global fair share' and what's required.

#### Australia's total foreign aid budget of \$4.335 billion is now less than one tenth of its defence budget.

Ranked 14th in the world in 2015 for providing aid, Australia now ranks 21st, despite being the tenth richest country.

# TREK FOR CONTRACEPTION

## Women's Plans Foundation's Inaugural Virtual Trek

*'Contraception is the greatest anti-poverty tool in the world'. Melinda Gates*

*Contraception protection is something every woman must have access to, to her control her own Destiny.' Ruth Bader Ginsberg*



Photograph Courtesy of CARE

### TREK FOR CONTRACEPTION is for everyone

WPF's Trek for Contraception is fundraising for contraception and reproductive health in PNG.

In the spirit of trekking PNG's Kokoda Track (96km), you can walk/run/cycle any distance, anywhere, anytime from July—26 September, World Contraception Day. It doesn't matter where or how you 'trek'.

Set your challenge (9-96km) and get your family and friends to join you and/or sponsor you. Your support will improve the lives of young girls, women and families in PNG.

[Register your interest.](#)

### Contraception is The Game Changer—WHY?

- ◆ A foundation for women and girls' empowerment, their health, education, economic opportunities
- ◆ Critical for the alleviation of poverty, preserving the environment and population sustainability.

**PNG—WHY?** PNG has profound challenges including:

- ◆ A population doubling every generation
- ◆ High level of mythology, distrust and cultural taboos about contraception
- ◆ Very difficult access to family planning services and significant sexual violence to women.

### What to do:

#### 1. Sign up

Sign up for Free as an individual or with a team.  
Registration [www.womensplans.org](http://www.womensplans.org)

#### 2. Set your own TREK challenge

Decide to walk/run/cycle any distance (9-96kms), anywhere, anytime from July - 26 September 2021.

#### 3. Fundraise for WPF—and have fun

Share your challenge; invite family and friends to join or sponsor you to improve the lives of young girls, women and families in PNG.

#### 4. Celebrate your success

With WPF on 26 September—World Contraception Day - 2021. Look out for more details....

**Women's Plans Foundation**, a charitable trust raising funds for family planning, has been making grants to accredited NGOs working in the **Asia Pacific region since 2004.**

The grants, an integral part of overseas aid, are to make contraception available to those who have limited or no access to family planning services and to provide education about and advocacy for family planning.

[Register your interest:](mailto:WomensPlansFoundation@bigpond.com) WomensPlansFoundation@bigpond.com



# LEADING CAUSES OF OVERPOPULATION

## Excerpts from Population Media Centre articles:

Each day there are approximately 382,000 births, compared to 168,000 deaths. This accounts for a global net growth of 200,000 people per day.

Overpopulation is a situation in which the Earth cannot regenerate the resources used by the world's population each year. By this definition, our planet has been overpopulated every year since 1970, with each successive year becoming more and more damaging.

### What can be done?

Promote	Promote	Promote	Debunk
Family Planning	Girls' Education	Status of Women	Fears of Contraception

If enough progress is made in women's reproductive self-determination, fertility could fall enough for population to be a much smaller 7.3 billion in 2100.

### A SOLUTION: SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED ENTERTAINMENT

To help countries achieve these cultural shifts, Population Media Centre uses a unique methodology to produce long-running TV and radio shows, with characters who gradually evolve into positive role models for the audience. The shows are locally written and produced, and they are broadcast on the most popular radio or TV stations for the desired audience.

PMC's strategy has now been replicated in 50 countries, reached more than 500 million people, and has led to the elevation of women's status, reduced birth rates, and overall improved health and welfare among the audiences.

Use of this strategy is essential to solving the global population problem and achieving a sustainable future. Discover how PMC's show, [Agashi \("Hey! Look Again!"\)](#), reached huge audiences and promoted healthier attitudes and behaviours in this case study.

