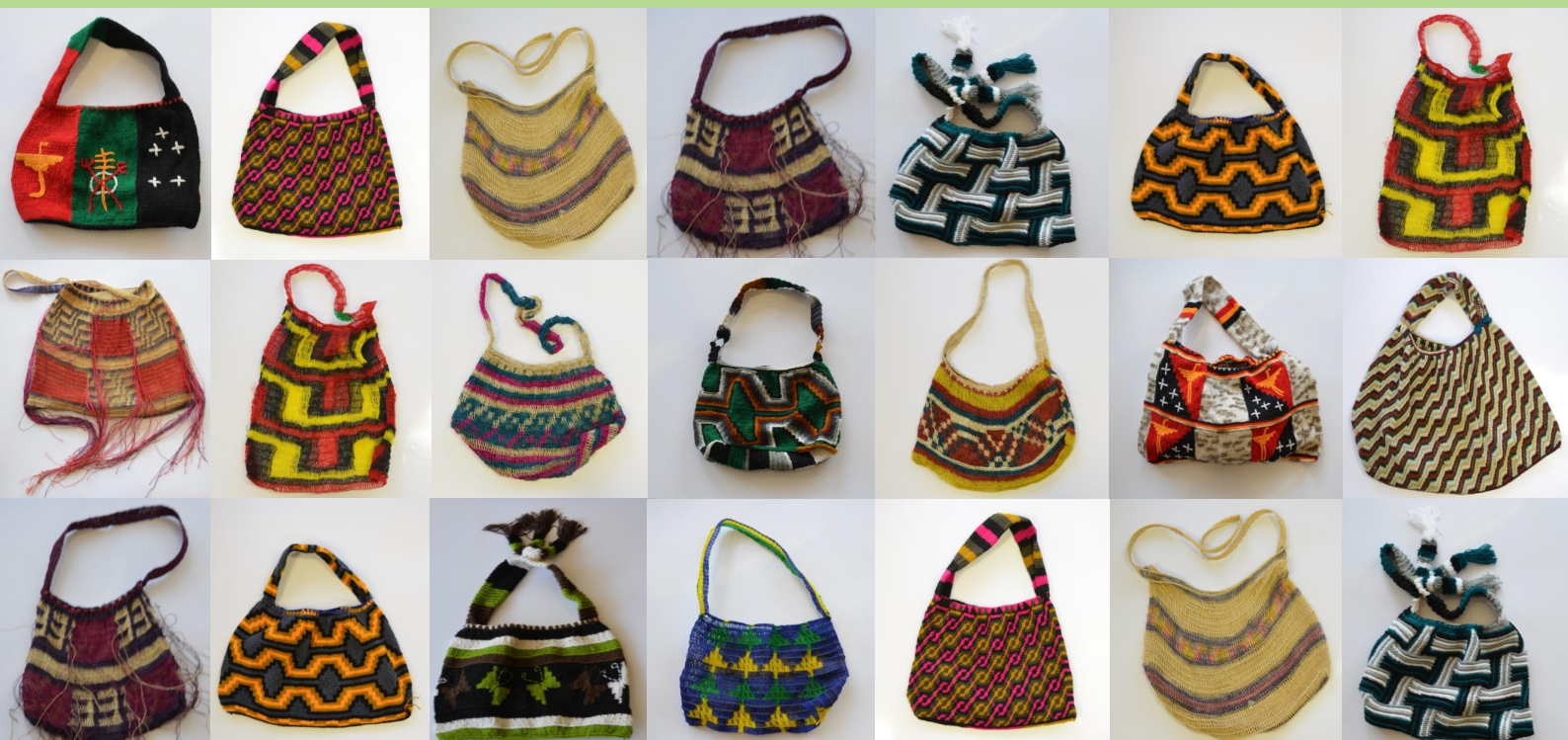


DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, THE LAW AND RELATED SERVICES IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

A SURVEY OF YOUNG ADULTS IN PORT MORESBY AND LAE

Judy Putt
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Source: Judy Putt

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A survey of young adults was conducted in Port Moresby and Lae towards the end of 2019 and in early 2020 as part of a larger study on the use and efficacy of family protection orders (FPOs) as a key response to domestic and family violence (DFV) in Papua New Guinea (PNG).

Of the 180 participants:

- » 52 per cent were female
- » the average age was 24 years
- » 66 per cent lived in Port Moresby and 34 per cent in Lae and
- » 40 per cent were tertiary students and 48 per cent were single.

In terms of attitudes and perceptions:

- » Seven out of 10 respondents believed domestic violence was common or very common in their local area.
- » Of the nine options given, the behaviour most likely to be perceived as domestic violence was 'physical abuse' followed by 'emotional/psychological abuse' and 'being possessive over partner'. The least likely was 'constant nagging' followed by 'prying into a partner's personal phone and email communication'.
- » Of the 10 given, the factor most commonly viewed as causing domestic violence was 'using drugs/alcohol' followed by 'one partner sleeping with another person'. The least common was 'it's part of the person's culture'.
- » Out of eight statements, the most respondents agreed with the statement 'guys and girls are equal to each other' followed by 'men are responsible for bringing in the income to a family' and 'women should be responsible for raising children and doing the housework'. The statement most disagreed with was 'a man feels he had the right to force his wife to have sex when she does not want to' followed by 'a man feels he has the right to beat or punish his wife to discipline her'.

In relation to knowledge of the law and FPOs:

- » Half of the respondents (50.8 per cent) said they knew of the Family Protection Act 2013 (FPA), while 91.6 per cent said they knew there was a crime called a 'domestic violence offence'. Thirty-one per cent said they knew about interim protection orders (IPOs) or protection orders (POs), and 33.3 per cent said they knew that to disobey an IPO or PO was a crime.
- » Where respondents said they knew about IPOs or POs and answered an open-ended question that asked what the orders did, almost everyone referred to protection, though 30.8 per cent thought they only applied to women and children.
- » One in five respondents (22 per cent) knew someone who had applied for an IPO or PO, and a few had direct experience themselves.
- » Of respondents who knew someone who had applied for an IPO or PO and had heard about the order's efficacy, almost twice as many thought they were helpful compared with those who believed they were not.

In relation to recommending a victim someone to talk to or go to:

- » Of the seven options provided, the most popular person to recommend a victim talk to was 'local pastor or church minister/priest' followed by 'another family member/family leader'. The least popular was 'someone at school or university' or 'someone at work'.
- » Of the 10 services listed, the most favoured to recommend a victim go to were either the 'family and sexual violence unit' or the 'police station'; the least favoured were 'a local clinic or hospital' and 'a domestic violence service'.

In terms of variations in responses by gender:

- » There was a great deal of congruity in the distribution of responses, with few major differences.
- » Women were less likely to believe domestic violence was common or very common in their local area (69.9 per cent) compared with men (80.2 per cent).
- » Women were more likely to know someone who had applied for an IPO or PO, and where they did, were more likely to say the order was unhelpful.
- » Women were less likely than men to recommend a victim talk to another family member/family leader.

