

1. Purpose of the policy

This Policy outlines the value that FemiliPNG Australia (FPNGA) places on the diversity of its stakeholders, employees, and partners to its operation. It also defines FPNGA’s commitments to achieve a gender-just society in which all people enjoy equity while contributing and benefiting as equal partners in development.

Working toward equal participation in society is central to the work that FPNGA does in supporting Femili PNG to assist survivors of family and sexual violence (FSV). FPNGA seeks to promote equal recognition of dignity and human rights for all and empower survivors of FSV.

This Policy also further outlines the commitments of FPNGA to diversity in its operations, and respect for the differences between people in knowledge, skills, and perspectives. FPNGA recognises that power inequalities exist between individuals and groups, on the basis of social or professional identity including gender, sexual orientation, disability, religious affiliation, age and ethnicity. Social inclusion and empowerment is an important component of FPNGA’s operations.

FPNGA is committed to upholding the international agreements on human rights and their implementation strategies. These include the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Beijing Platform for Action, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CPRD), the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 and 1820 and the Agenda 21.

The purpose of this Policy is as follows:

- Create a clear and consistent message on FPNGA’s commitment to gender equality, diversity, and an inclusive culture, and to facilitate working relationships with government agencies, NGOs, and its stakeholders.
- Facilitate common accountability mechanisms and minimum standards for organization wide objectives for gender equality, women’s empowerment, and social inclusion.
- Outline the commitment of FPNGA to inclusivity in its operations for its staff, Board, partners, and stakeholders.

2. Policy application

This Policy applies to all staff, Board members, volunteers, contractors, and representatives of FPNGA, and includes anyone acting on behalf of the organisation. For the sake of brevity, the term “staff” will be used to represent the scope of this Policy. This Policy also applies to partners who have agreed to acknowledge, adopt, or comply with FPNGA’s Gender Equality and Diversity Policy.

3. Definitions

Personnel	A FemiliPNG Australia staff member, contractor, or volunteer
Representative	A FemiliPNG Australia Board member
Discrimination	When a person is treated less favourably because of their race, family background, colour, religion, sex, age, nationality, sexual orientation, because they have a disability or are HIV positive, or some other point of difference.

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Disability	In line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as including people with episodic or long-term physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in a society on an equal basis with others.
Disaggregated Data	The collection of data information and analysis of results on the basis of gender, age and/or disability.
Empowerment	The process of change that gives individuals greater freedom of choice and action which leads to an enhanced ability to make informed life choices.
Gender Analysis	The systematic assessment of policy and practice on women and men and on the social and economic relationships between the two. The application of a gender perspective requires the identification of the needs and priorities of all genders, the identification of existing opportunities and constraints to the achievement of development objectives, and the choice of an intervention strategy to address these.
Gender Equality	Requires equal enjoyment by all genders of socially valued goods, opportunities, resources, and rewards.
Gender Equity	A just distribution of benefits and rewards between men and women.
Gender	The social meaning given to identifying as a particular gender in a society. It may also be defined as the economic, social, political, and cultural attributes and opportunities associated with being a particular gender.
Harassment	Any verbal, physical or visual behaviour that is intimidating, humiliating or offensive to another person. This may include through the internet and social media.
Women's Economic Empowerment	Refers to the process which increases women's real power over economic decisions that influence their lives and priorities in society. This can be achieved through equal access to and control over critical economic resources and opportunities.

4. Policy Principles

FPNGA has a whole-of-organisation commitment to the achievement of gender equality and social inclusion which requires that we adhere to the following principles:

We respect, protect, and promote internationally recognised human rights for all, regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, indigeneity, disability, age, displacement, caste, gender, gender identity, sexuality, sexual orientation, poverty, class, or socio-economic status.

- Our development approach is to respect, protect and advance human rights through providing support to survivors of FSV.
- We support Femili PNG to provide services to all survivors of FSV, free of charge and free from discrimination.

The empowerment of women and girls is fundamental to our mission, vision, values, and priorities.

- Gender equality and equity are central to all of our actions.
- Gender-based violence scars women and girls physically and psychologically severely affecting women's dignity and personal security and suppresses their potential to take control of their lives.
- We work to promote gender equality and to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse of those who are vulnerable, noting that FSV and sexual exploitation and abuse disproportionately affects women and girls.