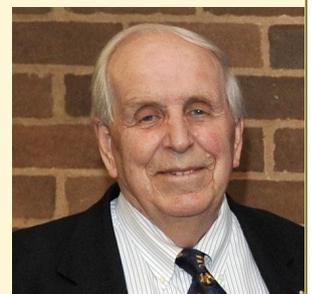
## The Flipside:

### More from Professor Roger Short on The Science Show:

I'd look at what were the normal constraints to human fertility, how had human numbers been kept in check, what kept births spaced? And of course it turned out to be breastfeeding, and we did quite a lot of work on that to show that in traditional societies, like in Australian Aboriginal communities even today, if a mother exclusively breastfeeds her baby, which is the normal behaviour, the act of suckling will stop ovulation.

The normal birth interval in traditional human societies was about four years or a bit more. It was only when we discovered cow's milk and the fact that we could shortcut the breast and feed babies with cow's milk through a bottle that, woops, fertility shot up and instead of having one child every four years, you could have one child a year or less. So that had a staggering impact on human fertility.

**T Shirt:**     **Don't use the Vatican condom:**  
**It's holy.**     (credit Professor Roger Short)



# WPF'S GRANTS AT WORK

## ChildFund:

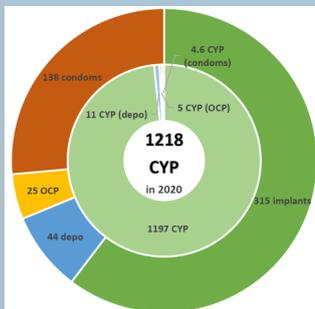
ChildFund Australia wishes to thank the Women's Plans Foundation for its contribution to the IMPACT Rights, Respect, resilience project in Papua New Guinea (PNG) in the financial year 2020-21. The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted the people with whom we work; we are particularly grateful for your steadfast support during these uncertain times.

Educators receive their Certificate of Completion following their training on the peer educator Learning Resource Material; Port Moresby; 2019.



## Australian Doctors International

Provision of contraceptives and contribution to couple years protection Couple years protection (CYP) refers to the estimated protection provided by contraceptive methods during a one-year period.



In 2020, ADI's outreach health patrols and in-service training provided the following CYPs to women in rural communities, as shown in the diagram.

In all, ADI contributed to a combined, 1218 CYPs this financial year through patrols and in-service training. Patrol members have commented that ADI's education has been particularly eye-opening for men.



Photos: 1. ADI's family planning educator practises implant insertions on a model arm.  
2. Community leaders doing Community Mobilisation training in Namatanai District

## Maries Stopes International Cambodia

In 2020, through its comprehensive programming in Cambodia and with the assistance of WPF funds, MSIC has achieved the following: Of people who want to plan their pregnancies or discontinue expansion of their families but have limited or no access to contraceptives, and who obtain services from MSIC: **38%** were adopters of family planning (previously not using any modern method), **42%** of FP clients knew of no other option for their service and **16%** were first time-users of FP. To address some of the knowledge and understanding barriers to women and girls using any form of contraception, MSIC conducted community engagement activities that reached **3,516 young people** and used online platforms providing comprehensive, reliable and inclusive information on SRH to reach **more than 37,000 young people**.



Group discussion about IUDs in Happy Chandara, an NGO working with vulnerable young people in Cambodia.

# AUSTRALIA IS A LAGGARD IN INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Media release by Sandra Kanck, Sustainable Population Australia

...The recent rape scandals in Australia's Federal Parliament highlight how far Australia has to go to achieve gender equality, says Sustainable Population Australia (SPA).

"While Australia is receiving a timely wake-up call to recommit to women's rights, many countries around the world have a very long way to go to give women an equal voice in the home, in the workplace and in political life," said SPA National President, Sandra Kanck.

Ms Kanck emphasised that gender equity is not just about individual women being able to reach their full potential. Our escalating social and environmental crises are worsened by the subjugation of women.

"In many places, women are treated as little more than baby-making machines," said Ms Kanck. "The resulting population growth drives their communities into poverty, with insufficient land, water and work for the next generation to flourish."

"Today, more than 40 per cent of pregnancies worldwide are unintended, and 270 million women have an unmet need for contraception," said Ms Kanck.