The results of the survey highlight the need for:

- » community education for young adults that includes detailed information on the aims of and processes involved in IPOs and POs
- » increased gender sensitisation training for police and increased resources for police stations in general, and Family and Sexual Violence Units (FSVUs) in particular
- » increased awareness raising with churches and linkages between domestic violence services and churches and
- » investigation into what is understood by young adults as emotional abuse and controlling behaviours, as well as their views of gender roles and reasons for not recommending support from those at university or at work. Also, further investigation is warranted of some women's reluctance to recommend help from family members and leaders.

INTRODUCTION

Towards the end of 2019 and in early 2020, a survey of young adults was conducted in Papua New Guinea (PNG) as part of a larger study on the use and efficacy of family protection orders (FPOs) as a key response to domestic and family violence (DFV).

Funded by the Australian Government through the Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development program, the Justice Services and Stability for Development program and the Pacific Research Program, the larger study was undertaken by local researchers, two non-government organisations and researchers from The Australian National University in Canberra, the University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG) in Port Moresby and the University of Technology (UniTech)¹ in Lae. The main aim of the study was to investigate the expectations and use of FPOs introduced under the Family Protection Act (FPA), and to see whether the orders are providing timely and effective protection for victims of domestic violence. Conducted in seven locations across PNG, the study included the compilation of court, police and other service statistics as well as interviews with key stakeholders and survivors.

Rationale

Though there is prior research on the prevalence of DFV in PNG, and surveys on perceptions of crime and safety, there is not much on community attitudes towards gender equality and domestic violence in the country. The literature highlights the strong correlation between levels of DFV and attitudes or beliefs that are patriarchal in orientation (Uthman et al. 2009; VanderEnde et al. 2012). Notably, consistent predictors of violence against women include traditional views of gender roles and relationships, attitudes that support male dominance in relationships and attitudes that reflect sexual hostility towards women (VicHealth 2014).

The rationale to focus on young adults is linked to evidence, at least in Australia, that they have somewhat more violence-supportive attitudes than others (ibid.). Having said that, it is likely that those with tertiary educations who live in urban centres in PNG are more likely than older people and villagers to know about and support reforms to address family and sexual violence. We have some evidence of the justice agencies and services that adults in Lae and Port Moresby are aware of and use to access FPOs (see Craig and Porter 2018; Putt et al. 2019; Rooney et al. 2018; Sustineo 2018), but no previous study has explicitly focused on young adults. We argue that it is important to investigate and monitor their perceptions, attitudes and knowledge of the FPA, DFV and available services. There has been a considerable investment in DFV prevention in recent years, much of which has involved community education, public awareness and the training of key justice practitioners centring on legislative reforms, gender sensitisation and the responsibilities and referral pathways of services. It is useful to gauge, at both the collective and cumulative level, whether these efforts are having any effect on young adults.

Therefore, the survey of young adults was undertaken for several key reasons. The enactment of the FPA was a significant milestone in policy efforts to address family and sexual violence,² and there have been intermittent initiatives to promote public awareness of the legislation and train specific groups about the regulations introduced in 2017 and the practical procedures involved with implementing the Act. It is important to see what impact the legislation (along with other laws and activities related to DFV) have had. Young adults are a crucial part of society, and are in the stage of life when longer-term intimate partner relationships are formed and young families established. In urban contexts especially, young adults are more likely to have views and experiences very different from their parents or older kin, and often there can be generational tensions in expectations and worldviews. Their views and knowledge of DFV, and the options available to prevent and reduce it, has important implications not only for the present, but for the future.

Three inter-related questions guided the development of the questionnaire:

- » What are the attitudes towards and perceptions of DFV among young adults?
- » What is their knowledge of the FPA and FPOs?
- » What kind of services are they aware of and likely to recommend to survivors of DFV?

We did not ask respondents about their actual experiences of DFV. We did not have ethics approval to ask about this nor the resources to properly support those who might disclose victimisation or the witnessing of DFV.

Method

The questionnaire was developed by the research team. Several other research instruments were reviewed to help shape the content (for example, the 2013 Australian National Community Attitudes towards Violence against Women Survey (VicHealth 2014)). The two academic members of the research team from PNG, Dr Essacu and Ms Milli, piloted a draft version with their students and took the lead in administering the survey in Lae and Port Moresby with the assistance of their students. The final version of the questionnaire had five sections covering 20 questions, most of them multiple choice (see Appendix 3 for a copy of the questionnaire). In both Lae and Port Moresby, the fieldwork teams sought to interview a cross-section of young adults aged 18 to 30 years. In Port Moresby, young adults were also invited, primarily through social media, to participate in an online version of the survey. Irrespective of whether the interviews were face to face or completed online, it was made clear that participation was entirely voluntary and confidential. Information about DFV services was also made available to participants. More detailed reports on the fieldwork in Port Moresby and Lae are available in Appendix 2. To summarise:

- » In Port Moresby, the research teams led by Ms Milli undertook 98 face-to-face interviews, initially approaching young adults in public locations and subsequently through snowball sampling of local households and friends. The interviews were conducted over two time periods — in October 2019 and March 2020. Twenty-four young adults completed the survey online. The first research team included three students, while the second included two.
- » In Lae, a research team of five led by Dr Essacu, conducted face-to-face interviews in October 2019 with 58 young adults in a cross-section of locations across the metropolitan area.

There are, of course, limitations to the survey. As the results indicate, a disproportionate number of participants were tertiary students. It is also a huge challenge to complete robust sampling of the target population in a complex and often risky and potentially unsafe environment such as Port Moresby and Lae. The approach and modalities varied somewhat between the two locations. For a more detailed account of the two research teams' activities, see Appendix 2. However, it should be stressed that an underlying objective of the survey was to give tertiary students the opportunity to be involved in a study and apply the skills they had been taught. Given that no survey on this topic and with young adults had been done in PNG before, and the limited resources available, the research teams achieved a lot in managing to complete the survey with a total of 180 participants³ and produce results that can inform future research and community education with young adults.

RESULTS

This report presents the results from all 180 participants in the survey, of whom 95 were interviewed face to face in Port Moresby, 27 completed the survey online and 58 were interviewed face to face in Lae. The results are presented under the headings found in the questionnaire: characteristics of participants, perceptions of domestic violence, attitudes to gender and violence, knowledge of PNG family violence law and FPOs and recommended sources of help for victims. As this was an exploratory survey rather than a representative sample, a final section on the findings examines a limited number of independent variables — gender and place of residence — for the significance of their impact on key dependent variables.