An inclusive culture which celebrates diversity and allows people to thrive is everyone's responsibility.

- The diversity of our employees, partners, and stakeholders are valued at all levels of our operation.

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- We recognise that organisational cultures are a direct result of the actions of staff, management, stakeholders, and contributors.
- We encourage equality and diversity through programs that seek the inclusion, representation, participation, and empowerment of all people. We ensure that key participants representing affected people are involved in the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of our programs.

5. Gender Equality and Diversity in Operation

Through this Gender Equality and Diversity Policy, FPNGA commits to promote equal realisation of dignity and human rights for all. Specifically, this Policy is intended to incorporate our diversity and gender equality principles in our operations.

Support to Femili PNG

- 5.1 Offer case management services free from discrimination and free of charge.
- 5.2 Assist women and girls to live a life free from violence by supporting their needs such as access to legal services, repatriation and other services, safety, and protection.
- 5.3 Facilitate access to business start-up kits for women and girls to assist in their economic empowerment.
- 5.4 Advocate with partners and stakeholders to address systemic and structural practices that create barriers to women’s rights and gender equality including prevention and response to gender-based violence and sexual exploitation and abuse.
- 5.5 Actively involve men and boys as allies in promoting gender equality and preventing FSV through outreach and training.
- 5.6 Conduct awareness-raising sessions and training around the consequences of FSV and child safety to contribute to the safety and empowerment of women and girls.
- 5.7 Engage in research projects that explore issues associated with gender-based violence to provide an evidence base for advocacy.

Management and program design

FPNGA mainstreams gender equality and diversity in our day-to-day business, through management and design of activities.

- 5.8 There is strong representation of women in management on our Board and staffing.
- 5.9 We ensure adequate resources are allocated to advancing our work in social inclusion and gender equity.
- 5.10 Our annual work plans and budgets are formulated to assist in our aim of gender equality and social inclusion.
- 5.11 All new programs or projects have a gender equality and diversity analysis at the planning and proposal stages.
- 5.12 There is consistency between FPNGA’s Gender Equality and Diversity Policy and other FPNGA policies and procedures.
- 5.13 FPNGA ensures that key organisational policies, systems, and practices including but not limited to budgeting, human resource recruitment, training and management, and decision making supports the aims outlined in this Policy.

Human resources

FPNGA is an equal opportunity employer and the principles of gender equality and diversity feature strongly in our HR operations.

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- 5.14 Staff understand and demonstrate attitudes and behaviours that promote diversity and gender equality.
- 5.15 FPNGA sets clear expectations about an inclusive working environment for all people.
- 5.16 We undertake merit-based recruitment and diversity is encouraged.
- 5.17 FPNGA addresses any discrimination, harassment, or any other unacceptable behaviour

Monitoring, evaluating and learning

FPNGA is committed to monitoring, evaluating, and learning from its projects and includes gender equality and diversity in these processes.

- 5.18 We explicitly state gender equality and diversity results and include indicators in planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.
- 5.19 FPNGA collects and analyses data disaggregated by sex, age, and disability to inform reflections, lessons learnt and changes in programming.
- 5.20 FPNGA reports regularly to beneficiaries, donors, and the public on progress on gender equality in FPNGA’s and Femili PNG’s work through appropriate reporting channels.

6. Partners

Where possible, FPNGA shall encourage partners to acknowledge and comply with our Gender Equality and Diversity Policy through the use of Memorandum of Understandings and agreements. FPNGA will provide guidance to partners on our gender equality and diversity principles. FPNGA understands that, in many cases, this Policy cannot bind other stakeholder organisations it works with. However, FPNGA will promote and model good practice in gender equality and diversity to partners and other stakeholders.

7. Policy amendments

All policies are subject to review and endorsement by the FemiliPNG Australia Board. Suggestions about this policy are welcome and should be directed to the FemiliPNG Australia CEO. Any amendments or changes to the Policy will be submitted to the Board for endorsement.

The CEO is responsible for maintaining this document, including updating confirmed changes, informing staff of the changes, and disseminating the latest version to all personnel.

This policy will be reviewed every three years, or as needed to meet governance obligations and/or changes in legislation.

8. Related documents

Document number	Document name
DOC-001	Statement of Organisational Principles
POL-015	Human Resources Manual

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