



Australia Awards

# Investing in a healthy PNG

Through the PNG-Australia Partnership, Australia Awards health scholars and alumni make lasting contributions to PNG's development and prosperity. They work across the country in fields as diverse as midwifery, nursing, public policy and mental health.



175+ long-term health scholarships for study in Australia since 2012



Scholarships for 600+ community healthcare workers



130 million Kina in health scholarships & capacity building for PNG tertiary institutions



1,200+ new PNG nurses and midwives trained



97% of PNG midwifery graduates since 2012 funded by Australia Awards



Over 50% of these midwives using newly-acquired skills for life-saving work

My PhD experience helped me to be more confident in my analytical skills and made me a better health researcher



*Dr Celestine Aho, (above) from the PNG Institute of Medical Research, is one of many alumni supporting the COVID-19 response.*





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### TAKING PNG EXPERTISE TO THE WORLD

Australia Awards alumni are well known for skills exchange and sharing best practice, a record Dr Izzard Aglua (pictured above left) exemplifies.

Dr Aglua received the 2018 PNG Australia Alumni Association Young Leader Award for his ground-breaking clinical research and leadership in Simbu Province.

He has also been recognised internationally for his innovative research on stroke and bone infection in children.

Dr Aglua, a graduate of James Cook University in Queensland, is also a two-time winner of the Australia Awards Alumni Grants Scheme, through which he has presented his research findings at international medical conferences.

### FEMALE LEADERS SUPPORTING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Investing in female leaders and supporting their contribution to healthy communities are priorities for Australia Awards and the PNG-Australia Partnership.

In the critical area of midwifery, for example, over 97% of PNG graduates since 2012 have been funded by Australia Awards – the vast majority women.

One of those women is Paula Zebedee Aines (pictured below right). Paula completed a Bachelor of Midwifery in PNG and a Master's in the same field in Australia – both with Australia Awards scholarships.

Paula was also part of the Australia Awards Women's Leadership Initiative during her time in Australia, sharing ideas and skills with fellow female leaders.

'I want to encourage more midwives to apply for Australia Awards so that together we can share information and drive positive change,' Paula says.



### SPOTLIGHT ON MENTAL HEALTH

Participants in the first-ever Australia Awards PNG Short Course in Counselling are now supporting mental health around PNG.

The 25 participants from 13 provinces completed study at Griffith University, Queensland in late 2019. During their studies, all participants made significant improvements in terms of the quality of their counselling and engagement with clients.

They are now sharing their skills and experiences across the country through work with Government, the private sector and NGOs.

Pictured above is alumna Rebecca Piam delivering mental health training for frontline workers in her role with the International Committee of the Red Cross.

'We equip front-liners with psychosocial skills needed to help patients and their families,' Rebecca says.