Characteristics of participants

Table 1 presents the main characteristics collected about the participants. In response to a question about their current place of residence, 66.3 per cent said Port Moresby and 33.7 per cent said Lae. The age range of participants was 17 to 37 years old, with an average age of 24.2 years old; the majority of participants were in their twenties. Though we had aimed to collect responses from those aged 30 and under, six participants were in their thirties, and nearly one-fifth were under 21 years of age (n=31, 17.2 per cent). Slightly over half of participants were female (51.7 per cent) and 48.3 per cent were male. In terms of the province where they mostly grew up, 20.1 per cent said National Capital District (NCD), 18.4 per cent said Morobe and 10.1 per cent said the Western Highlands. The rest of the participants were from a wide range of provinces. The most common completed educational level was a university degree (32.2 per cent) followed by grade 11–12 (26.7 per cent) and college (15.6 per cent). More than a third (40.2 per cent) were currently tertiary students, and almost one-fifth (17.3 per cent) were in full-time work. The most common relationship status was single (48.3 per cent), followed by married (22.8 per cent), in a relationship or de facto (16.6 per cent) and divorced/separated (11.1 per cent).

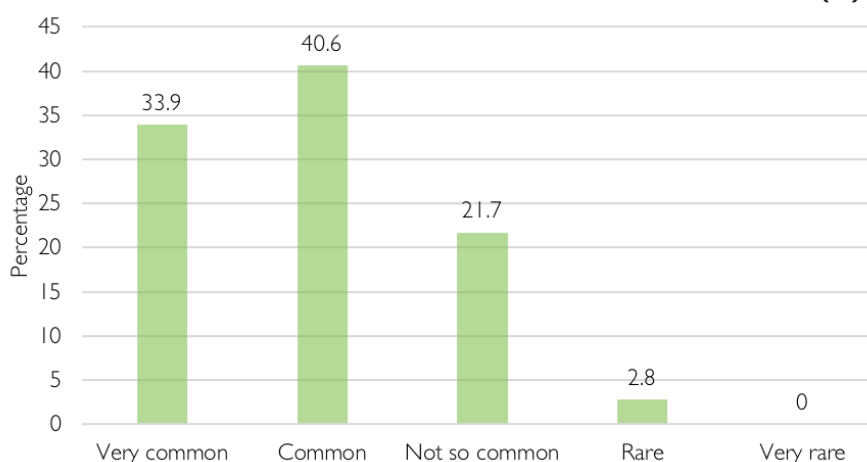
Table 1. Key characteristics of participants

Current place of residence	Port Moresby 66.3% Lae 33.7%
Age	Range 17–37 years Average 24.2 years
Sex	Female 51.7% Male 48.3%
Province where mostly grew up	NCD 20.1% Morobe 18.4% Western Highlands 10.1% Other provinces 51.4%
Completed educational level	University degree 32.2% Grade 11–12 26.7% College 15.6% Other categories 25.5%
Current occupation	Tertiary students 40.2% Full-time work 17.3% No work/looking for work 12.8% Other categories 29.7%
Relationship status	Single 48.3% Married 22.8% In a relationship or de facto 16.6% Divorced/separated 11.1% Other 1.2%

Perceptions of domestic violence

Respondents were asked to rate how common they thought domestic violence was in their local area. Almost all of the respondents said they believed it was common (40.6 per cent) or very common (33.9 per cent) (see Figure 1). One-fifth (21.7 per cent) said it was not so common. Very few thought it was rare and no-one said it was very rare. In effect, seven out of 10 respondents said they believed domestic violence was common or very common in their local area.

Figure 1. Perceptions of how common domestic violence is in local area (%)



n=180, of whom two did not know

Source: *Young Adults' Attitudes towards and Perceptions of Domestic Violence and the Law Survey.*

Nine types of behaviour were listed in the questionnaire, and respondents were asked to indicate how much they agreed or disagreed that that behaviour was a form of domestic violence. As Table 2 shows, the most common behaviour viewed as domestic violence was physical violence followed by 'emotionally/psychologically abusive' and 'being possessive over partner'. At the other end of the scale, the behaviour least likely to be seen as domestic violence was 'constant nagging',⁴ followed by 'prying into a partner's personal phone and email communication'.

Table 2. Types of behaviour most likely to be seen as domestic violence, ranked based on weighted average

Type of behaviour	Weighted average	Ranking*
Physical abuse	1.41	1
Emotionally/psychologically abusive	1.63	2
Being possessive over partner	1.86	3
Threats issued on immediate family	1.97	4
Sorcery threats issued by partner, forcing you to do something you don't like	2.10	5
A partner not providing financial support	2.38	6
Not letting a partner go to the church they want to go to	2.50	7
Prying into a partner's personal phone and email communication	2.51	8
Constant nagging	2.56	9

*(1) most agreed, (9) most disagreed

n ranged from 173 to 180

Source: *Young Adults' Attitudes towards and Perceptions of Domestic Violence and the Law Survey.*

Another question asked respondents to rank how often each of a list of 10 factors caused domestic violence. Table 3 presents the weighted average and ranking of each factor. The factor most likely to be selected as a cause of domestic violence was 'using drugs/alcohol', followed by 'one partner sleeping with another person' and 'one partner being jealous and possessive'. The factor seen as least likely to cause domestic violence was 'it's part of the person's culture' closely followed by 'bride price not paid'.

Table 3. Factors viewed as causing domestic violence, ranked based on weighted average

Factor	Weighted average	Ranking*
Using drugs/alcohol	1.53	1
One partner sleeping with another person (infidelity)	1.74	2
One partner being jealous and possessive	1.83	3
Disrespectful attitudes towards women	1.88	4
Having money problems (e.g. low income, gambling)	1.92	5
A belief that men should be in control in society	2.08	6
One parent wanting to be in control/in charge of the family	2.15	7
One partner using child/children as leverage to control other partner	2.49	8
Bride price not paid	2.83	9
It's part of the person's culture	2.89	10

*(1) most agreed, (10) most disagreed
n ranged from 178 to 180

Source: *Young Adults' Attitudes towards and Perceptions of Domestic Violence and the Law Survey*.

Attitudes to gender and violence

To ascertain respondents' views of violence and gendered relationships and roles, they were asked how much they agreed or disagreed with a list of eight statements. The majority agreed that 'guys and girls are equal to each other', with 56.4 per cent strongly agreeing and 25.1 per cent agreeing with the statement. Views were more divided on other statements, with responses split across agreed and disagreed. For example, for the statement 'girls like guys who are in charge of the relationship', 23.3 per cent strongly agreed or agreed, 32.8 per cent neither agreed or disagreed, 35.0 per cent strongly disagreed or disagreed. The statement the most respondents disagreed with was 'a man feels he has the right to force his wife to have sex when she does not want to' followed by 'a man feels he has the right to beat or punish his wife to discipline her'. Table 4 presents the statements ranked from where there was the most agreement to the most disagreement.

Table 4. Levels of agreement and disagreement with statements related to gender roles and violence, ranked based on weighted average

Statement	Weighted average	Ranking*
Guys and girls are equal to each other	1.75	1
Men are responsible for bringing in the income to a family	2.49	2
Women should be responsible for raising children and doing the housework	2.99	3
Girls like guys who are in charge of the relationship	3.40	4
A person is not responsible for what they do when they are drunk or high	3.53	5
Guys who fight when they need to get the most respect from others	3.89	6
A man feels he has the right to beat or punish his wife to discipline her	3.99	7
A man feels he has the right to force his wife to have sex when she does not want to	4.27	8

*(1) most agreed, (8) most disagreed
n ranged from 178 to 180

Source: *Young Adults' Attitudes towards and Perceptions of Domestic Violence and the Law Survey.*

Knowledge of PNG family violence law and FPOs

Four questions asked whether the respondents knew about the FPA and its various provisions. Table 5 presents the results. Half of the respondents said they knew of the Act, and almost everyone, 91.6 per cent, said they were aware of a specific crime called domestic violence. Less than a third of respondents (30.6 per cent) had heard of IPOs or POs. Slightly more said they knew it was a crime to disobey an IPO or PO (33.3 per cent).

