

Interview by Jonathan Ritchie and Musawe Sinebare with Seniorl Anzu, Lae, 8 September 2014

MA, Science communication, ANU, 2011



[00:00:14]	Seniorl works with the National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) and is based at the head office in Lae. His work involves synthesising the results of scientific research and presenting it to different audiences e.g. farmers. In 2011 he went to the Australian National University (ANU) and did [a master's] in science communication by course work and some research. His undergraduate study was about communication for development. He found the ANU program very useful and has helped him package and communicate information to farmers.	Career; Scholarship experience
[00:03:22]	He did his bachelor degree at Unitech in PNG then joined NARI. He was at ANU for twelve months doing an intensive master's program to enhance his skills and upgrade his qualifications. He went to Australia after his third attempt to get a scholarship. [Discussion about why the first two attempts were not successful.]	Undergraduate education; Application for scholarship
[00:06:52]	It was the first time he went to Australia. He did some research before he went, about lodgings, the cost of living, how far the university was from the city. Canberra is more expensive than other cities, with upper class people living there. The stipend was \$900 a fortnight. He was in the least expensive rental accommodation on campus, his own room in a hall with communal kitchen and shower.	Arriving in Australia; Living in Australia
[00:09:45]	He started in January. He had some Australian friends at ANU and stayed with one of them for the first two weeks. A friend picked him up when he arrived, he didn't go on the bus with the other PNG students. There were 30 to 40 PNG	Friendships; Existing connections with Australia; PNG community in Canberra; Studying in

	students at ANU and they celebrated Independence Day and had other events together. He was the only PNG student in his course but the lecturers and other students were friendly.	Australia
[00:12:54]	The university provided good support services. His family didn't go with him but he went home in June during the semester break. At first he was homesick but he kept in touch with his family by email. When he went back to NARI the skills he had learnt helped him produce better materials and communicate better.	Living in Australia; Family; Returning to PNG
[00:15:36]	Initially he kept in touch with people from ANU but it is less regular now. He didn't go to church or play sport but he did enjoy watching NRL. It was very cold in Canberra. There were students from all over the world in the hall where he lived and he enjoyed that. Students who had been to Canberra before gave the new ones advice about what to do, what to wear and where to go. [Discussion about not being able to find cocoa in Canberra.]	Connections with Australia; Living in Australia; Friendships; Socialising in Australia
[00:19:08]	[Comments about lack of recognition for overseas scholars' skills and knowledge and the value of communicating research findings to stakeholders.]	Returning to PNG
[00:22:55]	Before going to Australia, Senior1 had negotiated with newspapers to provide space for his material for free. He was also involved in evaluation of communication and community-based training. When he got back from Australia he decided not to do that any more and changed his focus from media to projects, one funded by AusAID, that directly engage communities through resource centres and community training programs. He's also using web tools for training and applying them to the development context. He's in charge of communication in a project, funded by the EU, supporting the Solomon Islands to improve their current practice.	Post-scholarship career; Ongoing connections with Australia
[00:26:38]	How much did the change from a media-focused approach have to do with the time in Australia? When he left he gave the media-related work to other officers so when he came back he wanted to find something different to do.	Returning to PNG; Post-scholarship career
[00:27:43]	Advice for other Papua New Guineans wanting to study in Australia? Time was an issue. Sometimes we spent too much time socialising. It was tough for him completing the program in twelve months. Sometimes people mismanage their time. Studying in Australia is a good opportunity to improve skills and knowledge and contribute to the development of PNG. A lot	Socialising in Australia; Scholarship experience; Connections with Australia; Living in Australia

	of NARI staff study in Australia. Living in Australia was good, the standard of living is different to in PNG, and the way people interact.	
[00:29:51]	He had heard about racism in Australia but didn't experience it himself while he was there. Australia is multicultural. Seniorl hopes he can go back to do a PhD.	Living in Australia
[00:33:15]	END	

