

**Interview by Musawe Sinebare with Rebecca Emori, Goroka, 9 July 2014**

**MA, Health Research, University of Sydney, 2011-2012**

**PART 1**

[00:00:00]	Works as a public health scientist with the PNG Medical Research Institute (PNGIMR). From 2011 to 2012 did a Master of Qualitative Health Research at the University of Sydney on an Australian Government scholarship. She applied through IMR after she had been working there for five years. Had been involved in research into HIV, as a HIV social research cadet, starting in 2006 with nine other graduates. She was a co-investigator on a couple of articles. After completing that training in 2008 she worked on a tuberculosis project funded by the Global Fund. She wanted to contribute to the development of her country and chose the master's at Sydney because it was in line with the social research work she had been doing at IMR.	Career; Scholarship experience; Application process; Scholarships opportunities; Motive to study overseas; Professional network
[00:03:44]	Her undergraduate degree was at Divine Word University [Madang] and she wanted to increase her research knowledge and skills. At Sydney she did electives in public health. Studying in Sydney was a challenge, a struggle for six months, but she was determined to do well and be a good representative of her country, employers and family. In the first semester, she often asked herself what she was doing there and wanted to go home but the university orientation and training helped build her confidence and the network of other AusAID scholars was very supportive. There were eight Papua new Guineans at Sydney University then, in different faculties, and they encouraged each other. They also had Indonesians in their network.	Undergraduate study; Studying in Australia; Challenges; Scholarship experience; Alumni network; PNG community in Sydney; Friendship
[00:07:36]	In the second semester she started getting a feel for the education system in Australia. She worked hard and gained confidence. Her courses were Introduction to qualitative health research, Study design of qualitative research methodology, Data collection and analysis, and Developing a research proposal. She got credits for most of her subjects and a distinction in second year. In second year she did Introduction to health policy and Public health and ethics, and found them very relevant. In 2012 she applied for and got a Prime Minister's Pacific-Australia Award (PMPA) scholarship and spent March to June 2013 in Melbourne on placement at the	Studying in Australia; Leadership; Scholarship opportunity; Returning to Australia; Professional network; Connections with Australia

	Burnet Institute, in the International Health section.	
[00:10:57]	She created networks while there, keeps in touch with the program manager Lyn Harper. As part of her master's she developed a research proposal and got a PNG Government grant to carry out the project, 'Teenagers' experiences of pregnancy'. [Details of the project.] She's looking forward to publishing her findings and hopes it will influence public health policy.	Professional networks; Post-scholarships career; Community service
[00:14:37]	[Details of three projects she's coordinating at the moment: a maternal infant health survey, the tuberculosis project and the teenage pregnancy project.] She's also involved in the PNG Medical Symposium that will be held in Goroka in September. She coordinates all the fundraising activities for her unit of IMR, the Population Health Unit. [Comments about her commitment to contribute to PNG, the importance of evidence-based research to influence public policy and her increased confidence and leadership skills.]	Professional networks; Career; Leadership
[00:18:24]	Since returning from Australia she's been on two international trips, to Indonesia and India, for social science research training. She wants to gain knowledge and skills that she can use to train other Papua New Guineans. Is planning to apply next year to do a PhD.	International mobility; Professional networks
[00:20:30]	[Dr Sinebare asks about Rebecca's intention to coauthor articles.]	

## PART 2

[00:00:00]	[Dr Sinebare asks about Rebecca's coauthoring, other networks she had in Australia and what ongoing contact she has with people she met in Australia.]	Connections with Australia
[00:02:12]	The social research cadetship she did from 2006 to 2008 was a collaboration between PNGIMR and the University of New South Wales (UNSW), the team leader was Angela Kelly and the Australian Government funded it. [Details of the two projects they developed and implemented.] She was a coauthor of the publications that came out of those projects. [Comments about coauthoring the report about the maternal infant health survey and writing up the findings of her research into teenage pregnancy.]	Existing connections with Australia; Professional network; Career; Research collaboration with Australia
[00:07:51]	The eight PNG students in Sydney were very close and Rebecca is still in touch with some of	Living in Australia; PNG community in Sydney;

	them. [Story about inspiring the others to go home with flying colours.] She also made Australian friends from her tutorial classes and keeps in touch with them on Facebook. [Story about an Indonesian friend going to Jakarta airport especially to see her.] She also keeps in touch with fellow students in the Philippines and Vietnam on facebook.	Friendships; Professional network
[00:12:01]	She's in touch with the program manager from the Burnet Institute via email and saw her when she was in Port Moresby last year. Her supervisor, Dr Julie [Mooney-] Somers, also keeps in touch. Rebecca was the only Papua New Guinean that she taught. [Story about Dr Somers encouraging her share her experiences in class.] She has cousins in Sydney and is in touch with them.	Connections with Australia; Student-supervisor relationship; Family in Australia
[00:16:40]	[Comments about how the master's and time at the Burnet Institute gave her confidence and improved her work, and her excitement about being able to better meet the health needs of Papua New Guinea and take the initiative with research projects.]	Work experience in Australia
[00:20:54]	[Comments about the importance of time – being on time, completing projects on time and being punctual.] She had a good experience in Australia and wants to go back again and is grateful for the opportunities that the Australian Government programs give to Papua New Guineans.	Connections with Australia
[00:24:14]	END	