Table 5. Knowledge of the Family Protection Act 2013 and its provisions (%)

Family Protection Act 2013/Provision	Yes	No	Don't know
Family Protection Act 2013	50.8	36.9	12.3
Specific crime called a domestic violence offence	91.6	5.6	2.8
IPOs or POs	30.6	52.8	16.7
If aware what an IPO/PO is, that to disobey one is a crime*	33.3	11.9	54.8

*Only 168 respondents answered this question. Fifty-five respondents indicated that they had heard of an IPO/PO, while 56 said they knew that to disobey a condition of an order is a crime.
n=178-180

Source: *Young Adults' Attitudes towards and Perceptions of Domestic Violence and the Law Survey.*

A total of 60 respondents answered an open-ended question that asked, if they had heard of IPOs and POs, what they thought they did. Of the 60, a total of eight indicated that they did not know what IPOs and POs actually are. Most of the 52 remaining respondents, both male and female, referred to protection, but there were varying degrees of understanding as to how the protection worked and in what circumstances. Some had a very clear understanding of the basis of the orders, and referred to the legislation. One woman referred to her direct experience:

Protection order worked for me. It protected me against my husband bashing me up. When my husband was restrained from beating me, he obeyed the law and now I'm at peace. IPOs are there to protect either men or women from violence, abuse and others.

In some cases, the orders were viewed as only applying to, or favouring, women. Seven of the 25 female respondents believed orders only applied to women and children, while nine of the 27 men believed they only applied to women and children. A man who had an IPO issued against him was not happy about it. As he explained:

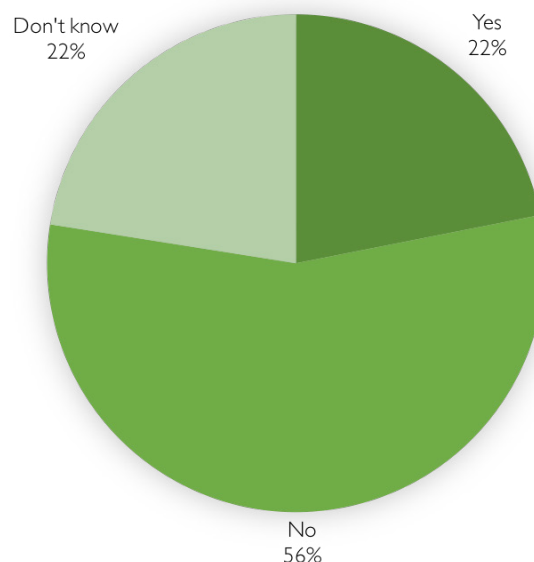
POs protect women and children. I wonder if it protects men too. My wife committed adultery yet got a PO against me to get our children from me. Looks like it worked for her only even though I put my case forward. My wife is using IPOs to bully me. I feel it works unfair in this sense. She was guilty in court for adultery yet got POs on me.

Another man clearly felt that the orders favour women:

It is an order that protects the weak and abused. But women nowadays are using this as a safe haven for them to cover up for their wrong and putting innocent men as guilty ones. This order has become bias for listening to women over men and not getting both sides of a story.

A further question asked the respondents whether they knew anyone who had applied for an IPO or PO. One-fifth (21.9 per cent) said they did, more than half (55.6 per cent) said they did not and just over a fifth did not know whether they did or did not (see Figure 2).

Figure 2. Know someone who had applied for an IPO or PO (%)

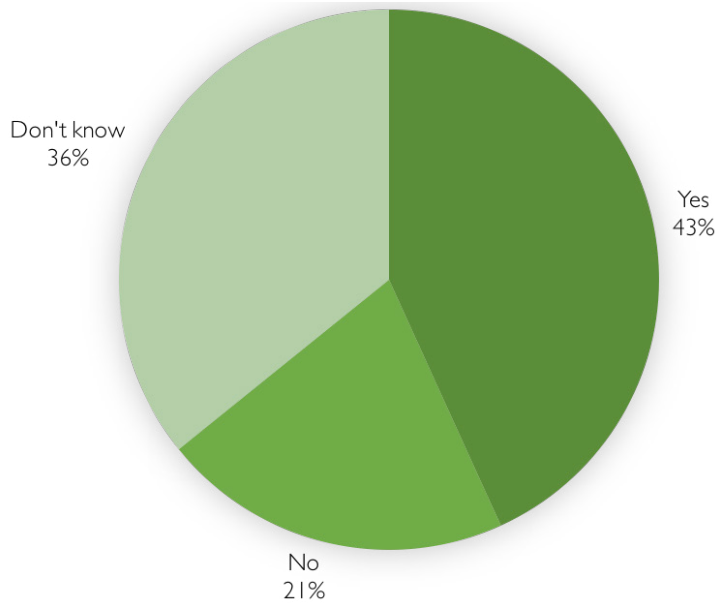


n=178

Source: Young Adults' Attitudes towards and Perceptions of Domestic Violence and the Law Survey.

Of those who answered the question and said they knew someone (n=81),⁵ almost half (46.3 per cent) said the IPO or PO was helpful, with 29.8 per cent saying they didn't know and just under a quarter (23.9 per cent) saying it wasn't helpful (see Figure 3). As best we can judge, twice as many people known by the respondents to have applied for an order found it helpful. From a few open text responses, it was apparent that several respondents had either applied for an IPO or PO or been subject to one.

Figure 3. Whether the IPO or PO was helpful for those they knew who had applied (%)



n=81

Source: *Young Adults' Attitudes towards and Perceptions of Domestic Violence and the Law Survey.*

Recommended sources of help for victims

From a list of seven options, respondents were asked to choose the top three they would recommend a victim of domestic violence talk to for support or advice. The responses are presented in Table 6 from most to least likely to be recommended. The most likely to be recommended by far was a 'local pastor or church minister/priest'. The second most-favoured option was 'another family member/family leader'. The least favoured were 'someone at school or university' and 'someone at work'.

Table 6. People respondents would recommend victims talk to (%)

Person	%	Ranking*
Local pastor or church minister/priest	69.3	1
Another family member/family leader	30.2	2
A good friend	29.0	3
Local community leader	27.9	4
I-Tok Kaunselin Helpim Lain	25.7	5
Someone at work	4.5	6
Someone at school or university	3.3	7

*(1) most agreed, (7) most disagreed

n=179

Source: *Young Adults' Attitudes towards and Perceptions of Domestic Violence and the Law Survey.*

A separate question asked the respondents to pick the top three services or organisations they would recommend the victim actually go to from a list of 10. Table 7 presents the organisations and services in order from most recommended to least. The police were the most recommended, including responses of both a 'police station' or a 'Family and Sexual Violence Unit'. The third most recommended was a Family Support Centre. The fourth was a 'local law and justice komiti (committee)'. The least recommended were 'a domestic violence service' and a 'local clinic or hospital'.

