

# Australia Awards midwives contributing to Papua New Guinea's health



From 2012, there has been 1,576 Australia Awards In-PNG scholarship graduates for health. This has resulted in an additional:

 **508**

midwives

 **630**

community health workers

 **438**

nurses

These scholarships represent a total investment of just over PGK 84 million, of which **PGK 18 million** was through midwifery scholarships.

**The Governments of Australia and Papua New Guinea are working in partnership to achieve national health targets. Australia Awards scholars gain knowledge and skills that empower them to contribute to development in the communities they work and strive for a better future.**

Papua New Guinea (PNG) has one of the highest maternal mortality ratios in the Asia-Pacific region.

The common causes of maternal mortality are haemorrhage, diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis, unsafe abortion, sepsis, eclampsia and infection.

Trained midwives hold the key to reducing maternal mortality, but PNG suffers a severe shortage of specialty qualified nurses.

Since 2012, the Government of Australia has worked in partnership with the Government of Papua New Guinea to support the development of PNG's midwifery human resources through investment in scholarships for midwives and capacity building support for health training institutions that deliver midwifery training.





97  
PERCENT

of midwifery graduates were Australia Awards scholars from 2012 to 2016

Australia Awards investment in midwifery scholarships has had a positive impact on the midwifery profession, education and services. Evidence shows that there is an increase in the number of midwifery graduates over the years and that these graduates are actively applying their newly-acquired skills and knowledge across PNG.

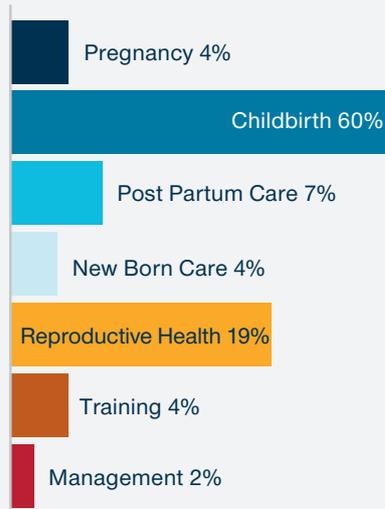
“ To prevent primary postpartum haemorrhage, before the training I was not sure of what I should do. The skills are useful, especially when the doctors are not around during the night ... we know how to manage. ”  
*Midwife, Eastern Highlands*



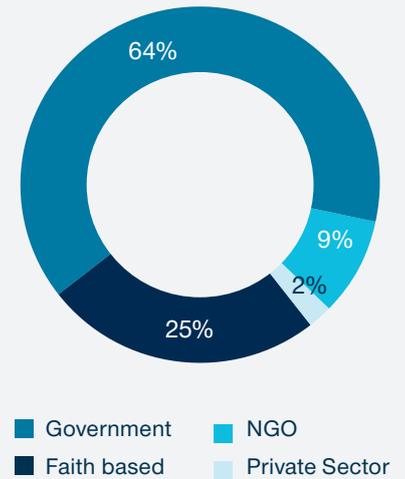
54%

of graduate professional contributions that use their new knowledge are in critical situations, requiring complex skills

Areas where midwives are applying skills and knowledge



Employment sector of midwifery graduates



2012 to 2016 there was an annual increase in the number of **male graduates**

“ Maternal care has improved (and) there has been a reduction of maternal deaths. ”  
*Midwife Manager, East Sepik*