



Interview with Paulus William Kei

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Interview by Jemma Purdey with Paulus Kei, Port Moresby, 17 December 2014

Diploma, Biotechnology, Southbank Institute of Technology, Brisbane, 2006-2007

[00:00:57]	Originally from the Kokoda area of the Oro (Northern) Province. He is sixth of seven, five girls and two boys. His parents were subsistence farmers and hadn't been to school. He left home when he was six or seven to live with his foster father, his father's younger brother. His foster father worked for the Department of Health and they lived in many different parts of the country. His foster parents didn't have any children but later his foster father married another woman and had children. When Paulus was eighteen, in senior high school, his foster father left him to fend for himself. It was tough.	Childhood; Family background
[00:04:06]	He finished Year 10 and, in 1985, studied electronics at a technical college in Port Moresby, sponsored by the government. He was there for a year then left because there didn't seem to be many jobs in electronics. He got a job as a technical officer at the museum looking after war relics. In 1992 he got another job as a lab technician and did some training on the job.	Early education; Scholarship opportunity; Early career
[00:07:39]	He applied for an ADS scholarship to do a diploma in biotechnology at Southbank Institute of Technology in Brisbane. He had a wife and three sons, aged twelve, seven and four, and they joined him after six months. He had no contacts in Brisbane but AusAID looked after him and he did an orientation program. He was happy to go overseas and get some quality education. It was difficult at first and he was lonely before his family came. He rented a house by himself in anticipation of his family coming. He struggled with the study but got through. His classmates were from different countries – Africa, India, Samoa – he was the only one from PNG.	Application process; Scholarship experience; Family; Living in Australia; Motive for overseas study; Friendships
[00:11:49]	He didn't have much to do with the PNG community there. His sons went to school and liked it. They wanted to stay when the scholarship ended. His wife was happy and got involved in school activities. The family made friends through the church. They didn't have a car – he doesn't know how to drive. His wife took the children to school by bus.	Family living in Australia; Friendships; Church community in Australia
[00:15:17]	He tried working in Brisbane but didn't have a working visa. The stipend was enough because food wasn't expensive, compared to Port Moresby. They liked Brisbane and felt	Scholarship experience; Living in Brisbane

	comfortable getting around. They lived in Rocklea and the neighbours were friendly.	
[00:18:36]	After two years they came home. Paulus went back to the same job at the university but was promoted after a year. Now he is Principle Technical Officer. It was hard for the children coming back, especially the youngest one found going to school traumatic. Coming back was OK for Paulus but he had been offered work in Brisbane and once he was home again he regretted not taking that up because of the hardship in PNG. It was easier for the older children to settle back in.	Returning to PNG; Challenges; Post-scholarship career; Leadership
[00:22:28]	He hasn't been back to Australia. His oldest son left school and is back in the village, the second one has just finished Year 11 and the youngest has finished Grade 6. He goes to the village quite often, he's involved in a hydropower project there. At the uni he does a lot of technical work preparing student practicals. He also does biological diversity surveys as a consultant for government agencies and NGOs. The extra money is good. His second son is thinking of becoming an engineer.	Family; Post-scholarship work; Professional networks
[00:25:49]	Paulus hopes to be able to send the children to Australia, they'll have a better life there. He'll get money as a landowner from the hydropower project. He's a non-financial member of the PNG Australia Awards Alumni and gets invited to events but they're mostly in the evening and so it's difficult for him to go without a car.	Family; Alumni network
[00:28:32]	He's involved in some church activities but doesn't like to socialise much. His family is important to him, once they've all finished school he will be able to relax. He was born in 1965. His siblings are farmers in the village. Only one of them went as far as Year 10. His son is prospecting for gold in the village.	Church community; Family
[00:32:01]	END	