"Control over her own body must be a fundamental right for a woman, irrespective of cultural practices. She must be free to refuse sex, and she must have the right to determine when not to have a child.

"Reproductive health services affect all aspects of a woman's life," said Ms Kanck. "A girl with many siblings is less likely to stay in school and more likely to be married very young.



Without access to contraception, she can't sustain employment, can't space births to better nourish her children, and can't avoid having more when the family can't afford to feed those they have."

In many countries, adolescent girls can't access contraception and sex education because authorities fear it will promote promiscuity, despite evidence showing the opposite. They condone promiscuity among boys, but would rather see children born into poverty to teenage mothers, and girls die from unsafe abortions, than allow them to control their own bodies.

SPA draws attention to the final report of the "Family Planning 2020" project (FP2020), a product of the 2012 London Family Planning Summit, which attempted to escalate reproductive health service provision in poor countries by 2020.

Despite many achievements, the project reached only half of its goal of 120 million additional contraceptive users.

Australia reneged on its promised funding for FP2020, providing only around half the pledged US\$50 million per year.

A new phase of the project, Family Planning 2030, seeks to eliminate the unmet need for contraception by 2030, in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. "This is an opportunity for Australia to substantially improve its commitment to women's rights," said Ms Kanck.

# EVENTS

## Bridge and Mahjong Day at The Women's Club

With much pleasure games commenced after welcoming coffee. At last, our Bridge and Mahjong Day could be held! Though we could not risk descending on our traditional hostess, Marian Moufarrige, in her lovely waterfront home, she was present as our guiding spirit at The Womens Club and has invited us to come in future.



View into the Bridge Room



View into the Drawing Room



The players dove into Bridge or Mahjong with gusto, breaking only for a light lunch in the Dining Room, a summary of why Women's Plans Foundation exists, and the drawing of raffles. Then it was back deep into games.

The Events Committee was delighted to be back to real, non-Zooming activity.

That said, the next WPF activity is a new venture –

### A Virtual Trek!

For everyone...

Make of it what you will, pushing an individual boundary, or gathering a group of trekkers – design your own challenge to be supported by your sponsors. Explain why WPF's work is so vital; educate the people who support and respect what you do. Register your interest—[WomensPlansFoundation@bigpond.com](mailto:WomensPlansFoundation@bigpond.com)

## WPF Symposium

The next Symposium, in September, will have the theme of **Generating Change** -- multiple meanings of 'generating' intended.

How much do we have to change the rising trajectories of population and climate? What can we generate in leadership and other sorts of power to change direction?

## DONATION FORM

The work WPF is funding is critical, especially in these times, and your support is vitally important to our ability to make grants ensuring women and girls have access to contraception. Please consider giving generously now.

DONATION \$..... Or MONTHLY DONATION \$.....

NAME .....

EMAIL: .....

POSTAL ADDRESS:.....

VISA ..... MASTERCARD ..... CARD NO. .... EXP. DATE .....

CVC ..... NAME ON CARD .....

SIGNATURE .....

WPF's **new Direct Debit** details are: **BSB 313 140**, Bank Australia, **Account 12171137**.

**A tax deductible receipt will be sent for all donations. Please ensure your details are included.**



Jill



Hester



Alice



Carolyn



Evan



Emma



Pauline



Anya



Jane



Lina



Marianne



Sam



Grainne



Natalie



Sue

## OUR TEAM

**Ambassadors:** Prof Jill White AM and Hester Fraser

**Directors:** Alice Oppen OAM, Carolyn Blanden, Evan Oppen, Emma Challen, Pauline Markwell, Anya Poukchanski, Jane Malcolmson, Dr Lina Safro, Marianne Christmann, Sam Durland

**Observer:** Gráinne Tierney; **Administration:** Natalie Brandon

**Events & Media Committee:** Dr Lucinda Barry, Emma Challen, Ros Espie, Jenny Hall, Jeannette Kalek, Margaret Milne, Anni Macdougall, Jane Malcolmson, Pauline Markwell, Leon Muller, Alice Oppen OAM

**Development:** Pauline Markwell; **Evaluation:** Sue Funnell, Emma Challen, Jessica Collins

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