

ABM **Anglican Board of Mission - Australia** **Working for Love, Hope & Justice**

Wednesday, August 17, 2016

ABM Martyrs Appeal to Support People in PNG

This year the ABM Martyrs Appeal supports programs in Papua New Guinea. One of these programs is the Anglican adult literacy program in Papua New Guinea which now has over 80 schools and 2500 students enrolled across eight provinces.

Government funding for this program, and others in PNG, has recently been severely reduced and ABM is seeking support to ensure the adult literacy program continues to reach women and men marginalised in remote parts of PNG.

ABM's Programs Director, Dr Julianne Stewart said, "The cuts to the PNG program will mean fewer adult literacy classes, as well as less awareness-raising about HIV-AIDS and gender based violence and fewer trainings to support communities to improve their livelihoods."

"The cuts will also mean that Anglicare PNG will have to defer their plans to pilot a comprehensive and integrated livelihoods project, that was to draw together different Anglicare programs to maximise the positive impact on communities," she said.

The cuts are part of a reduction in the Australian AID budget from A\$5.0 billion in FY 2015/2016 to A\$4.0 billion in FY 2016/2017, less than a quarter of 1% of Australia's national income.

These cuts will make a big difference to the opportunity of poor people in neighbouring countries to access literacy and other opportunities to improve their lives.

People like Delilah and Rodney who are two students of the program and after proudly showing the clothing that they had made after a sewing workshop, spoke about the changes in their lives.

Delilah said, "I'm reading Bible in the Church, and praying, I pray in the night, and write. For me, when I was small I didn't go to school. Now that I graduated, I have to make my business at my home. Cooking, sewing, to sell, or give to the poor."

Rodney spoke of his dreams for the future, "I want to share God's word, so that people understand. From the Bible, we have to translate it into the vernacular, so that people will understand."

You can help by making a donation to ABM's Martyrs Appeal at www.abmission.org.

In solidarity with the world's poor, ABM supports the Campaign for Australian Aid - <http://australianaid.org/>

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CONTACT DETAILS

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The Anglican Board of Mission (ABM) is the national mission agency of the Anglican Church of Australia. For over 160 years ABM has been assisting people all over the world to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, provide health and education services, improve agricultural practices and strengthen the Church.