



## **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

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### **Secretary of Health acknowledges TB progress in Daru**

The Secretary for Health, Pascoe Kase, today acknowledged and thanked AusAID for its support to strengthening the tuberculosis program in the Western Province of PNG.

Australia has committed approximately K22 million to improve health infrastructure, treatment and public awareness of TB in the Western Province.

Secretary Kase stated that tuberculosis was a significant problem in Papua New Guinea.

He said a recent risk analysis of tuberculosis in the Western Province undertaken for the PNG Government, by Associate Professor Emma McBryde from the Victorian Infectious Diseases Service in Melbourne, highlighted how significantly the support that has been given by Australia, has been to the success of programmatic TB management in Daru and the South Fly.

Mr Kase said Professor McBryde also noted that offering TB services to PNG patients in the Torres Strait clinics did not offer a solution to the problem of TB in Western Province and would inevitably lead to increased drug resistance.

Mr Kase particularly identified the new K7 million TB and isolation ward being funded by AusAID at Daru General Hospital and the K1 million sea ambulance.

“The AusAID-funded sea ambulance is conducting outreach visits along the South Fly coast and medical evacuations as required. In an area such as the South Fly, this vessel is vital for our health professionals to be able to provide health services to communities along the South Fly coast,” Secretary Kase said.

“We have a big problem with TB in PNG and the Australian Government, through AusAID is a major and valued partner with the Government of Papua New Guinea in helping to deal with this problem,” Secretary Kase said. ENDS

Approved for Release

Pascoe Kase  
Secretary, Department of Health

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