

## **Kingscliff Charity Receives Government Funding**

Kingscliff-based Partners in International Collaborative Community Aid (PiCCA) has been awarded a 'Friendship Grant' of \$35,000 from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

PiCCA's Chair, Stephanie Boldeman, said "This Australian Aid grant will help a community in a remote part of Bougainville, Papua New Guinea to provide reliable and nutritious food for vulnerable people."

"Our organisation has been working in Bougainville for the past two years with an inspiring and courageous group of women called the Hako Women's Collective, based in northern Buka Island. They're driven to create a better future for their children and their children's children, and over the past 12 years, have established a very effective community hub and a range of programs that try to build a safer, more secure and just environment."

HWC President, Mrs Dorcas Gano said "We are seeing food shortages and hunger as the population grows and our traditional methods of farming are not keeping pace. We need to train people in better farming methods and increase the variety and volume of food we grow locally. We are very happy to receive this support from Australia. It will make a big difference for our community."

The first groups to benefit from the training will be families who are caring for someone with a disability, women-headed households and young vulnerable people. Part of the funding will help these participants to establish their own small micro-businesses, so they can earn money from selling any surplus food they grow.

The aid funding will also help the Hako Women's Collective to set up a small rice mill as a social enterprise. Rice is a very popular staple food but up until now it has been imported. The mill will allow people to grow and produce rice locally.

PiCCA is a small charity currently working in Africa, Asia and the Pacific. In 2017, PiCCA helped the Hako Women's Collective to build a community centre, which is now used extensively for programs such as literacy, disability support, teacher education, human rights and supporting victims of domestic violence. The centre, which opened on 4 November last year, also supports a catering and venue hire social enterprise. A Bangalow-based architect, Amber Garde, guided the building's design, generously working pro-bono.

Stephanie and her co-Directors donate their time to PiCCA and no one is paid a salary. Members help choose PiCCA's projects and can be actively involved in the work. 100% of all donations to PiCCA go overseas to the projects - no administration expenses are deducted.

PiCCA will contribute \$7,000 in cash and in-kind support to the project which will commence soon and be finalised by the end of 2019.

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Left:  
Four members of the Hako Women's Collective Executive, including, far right, Dorcas Gano (President)





*Left:*

Executive members of the Hako Women's Collective, as well as local Chiefs, plan the agricultural program, which includes establishing a demonstration garden, expert training and mentoring in new farming methods and establishing a rice mill social enterprise for the community.

*Right:*

Kingscliff locals, Steve Maguire (PiCCA Secretary) and Stephanie Boldeman (Chair) attending the opening of a community centre, called 'Luman Hipakoko' ('A Place to Call Home'), which PiCCA helped Hako Women's Collective to build.



Below: Luman Hipakoko in use - left, a meeting of a new disability organisation (established by the community); and right, activities for school children as part of Literacy Week.