Table 7. Services and organisations respondents would recommend victims actually go to (%)

Service/Organisation	%	Ranking*
Family and Sexual Violence Unit	57.5	1
Police station	50.3	2
Family Support Centre	26.8	3
Local law and justice <i>komiti</i>	19.5	4
Department of Community Welfare	13.4	5
A Village Court official	12.8	6
Church or pastor's residence	11.7	7
A <i>seif haus</i>	11.2	8
A domestic violence service	6.7	9
Local clinic or hospital	2.8	10

*(1) most agreed, (10) most disagreed
n=179

Source: *Young Adults' Attitudes towards and Perceptions of Domestic Violence and the Law Survey*.

Location and gender differences

The survey results for Port Moresby and Lae were separated out and are included in the respective site papers. There were obvious differences in the samples, including:

- » provinces where respondents mostly grew up, with the Port Moresby participants most likely to say NCD and Western Highlands and Lae participants most likely to say Morobe and East Sepik
- » current occupation — Port Moresby participants were more likely to be tertiary students, while Lae participants were more likely to be in full-time work and
- » Marital status, with a far greater proportion of Port Moresby participants being single and almost half of Lae participants being married.

A comparison of the results revealed the following additional differences:

- » Lae participants were more likely to view domestic violence as 'common' in their local area, while the Port Moresby participants were more likely to view it as 'not so common'.
- » The proportion of participants who said they knew of IPOs or POs was higher in Lae than in Port Moresby.
- » Lae participants were more likely to recommend a victim talk to 'a local pastor or church minister/priest', 'another family member or leader' or a 'local community leader'.
- » The top three services participants would be recommended to a victim were the same (FSVUs, police and FSCs), but the Lae participants were more likely to recommend the 'Department of Community Development/Welfare', 'a Village Court official' and 'a church or pastor's residence'.

We had expected gender to be the biggest predictor of differences in responses. However, as Appendix I shows, cross-tabulations of all the questions by sex demonstrated a fairly similar distribution of responses for males and females.

That there were, overall, very few differences in the breakdowns and patterns of the responses by sex was somewhat surprising. Noteworthy differences included that:

- » males (80.2 per cent) were more likely to see domestic violence as very common or common than females (69.9 per cent), though females were more likely than males to nominate very common
- » women (55.3 per cent) were more likely than men (17.6 per cent) to know someone who had applied for an IPO or PO, and where they did, were more likely to say the order was unhelpful and
- » women (22.8 per cent) were less likely than men (37.2 per cent) to recommend talking to another family member/family leader.



DISCUSSION

We are acutely aware that this was an exploratory study, and the findings need to be interpreted with caution. The survey participants are not a representative sample of the young adult population, and there are some differences in the socio-demography and size of the Lae and Port Moresby cohorts. However, the survey results do highlight issues relevant to community education and targeted efforts to assist young adults who have experienced domestic violence.

Seven out of 10 participants believed domestic violence was very common or common in their local area. The promising finding was that awareness of FPOs and various provisions of the FPA was higher among the participants than suggested by earlier surveys or studies. Equivalent proportions of male and female participants knew of IPOs, and the total proportion (31 per cent) was higher than that suggested by both a 2015 survey of a PNG-wide sample, where seven per cent said they knew of IPOs (GRM International 2015), and a more recent 2018 survey (Morobe 20.5 per cent and NCD 18.9 per cent) (Sustineo 2018).

Both District Court and Femili PNG statistics indicate that more people are applying for orders in Lae and Port Moresby, though these numbers still only represent a fraction of the adult populations in these urban centres. Another study of women in Lae found that only one of 71 participants had obtained an IPO or a PO (Rooney et al. 2018). In this survey, one in five participants (22 per cent) knew someone who had applied for an IPO or PO, though young women were more likely to know someone than males. Often, participants may have heard of IPOs or POs and knew someone who has applied for one, but some admitted to not really knowing the details of how the orders work or what the process may involve. In particular, in their open-ended responses, quite a few (30.8 per cent) indicated that they believed only women (and children) could apply for the orders. Several young men were clearly angry about what they saw as a discriminatory law, which they saw as favouring women and/or their wives. According to Dr Essacu, during the fieldwork in Lae he encountered men who argued that many educated and working women were taking advantage of the IPO and PO laws to bully their husbands and boyfriends, which was perceived as leading to marriage and relationship break-ups.

The ranking of police as the service the most participants would recommend to a victim indicates the central role of police in responding to domestic violence complaints and underlines how domestic violence was seen as a crime by almost every participant. The police FSVUs were well-known amongst the participants, especially in Lae. The low ranking of 'a domestic violence service' suggests that specialist family and sexual violence services like Femili PNG are not well known or not known by this name. In addition, churches are vital to developing a multi-agency, multi-level domestic violence prevention and reduction strategy, and as sources of information about FPOs. The local pastor or minister was the person respondents were most likely to recommend a victim talk to, followed by another family member or family leader. However, it is notable, that women were less likely than men to recommend a family member or leader, which echoes the scepticism among women in urban settlements that domestic violence would be dealt with fairly by local justice processes (Craig and Porter 2018). A surprising survey result was the low number of participants who would recommend someone at work or university, which warrants further investigation.

Physical abuse was the top-ranking type of behaviour seen as domestic violence. But the rankings of the other types suggest the need to investigate further what is understood by controlling behaviours and emotional abuse. At a general level, these behaviours may be identified as forms of domestic violence, but the actual behaviours that fall within these categories are less certain.

Among the young adult participants, domestic violence was not viewed as being caused by traditional beliefs and practices such as bride price. The most common factor identified as contributing to domestic violence was alcohol and other drugs, followed by infidelity and jealousy or possessiveness. The primacy of alcohol and

other drugs as an exacerbating factor is not a surprise, as larger surveys suggest that alcohol-fuelled violence is the crime most of concern to PNG residents (Sustineo 2018).

Participants believed that males and females are equal, but there were also high levels of agreement with traditional gender roles, namely that men are responsible for the household income and women raise children and do the housework. However, this agreement with traditional roles did not extend to a man's right to beat or discipline a wife, or have sex without her consent, which were the statements most disagreed with. One participant elaborated on his view that only when women have greater access to economic autonomy and security will the legislative reforms have much impact:

All these laws are in place to help solve the issue of domestic violence and gender-based violence, but in my opinion there has to be a lot of awareness on such laws in order for them to be effectively used. Most mothers and women know there are laws protecting them but then comes the issue of their husband as the sole bread winner of the house.

