

# Australia Awards Women Leading and Influencing Leadership Fund



Australia Awards *Women Leading and Influencing* (WLI) is a four-year, A\$8 million on-Award (in-Australia) and reintegration (in-Pacific) enrichment program of the Australian Government, which seeks to amplify the value of Australia Awards scholarships for women and men scholars.

WLI provides a range of leadership learning, networking and development opportunities to Australia Awards scholars from the Pacific while studying in Australia and once they return home.

WLI is delivered in three tiers:

- **Tier 1 Learning and Networking:** regular events and seminars on topical issues held online, in Australia and the Pacific; open to all current Australia Awards scholars (women and men).
- **Tier 2 Developmental Leadership:** up to 30 Pacific women scholars undertake the intensive 18-month Women's Developmental Leadership Program, while *LeadershipConnect* offers six months of online leadership learning, networking and support for women and men Australia Awards scholars and alumni from the Pacific.
- **Tier 3 From Learning to Leading and Influencing:** workplace internship and other professional development opportunities (including the Leadership Fund) are available for Women's Developmental Leadership Program participants consolidating skills and knowledge gained on-Award.

## About the Leadership Fund

Alumni of WLI's Developmental Leadership programs have access to a flexible, responsive Leadership Fund to support their exercise of developmental leadership when they return home to the Pacific.

The Leadership Fund fosters collaboration and catalyses leadership action on important issues. It also helps build the leadership profile, skill and legitimacy of WLI alumni on their return home.

## What type of activities are supported?

The Leadership Fund provides:

- project-style grants for participants and alumni; and
- opportunistic funding to support different types of leadership activities

Activities eligible for Leadership Fund support include:

- Leadership projects (e.g. working with other alumni and in-country stakeholders to design/ deliver an initiative in response to a specific issue or development challenge).
- Research, technical advice or policy support (to help build knowledge of a particular leadership/ development issue on which an alumni wishes to lead change. May be undertaken by alumni with / without WLI assistance).
- Admin or logistics activities (e.g. travel, meeting or other costs associated with bringing stakeholders together to discuss/ work on a specific issue).

- Any other activity that enables a collective leadership response to development issues in the Pacific will be considered.

*“Not only did the participants gain so much by way of economic empowerment, as project leader, it gave me many learning insights and experiences, opportunities and leadership practises that will groom me to become a better leader in future”*

- Clera Sam, WLI alumna and Project Leader of the Gender-Based Violence Capacity Building and Promoting WASH at Vending Sites project funded through the WLI Leadership Fund

## Who is eligible to apply?

Women who have completed WLI’s Leadership and Mentoring Program (LMP) or the Women’s Developmental Leadership Program (WDLP) can apply for the Leadership Fund.

Men and women who have completed the *LeadershipConnect* program can be part of a Project Team, but the application must be led and submitted by an LMP / WDLP alumna.

## How much can I apply for?

The amount of funding provided through the Leadership Fund will depend upon the nature and scope of each proposed activity but is likely to range from \$100 to \$10,000 per proposal. Past applicants who have demonstrated their capacity to implement Leadership Fund projects may be eligible to apply for more.

## How can I apply?

Applications to the Leadership Fund are always open and must be submitted online via the Leaders Hub.

In submitting an application, alumni will need to demonstrate:

- the relevance of the proposed activity/interventions to their own exercise of developmental leadership;
- how the proposed activity / intervention will assist alumni to = build networks and connections, foster collaboration/ collective action between stakeholders, and exercise developmental leadership; and
- depending on the nature of support requested, how the proposed activity / intervention will contribute to a ‘greater good’ (e.g. in the applicant’s workplace/ sector, community or country).

Proposals to fund small projects will require alumni to articulate an approach to working collectively with other WLI and Australia Awards alumni, and with other local stakeholders (including men) already active in the same space.



## Increasing access to hand-washing in PNG primary schools during COVID-19

WLI alumnae Marlene Delis and Rebecca Krai and Australia Awards alumnus Charles Sorom identified that a lack of access to soap and age-appropriate handwashing facilities was preventing primary school students in PNG from forming long-term handwashing behaviours needed to prevent disease transmission.

To bridge the gap and prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Kimbe, West New Britain Province, Marlene, Rebecca and Charles worked with teachers of Saraklok 2 and 3 Elementary Schools and the Education Coordinator for Mosa Inspectorate Schools to improve WASH and soap access for young students.

The team developed handwashing stations and highly visual educational artworks to promote washing with soap as one of the best defences against COVID-19. Teachers were also trained to make their own soap for continuous supply at each school.

## Interested? Want to know more?

WLI alumni can find more information, including past projects, FAQs and application forms on the WLI Leaders Hub.

External stakeholders wanting to learn more about the Leadership Fund can contact us on

info@wliprogram.org or through our website:

[www.wliprogram.org](http://www.wliprogram.org)