

Interview by Musawe Sinebare with Ray Anere, Port Moresby, 17 December 2014

BA, Political Science, ANU & MA, Political Science, ANU, 1982-1985



[00:00:03]	Dr Anere is the senior research fellow heading the governance program at the National Research Institute (NRI). He studied at the Australian National University (ANU) from 1982 to March 1985. In the first year he did a Bachelor of Letters in Political Science, then did an MA in Political Science before going back to the University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG) in 1985. He was sponsored by ADAB. He went to the ANU because there were people there who had worked at UPNG. They met him when he arrived in Canberra and were his teachers there. He feels fortunate to have gone to ANU that has such a good reputation.	Career; Postgraduate education; Scholarship opportunity
[00:04:30]	On his first day of classes he found a big cultural difference, especially in terms of time. He was on PNG time and went to class five or ten minutes past the hour and found that the class had already begun. From the first week onwards he had to adopt a different attitude to time and be in class before the hour to be ready for the class to start. [Comments about adjusting to the different weather, food and social conduct.]	Arriving in Australia; Challenges
[00:09:22]	On the academic side of things he found that the work involved a lot more reading, longer hours and more researching and drafting. A higher quality of work was expected than during his undergraduate studies at UPNG and this was a big challenge for him. His teachers were very learned and held in high regard. The Bachelor of Letters helped him learn a lot about Australian foreign policy and aid, and enabled him to see PNG from the outside. [References to 'wantok' and other Papua New Guineans in Canberra at the time.]	Studying in Australia; Supervisor-student relationship
[00:13:50]	That postgraduate education broadened his horizons and gave him confidence. He went back and gave a seminar at UPNG after six months in	Studying in Australia



	Canberra. His thesis was about Australian aid to PNG, Vanuatu and Fiji. Later he specialised in international political economy, because he felt it was an area of need at UPNG, and continued with that when he did his PhD.	
[00:17:00]	He has regular contact and some collaboration with colleagues at ANU, University of Wollongong and other Australian, New Zealand and Pacific universities about elections, political parties, sub-national governance, Australian aid.	Connections with Australia; Professional networks
[00:22:38]	He decided to study in Australia as a bachelor because he wanted to get the best education and be the best he could be before he married and had a family. He also went alone to do his PhD in Los Angeles.	Living in Australia; Further study overseas
[00:26:49]	Formative experiences in Australia? The need to do research and write in English that is clear and gets the message across has become part of his attitude and work culture. He edits his writing carefully to get his message across to his audience.	Studying in Australia
[00:30:49]	He's been associated with UPNG for 23 years and whenever he meets former students they appreciate the way he corrected their assignments with red marks.	Professional network; Mentoring
[00:33:05]	Advice or encouragement for other Papua New Guineans going to study in Australia? These educational opportunities are once in a lifetime opportunities so they should do well their undergraduate or professional work to meet the criteria for the scholarship. Making the most of the opportunity to study overseas will make them very different people, who can look at PNG more broadly with good knowledge of their field and make a positive contribution to their country. [Comments from Dr Sinebare about how studying overseas affects people.] Many colleagues at NRI and UPNG who have studied overseas take up leadership roles at work.	Studying in Australia; Living in Australia; Leadership; Motives to study overseas
[00:39:14]	Further comments? PNG, as a developing country, needs young Papua New Guineans to appreciate the importance of education. Postgraduate education opens many doors and enables people to contribute positively. What we know is only a tiny fraction of what we need to know. PNG needs to focus on knowledge. To have Papua New Guineans study overseas is good for PNG and its international relations.	Education in PNG
[00:42:12]	[Dr Sinebare thanks Dr Anere.]	
[00:42:27]	END	