So even though these laws are in place they are ineffective because of the fact that mothers and females victims are mostly ignorant and are socially insecure because of their husbands' duress, meaning their husband will tell them, 'If you report me to Police ba mi nonap givim money lo you, or nonap baim kaikai lo house or ba mi lusim you na maretim narapla meri' (If you report me to the police, I will not give money to you or buy food for the house or I will leave you and marry another woman).

So basically, these laws are ineffective and needs more conscious-raising awareness as well some form of social security has to be in place in order for the primary victims, especially the mothers, women and young girls, to seek refuge and help them build their lives without having to entirely depend on their husbands.

In conclusion, we argue that the results highlight the need for:

- » community education for young adults that includes detailed information on the aims of and processes involved in IPOs and POs
- » increased gender-sensitisation training of police and resources for police stations in general and FSVUs in particular
- » increased awareness raising with churches and linkages between domestic violence services and churches and
- » investigation into what is understood by young adults as emotional abuse and controlling behaviours, their agreement with traditional gender roles and their reasons for not recommending support from those at university or work. Also, further investigation is warranted of some women's reluctance to recommend help from family members and leaders.

APPENDIX 1. RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS BY SEX

Table A1. Perceptions of how common domestic violence is in their local area, by sex (%)

	Very common	Common	Not so common	Rare	Very rare	Don't know	Total
Male	30.2	50.0	17.4	2.3	0	0	99.9
Female	37.6	32.3	24.7	3.2	0	2.1	99.9

n=93 females, 87 males

Table A2. Types of behaviour seen as domestic violence, by sex, ranked based on weighted average

Type of behaviour	Weighted average		Ranking*	
	M	F	M	F
Physical abuse	1.43	1.40	1	1
Emotionally/psychologically abusive	1.65	1.62	2	2
Being possessive over partner	1.82	1.90	3	3
Threats issued on immediate family	2.00	1.92	4	4
Sorcery threats issued by partner, forcing you to do something you don't like	2.20	2.00	5	5
A partner not providing financial support	2.49	2.29	6	6
Not letting a partner go to the church they want to go to	2.57	2.42	7	7
Prying into a partner's personal phone and email communication	2.59	2.45	8	8
Constant nagging	3.58	2.50	9	9

*(1) most agreed, (9) most disagreed

n=93 females, 87 males

Table A3. Factors viewed as causing domestic violence, by sex, ranked based on weighted average

Factor	Weighted average		Ranking*	
	M	F	M	F
Using drugs/alcohol	1.52	1.52	1	1
One partner sleeping with another person (infidelity)	1.77	1.69	2	2
One partner being jealous and possessive	1.89	1.76	3	3
Disrespectful attitudes towards women	1.89	1.86	3	4
Having money problems (e.g. low income, gambling)	1.98	1.87	5	5
A belief that men should be in control in society	2.10	2.06	6	6
One parent wanting to be in control/in charge of the family	2.40	2.33	7	7
One partner using child/children as leverage to control other partner	2.41	2.57	8	8
It's part of the person's culture	2.84	2.91	9	10
Bride price not paid	2.89	2.80	10	9

*(1) most agreed, (10) most disagreed

n=93 females, 87 males

Table A4. Levels of agreement and disagreement with statements related to gender roles and violence, by sex, ranking based on weighted average

Statement	Weighted average		Ranking*	
	M	F	M	F
Guys and girls are equal to each other	1.85	1.65	1	1
Men are responsible for bringing in the income to a family	2.49	2.51	2	2
Women should be responsible for raising children and doing the housework	2.87	3.13	3	3
Girls like guys who are in charge of the relationship	3.42	3.35	4	4
A person is not responsible for what they do when they are drunk or high	3.44	3.65	5	5
Guys who fight when they need to get the most respect from others	3.67	4.09	6	6
A man feels he has the right to beat or punish his wife to discipline her	3.78	4.22	7	7
A man feels he has the right to force his wife to have sex when she does not want to	4.20	4.31	8	8

*(1) most agreed, (8) most disagreed

n=93 females, 87 males

Table A5. Knowledge of the Family Protection Act 2013 and its provisions, by sex (%)

Family Protection Act 2013/Provision	Yes		No		Don't know	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Family Protection Act 2013	50.6	50.5	35.3	38.7	14.1	10.7
Specific crime called a domestic violence offence	94.1	89.2	3.5	7.5	2.3	3.2
IPOs or POs	31.4	30.1	50.0	55.9	18.6	14.0
If aware what an IPO/PO is, that to disobey one is a crime*	36.7	29.9	11.4	12.5	51.9	57.9

*Only 168 respondents answered this question. Fifty-five respondents indicated that they had heard of an IPO/PO, while 56 said they knew that to disobey a condition of an order is a crime.

n=93 females, 87 males

Table A6. Knowing someone who has applied for an IPO and whether it helped, by sex (%)

	Yes		No		Don't know/ not applicable	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Know someone who has applied for an IPO	17.6	26.1	55.3	55.4	27.1	18.5
As far as you know, helpful?	22.4	22.5	7.9	13.7	50.0NA 19.7DK	16.2DK 47.5NA

n=93 females, 87 males

NA = not applicable, DK = don't know

Table A7. People recommended to talk to, by sex (%)

Person	%		Ranking*	
	M	F	M	F
Local pastor or church minister/priest	73.0	67.4	1	1
Another family member/family leader	37.2	22.8	2	5
Local community leader	29.1	27.2	3	3
A good friend	26.7	31.5	4	2
Call the I-Tok Kaunselin Helpim Lain	25.6	26.1	5	4
Someone at work	3.5	5.4	6	6
Someone at school or university	3.5	3.3	7	7

*(1) most agreed, (7) most disagreed

n=93 females, 87 males

Table A8. Services and organisations recommended to go to, by sex (%)

Service/Organisation	%		Ranking*	
	M	F	M	F
Family and Sexual Violence Unit	61.6	54.3	1	1
Police station	47.7	53.3	2	2
Family Support Centre	32.6	21.7	3	3
Local law and justice <i>komiti</i>	22.1	16.3	4	4
A <i>seif haus</i>	13.9	8.7	5	8
Department of Community Development/Welfare	12.8	14.1	6	6
Church or pastor's residence	11.6	12.0	7	7
A Village Court official	10.5	15.2	8	5
A domestic violence service	8.1	5.4	9	9
Local clinic or hospital	5.8	0	10	10

*(1) most agreed, (10) most disagreed

n=93 females, 87 males

APPENDIX 2. FIELDWORK REPORTS

Port Moresby report by Ms Geejay Milli

Phase 1

The study on the use of protection orders as a key response to domestic violence was conducted in Port Moresby by an initial team of three researchers: myself as the lead researcher and two research assistants, Ms Yakos Jim and Mr Xavier Wablasu.

A total of 64 interviews were conducted with participants residing in various locations across Port Moresby. Some of the locations include Gerehu, Rainbow Estate, Ensis Valley, Waigani, Morata 1, Morata 2, Tokarara, Gordons, Erima, 9 Mile, Korobosea, Boroko, 3 Mile, Tarauma Valley, Hohola 1, Hohola 2, downtown Port Moresby, Gaire village, Gabutu, Vabukori village and Idubada (POMTech).

