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## Interview with Mexy Keii Kakazo

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**Interview by Musawe Sinebare with Mexy Kakazo, PNG, 9 July 2014**

**MA, Tropical Health, University of Queensland, 1994-1995**

[00:00:45]	Has been working at the Institute for Medical Research for the last three years. Studied a Master's of Tropical Health at the University of Queensland (UQ) with an AusAID scholarship from April 1994 to May 1995. Professor Maxine Whittaker was the dean and Jane Thompson was a PhD student who encouraged him in his studies. The master's was by course work and research, his research project was for three months in Thailand and he collaborated with two other students. The stipend was \$500 a fortnight, it was OK. He didn't feel he lacked anything. He missed his family but the study was intensive and he spent time with other Papuans.	Career; Scholarship opportunity; Studying in Australia; Living in Australia; International mobility; PNG community in Australia
[00:03:47]	The course helped him perform better when he got home. He knew plenty about research and data analysis before he went and his lecturers paid him to assist other students at UQ. When he got home he got a promotion and a clearer idea of what he had to do. The UQ course helped him to be an academic too, and is still helpful to him in his current work.	Post-scholarship career; Work experience in Australia; Returning to PNG
[00:06:43]	He recommends that scholarships should be given to people who are working so they can study something relevant to and that will help them in their work. He sees too many people who are inexperienced and don't really use what they've learnt. While studying at UQ he met many people and has kept in touch with a few until a few years ago e.g. two Indonesians who are now high in the health hierarchy and an Australian. He's also still in touch with Maxine Whittaker.	Post-scholarship career; Friendships in Australia; Connections with Australia; Professional networks
[00:09:48]	[Comments about life in Australia being controlled by time, being on time is important, whereas in PNG time doesn't matter too much.]	Living in Australia
[00:11:49]	His current work is as a principle scientific officer assisting the training unit and helping professional development of young scientists.	Post-scholarship career; Leadership
[00:14:35]	[Comments about most research in PNG being driven by public health demand but few of the recommendations, based on the research, are implemented and written into policy, so there is a need to collaborate with politicians and policy makers early in the research.]	Professional networks

[00:17:05]	Would like to see a better screening process for scholarship recipients because there were four Papuan students when he went but only two of them graduated. [Comments about people being sent as a reward for long service or as a break and not making the most of the opportunity and making a meaningful contribution to the country.]	Scholarships experience
[00:21:09]	END	