

# Disability, Elderly & Religion

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## **Disability Section**

### **Roles and Functions**

Being the Government's focal point agency for Disability, the section's primary role is to coordinate the policy implementation in collaboration with stakeholders and developmental partners.

### **Vision and Mission Statement**

The policy is the national strategic plan for the disability sector with the vision: "Remove Barriers, Make Rights Real," focusing PNG on addressing the overarching challenge where many people view PLWDs as needing to overcome obstacles on their own, without realising the need for society as a whole to also actively break down barriers to improve participation and enable equal rights for PLWDs.

The vision of the revised National Policy on Disability 2015 . 2025 is:

*"Remove Barriers, Make Rights Real"*

And the Goal is;

Establish and strengthen policy implementation, infrastructure and coordinated systems to improve the lives of Persons With Disabilities on an equal basis with all others.

### **Key Priority Areas of the Government through the Department captured under the Section:**

- Better stakeholder collaboration via improved institutional coordination mechanisms
- Guiding the development of Provincial and District plans to build ownership and momentum at local levels
- Implementing a ten year funding strategy for more Government and alternative support
- Domestic legislation reviews and development of new legislation aligning to CRPD commitments
- Linking and aligning to other relevant policies
- Enhancing Disability administration, in data collection, reporting and strengthening regional collaboration

### **Conventions, Legislations & Policies**

- The National Policy on Disability 2015 . 2025 (NPD)
- Conventional on Rights of Persons With Disabilities (CRPD)

### **The National Policy on Disability has an implementation strategy under three objectives:**

1. Promoting and protecting rights of Persons With Disabilities via organised networking and support for advocates and change agents.
2. Improving delivery of disability services, using inclusive development and Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) approaches to positively impact Persons With Disabilities.
3. Improved institutional framework, performance management and financing arrangements.

These objectives are outlined in the Action Plan of the National Policy on Disability which is divided into three parts above to suit the coordination structure and objective sector.

The revised National Policy on Disability 2015 . 2025 is the only current policy that the section is implementing. The policy implementation involves partner agencies, stakeholders and development partners. The implementation strategy would be to market the policy issues, particularly the barrier free/accessibility issues to development partners to source resources in kind for implementation purposes.

## **THE OFFICE OF CHURCHES AND RELIGION**

The Office of Religion was first put in the Alotau Accord as one of the 3 priorities of the O'Neil Dion Government in 2012. The other 2 priorities were the Civil Registry NID and the Social Protection program to cater for the Pension for the Disability and Elderly. The Department for Community Development carried out an intensive consultation forum nation-wide in the four regions of the country in late 2012 and early 2013. A major report was written on the findings of the National Forums. This provided the basis upon which the core priority activities of the new Office of Religion were designed and being carried out so far.

There are three major entities dealing with Churches currently and these are the; PNG Churches Partnership Program (CPP), the PNG Church Partnership Project Unit housed at the Department for National Planning and Monitoring, and the Office of Religion in the Department for Community Development and Religion. Each of these entities are creating inroads into improving the working relationships between Government and Churches and Religions in country. Coordinators of programs in the three entities are always in communication with each other.

### **Policy Relevance**

- **Vision 2050**

From 2010 to 2050, the Government has aimed to increase participation and roles of Christian churches to effectively deliver basic health and education services. This will remain prominent especially in the rural areas where bulk of the population lives and church run services existed. All these efforts will contribute to the key development objective that is to Improve Quality of Life for all Papua New Guineans who will be Smart, Wise, Fair and Happy Society by 2050.

- **PNGDSP 2010-2013**

The PNGDSP 2010-2030 identified Partnership and Coordination as the key modality to deliver basic services. The Government has acknowledged several key partners in development that includes private sector, development partners, civil societies and community based organizations and more importantly, the Churches who have been in the forefront of services delivery in the rural remote areas of Papua New Guinea. The main goal of the partnership between the government and churches is the Effective health, education and community services delivery through a close and sustainable partnership with PNG's churches.

### **The Strategy-National Strategy for Responsible Sustainable Development**

The Strategy that was recently launched set the platform in reinforcing the National Constitution Directive Principle on Integral Human Development and Equality and Participation of all Papua New Guineans. The framework guiding principles are based on principles of sustainable development amongst others includes:

- Equitable, Fair and just-between and within countries and between generations;
- Poverty reduction, well-being, livelihoods and social protection, access to essential services.

### **Medium Term Development Plan 2010-2015**

In recognizing the churches' contribution to nation building from the last 100 years, the Government has have committed to support the Christian Churches to deliver basic services such as basic education and primary and preventative health. The Government aims to strengthen the partnership with the churches in the next five years up to 2015 to accelerate progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

### **Whole of Government Approach to Work with Churches**

- The Government of Papua New Guinea uses a relatively standard structure to deliver most public services which is focussed on procuring inputs (employees, contractors, and goods) from the private sector. The practices currently used to procure these inputs are not functioning effectively, leading to poor value for money and generally inhibiting the Government's ability to deliver services.
- The O'Neill-Dion Government has prioritised improving strategic partnerships with the Churches, the private sector and civil society organisations as a way to improve the livelihoods of the people of PNG. A key improvement strategy is to strengthen the focus of these partnerships and their visibility to the community.
- For the Churches this strengthened focus is on the delivery of education and health services due to: the significant amount of activities already undertaken by the Churches in delivering health and education services across PNG, and the strong past performance of the Churches in these sectors.
- Partnering with churches to deliver Health and Education Services is a strategic step forward to overcome impediments of ineffective procurement system and process. The PNGCSP Program is a program under **Critical Activity #3, Improving Implementation/Procurement** under the Department of National Planning and Monitoring's Critical Activity Matrix. Activities listed in the matrix are considered areas of high priority for government and form part of a strategic plan to improve service delivery and the performance of government.

#### **CABINET DECISIONS**

- The Cabinet through the NEC Decision No. 175/2013 directed the Department of National Planning and Monitoring (DNPM) to undertake a review of the Church-State Partnership Program.
- The same decision also endorses the presentation of the Social Development Program Report in Parliament in May 2013.
- Follow-on from the SDP Implementation report the Cabinet through another NEC Decision No. 345/2013 noted the progress of re-designing the PNGCSP Program and endorses the PNGCSP Church Development Council, Responsibility matrix and the Terms of Reference for the Council and the Secretariat.

#### **Current Program Priorities of the Office of Churches and Religion**

1. Work on a **"National Policy on Churches and Religion"**
2. Design and establish a National Management Information System (MIS) for all Churches and Religions in PNG.
3. Engage the Law Reform Commission to review legislations governing Churches and Religions in PNG
4. To transfer the Churches Grants System from the National Planning Department to the Department for Community Development and Religion.
5. Carry out an Awareness and Advocacy program for the Office in country and with development partners