Of the 64 participants, 39 were female and 25 were male. Some challenges were observed during the research. The first was a reluctance to participate in the study, mostly because of time. As such, getting people to participate at marketplaces and other busy public areas proved difficult during work days. Most of the research was conducted during the weekend and at noon on weekdays. Other potential participants approached refused to participate because of the nature of the research. Hence, it was important to assess the location and environment before proceeding to approach participants. Research assistant Ms Jim found it was more helpful to go from house to house in her neighbourhood; she also conducted interviews in other locations when she visited her family and friends.

From the interviews conducted, I found that participants in the age range of late teens were missing from the data. As such, they were the target group of the second phase of the research.

Phase 2

This is a brief report of phase two of the IPO research project by the Port Moresby research team. I conducted the research from 14–18 March 2020 in the Gerehu and Waigani areas with two of my students as research assistants. A total of 31 questionnaires were completed.

In the first phase of the research, a significant number of participants had attended or were in tertiary institutions. We realised that data also needed to be collected from high school and secondary school participants, as well as those without any formal education.

To collect a more inclusive database, the team planned to visit the Motuan urban village of Hanuabada. However, the contact person we had arranged to take us into the community was unable to meet us. Though research did not eventuate there, it was a good learning opportunity, particularly in terms of accessing communities for research purposes.

As part of this report, I have asked my research assistants for their feedback, especially as they are part of the youth category this research is focused on.

Research assistant 1

- » Being involved in the IPO project I learnt that a lot of young people/adults have totally different views on what domestic violence is and the causes of domestic violence. Also, families that are affected by domestic violence do not know where to go for help, since the police are not really helpful at times. As a result, most of them seek pastors and priests for counselling and prayer.
- » About half of the participants I interviewed had never heard of IPOs as well as did not know what IPOs do. Other participants knew about IPOs but never applied for one. Furthermore, most

participants didn't know what services are available to help victims of domestic violence. Therefore, I would suggest that more awareness should be conducted to inform people. Awareness should not be done only through the media but through word of mouth as well as in public places, market places, sports gatherings where people are and residential areas. In that way, people are informed and would know what to do and where to go for help in the event that they need help.

Research assistant 2

- » From being in the IPO project, I have learned that the IPO is something that should be taken seriously and used, especially by those who are victims of domestic violence. I have also learnt that not many people are aware of this, so there needs to be more awareness on the IPO.
- » My opinion when interviewing people on the IPO is that people are willing to answer the questions but are not aware of the IPO. They are aware of domestic violence but not knowledgeable on what actions to take for protection and all the services available for victims/survivors of DFV.

Lae report by Dr Francis Essacu

The Lae survey team consisted of me as the team leader and four research assistants. The assistants were two male and two female senior students from PNG University of Technology who were engaged to collect the survey data. The study commenced on 1 October 2019 and concluded on 12 October 2019. The research included the following activities:

- » initial contact and meetings with potential and interested participants, some of whom knew of domestic violence cases
- » visiting the interview sites and conducting the interviews
- » obtaining verbal and written consents from the participants and
- » revisiting the sites or calling participants (for several) to confirm the data collected was correct.

As shown in Table A9, the study took a cross-sectional approach in an attempt to cover the entire city populace. As such, major suburbs and localities within the city were selected and surveyed to gather representative views.

Types of interviews and initial contacts

All interviews were face to face and began with telling short stories. Through this process, we get to know each other, which allowed the interviewees to feel free to express themselves during the formal interviews. The storytelling simply involved introducing ourselves, chewing betel nuts together and sharing drinks or cups of tea. This enabled us to establish mutual understanding and build trust that we had a common goal in answering the questions.

Because of this methodology, it took a bit longer to complete the interviews — usually more than 20 minutes per questionnaire. Each research assistant took four to five days to complete their quota.

In some cases, we were unable to complete the interviews during our specified conversation period. In these cases, we agreed to leave the questionnaire forms with the participants to complete on their own time and return to us. Because of the trust we established during our initial discussions, interviewees called us within a day or two to pick up the questionnaires. Ten participants completed the survey this way, all of whom were working class and understood how POs and IPOs work.

Table A9. Study locations within Lae per location

Major locations	# of participants/ location		Total
	M	F	
Bumbu Compound	5	5	10
Unitech campus	11	4	15
Uniblock settlements	2		2
Bumayong — Ten City	2	1	3
Papuan Compound	3	4	7
Lae Top Town	1		1
Kamkumung	1	4	5
1 Mile	2		2
2 Mile	4	2	6
3 Mile	1		1
4 Mile	3	1	4
9 Mile	2		2
Total	37	21	58

Approaches and strategies used to collect data

In all study locations, target participants were made aware that a survey team was coming to conduct short interviews with them. The first day was basically to get to know the participants and engage their interest. In this process, we identified potential participants. On the second day, we made phone calls to inform them that we were coming their way. By this time, participants were ready for interviews with us. After arriving at the sites, we reintroduced ourselves and reiterated who we were and consent forms were signed by the participants who volunteered to take part in the survey. We stated explicitly that the interview was voluntary and that they had the right to reject or accept in the interview process.

Being mindful of Melanesian cultural sensitivity issues surrounding females and males not being seen together (in face-to-face discussion), we engaged a few other members of the communities who had gathered there to witness the interviews. This also avoided any suspicion from individuals about what we were doing. Through this process, we created free and transparent environments for participants and other informants to discuss the study topic freely and in-depth. The interviews usually commenced with us introducing ourselves and sharing any experiences regarding domestic violence, IPOs and POs and their effects on families and communities. Our discussions led to the participants visualising the victims of domestic violence, which helped them relate the accounts to their own experiences of IPOs and POs. As such, we were confident the accounts provided by the participants were true.

APPENDIX 3. QUESTIONNAIRE

QUESTIONNAIRE

ATTITUDES AND PERCEPTIONS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, AND KNOWLEDGE OF THE LAW AND SERVICES

INTRODUCTION

This survey of young people is part of a larger study on the use and efficacy of protection orders as a key response to domestic and family violence in Papua New Guinea.

Funded by Australian aid programs Pacific Women and JSS4D, the study is being undertaken by researchers from the Australian National University in Canberra, the University of Papua New Guinea in Port Moresby, and the University of Technology in Lae. The main aim of the study is to investigate the expectations, use and efficacy of family protection orders and to see whether they are providing timely and effective protection for victims of domestic violence.

This survey focuses on the attitudes and perceptions of young adults in PNG in relation to domestic violence.

It has 20 questions, almost all of them are multiple choice, and it should take about 15 minutes to complete.

Your participation is entirely voluntary and confidential. We do not ask for your name or anything by which you could be identified.

The aim is to disseminate the results of the survey publicly by mid-2020, and we will try to ensure as many young adults as possible know of the results.

Thank you for participating.

Any questions about the survey or the study should be sent to Dr Frances Essacu at francis.essacu@pnguot.ac.pg, Ms Geejay Milli at geejay.milli@upng.ac.pg or Dr Judy Putt at judy.putt@anu.edu.au.

