

*Email received from Ms Rosie Wong on 30 July 2009*

I am writing tonight because I am concerned very much about Australia pushing Pacific Island countries to begin PACER Plus Negotiations. It is extremely important that Australia does not begin these negotiations until national consultations and thorough independent research has been done in the Pacific Island countries.

Free trade agreements have the tendency to make the poorer individuals and countries poorer while the rich richer. Some serious and lasting implications of agreements such as PACER Plus on the Pacific Island countries include major losses of government revenues through the removal of tariffs, local businesses not having the capacity to compete with Australian and NZ corporations leading to the local businesses' closure and subsequent loss of large numbers of jobs, in addition the governments stand to lose power and autonomy in regards to their countries economic policies to support local businesses, and it once put in place PACER Plus is extremely difficult if not impossible to reverse.

Please show us that Australia Government actually cares about sustainable development in the Pacific Island countries. Don't make us cry in shame. We the people of Australia do not want to have the guilt of pushing onto poorer nations another free trade agreement that supports global corporations over local self-sufficient economies. Support the Pacific Island countries by giving them time to consider the proposals and consult with their peoples so that the final decision actually belongs to the people whom this decision will affect.

Yours faithfully  
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