A. PERSONAL INFORMATION

1. Are you?

a. Male _____

b. Female _____

c. Other (please specify) _____

2. Your age (write in years) _____

3. Which province did you mostly grow up in? (Tick one box only)

a. Eastern Highlands _____

b. Chimbu _____

c. Western Highlands _____

d. Jiwaka _____

e. Enga _____

f. Southern Highlands _____

g. Hela _____

h. Morobe _____

i. Madang _____

j. East Sepik _____

k. West Sepik _____

l. NCD _____

m. Central _____

n. Milne Bay _____

o. Western _____

p. Gulf _____

q. Oro _____

r. East New Britain _____

s. West New Britain _____

t. New Ireland _____

u. Manus _____

v. Autonomous Region of Bougainville _____

w. Other – outside of PNG (please name country) _____

4. Your education level (Tick the highest level completed)

a)	No schooling	
b)	Grade 1 to 6	
c)	Grade 7 to 10	
d)	Grade 11 to 12	
e)	Technical or vocational school	
f)	College (e.g. secretarial or business college)	
g)	University degree (UPNG, DWU, etc.)	
h)	Other (please write in)	

5. Where do you currently live? (Please tick one box)

- a. Lae _____
- b. Port Moresby _____
- c. Other (please name) _____

6. Are you currently? (Tick all that apply)

- a. A tertiary student (at university or college) _____
- b. A school student _____
- c. In casual work _____
- d. In full-time work _____
- e. In part-time work _____
- f. No work/looking for work _____
- g. Working in the house/domestic duties _____
- h. Street or market selling _____
- i. Own or family business _____
- j. Gardening, farming or fishing for own use _____

7. What is your marital status? (Please tick one box)

- a. Married _____
- b. De facto _____
- c. In a relationship _____
- d. Divorced/separated _____
- e. Single _____
- f. Other (Please specify) _____

B. PERCEPTIONS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

8. How much do you agree or disagree that the following behaviours are forms of domestic violence? (Please one box for each row)

Behaviour	Strongly agree	Agree	Don't agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
Constant nagging						
Emotionally/psychologically abusive						
Being possessive over partner						
A partner not providing financial support						
Physical abuse						
Sorcery threats issued by partner forcing you to do something you don't like						
Not letting a partner go to the church they want to go to						
Prying into a partner's personal phone and email communication						
Threats issued on immediate family						

9. In the local area where you live, how common do you think domestic violence is? (Please tick one box)

- a. Very common _____
- b. Common _____
- c. Not so common _____
- d. Rare _____
- e. Very rare _____
- f. Don't know _____

**10. In your view, how often do you believe the following factors cause domestic violence?
(Please one box for each row)**

Factor	Very often	Often	Sometimes	Not often	Rarely	Don't know
Bride price not paid						
Using drugs/alcohol						
One partner sleeping with another person (infidelity)						
One partner being jealous and possessive						
Having money problems (e.g., low income, gambling)						
Disrespectful attitudes towards women						
A belief that men should be in control in society						
One partner using child/children as leverage to control other partner						
One parent wanting to be in control/in charge of the family						
It's part of the person's culture						

C. ATTITUDES TO GENDER AND VIOLENCE

11. How much do you agree with the following statements? (Please one box for each row)

Statement	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
A person is not responsible for what they do when they are drunk or high						
Girls like guys who are in charge of the relationship						
Men are responsible for bringing in the income to a family						
Women should be responsible for raising children and doing the housework						
A man feels he has the right to beat or punish his wife to discipline her						
A man feels he has the right to force his wife to have sex when she does not want to						
Guys who fight when they need to get the most respect from others						
Guys and girls are equal to each other						

D. KNOWLEDGE OF PNG LAW AND FAMILY PROTECTION ORDERS

12. Have you heard of the legislation the Family Protection Act 2013? (Please tick one box)

a. Yes _____

b. No _____

c. Don't know _____

13. Did you know there is a crime in PNG called a 'domestic violence offence'? (Please tick one box)

a. Yes _____

- b. No _____
- c. Don't know _____

14. Have you heard of Interim Protection Orders (IPOs) or Protection Orders (POs)? (Please tick one box)

- a. Yes _____
- b. No _____
- c. Don't know _____

15. If yes, what do you think they do? (Please write down the answer below)

16. If yes, did you know that to disobey an IPO or PO is a criminal offence? (Please tick one box)

- a. Yes _____
- b. No _____
- c. Don't know _____
- d. Not applicable (hasn't heard of them) _____

17. Do you know anyone who has applied for an IPO or PO? (Please tick one box)

- a. Yes _____
- b. No _____
- c. Don't know _____

18. If yes and as far as you know, did they find the IPO or PO helpful? (Please tick one box)

- a. Yes _____
- b. No _____
- c. Don't know _____
- d. Inapplicable (don't know anyone) _____

E. KNOWLEDGE OF SOURCES OF HELP FOR THE VICTIM

19. Who would you recommend that a victim of domestic violence talks to for support or advice? (Choose the top three)

- a. Local pastor or church minister/priest _____
- b. Someone at school or university _____
- c. Someone at work _____
- d. A good friend _____
- e. Another family member/family leader _____

f. Local community leader _____

g. Call the 1-Tok Kaunselin Helpim Lain _____

h. Other (please name) _____

**20. What service or organisation would you recommend that he or she actually go to?
(Choose the top three)**

a. Police station _____

b. Family and Sexual Violence Unit _____

c. Local law and justice *komiti* _____

d. Family Support Centre _____

e. A *seif haus* _____

f. A Village Court official _____

g. Local clinic or hospital _____

h. Church or pastor's residence _____

i. Department of Community Development/Welfare _____

j. A domestic violence service (please name) _____

k. Other (please name) _____

Thank you!

Please note: ask if they want any advice or support, and if yes, give them the list of services and their numbers.

Endnotes

- 1 Early in 2020, Dr Essacu took up a position at the PNG University of Natural Resources and the Environment located on East New Britain.
- 2 'Family and sexual violence' is the term commonly used in PNG which includes a range of behaviours and relationships. Given our focus on the POs introduced by the FPA, which apply to family members and spouses, we use the term 'domestic and family violence' to make it clear that there is an intimate partner or familial relationship.
- 3 The total number of participants was 180, but where a separate analysis was done for Lae the number is 57 participants for whom it was clear Lae was their current place of residence. Similarly, the Port Moresby results are based on the findings of 118 completed questionnaires, four less than the number actually interviewed.
- 4 The low ranking of 'constant nagging', especially when compared with the high ranking of 'emotionally/psychologically abusive', suggests further investigation is required into understanding these terms.
- 5 Thirty-nine respondents said they knew someone who had applied for an IPO or PO, but more than that (n=81) responded to the second question as to whether that person found the IPO or PO helpful. However, of the 81, 29 responded by indicating they did not know.

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Department of Pacific Affairs

The Australia National University

Canberra ACT 2601

T +61 2 6125 8394

E dpa@anu.edu.au

W dpa.bellschool.anu.edu.au

