

THE AFPPD SERVES AS A FORUM WITH THE GOAL OF CREATING A BETTER FUTURE FOR ALL HUMAN BEINGS



30 years of impact in Australia

Canberra, Australia - 28 October 2025

The Australian Parliamentary Friends on Population and Development (APGPD) proudly marked its 30-year anniversary and held an exhibition entitled, '30 years of impact: still advocating for rights, equity and access'. The APGPD has been a real catalyst for change since it was established. At the celebration, the legacy of the group was reflected on: from assisting with the RU486 reform to repealing harmful aid restrictions, from supporting regional parliamentary groups, to launching global reports in Parliament House. To commemorate the significant milestone, a special booklet was produced and published on the APGPD website, highlighting the group's key advocacy achievements over the past three decades.

Launching UNFPA's State of World Population Report 2025 in Oceania

Wellington, New Zealand - 14 October 2025

The New Zealand Parliamentarians' Group on Population and Development (NZPPD) hosted the New Zealand launch of the State of World Population Report 2025 at Parliament, in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). UNFPA Regional Humanitarian Advisor for Asia and the Pacific, Tomoko Kurokawa, presented the report's key findings on behalf of UNFPA's Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific. Attendees included Council for International Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ministry for Women, National Council of Women, and New Zealand College of Midwives.



Pacific and Timorese labour migrants

In September, the APGPD hosted a briefing on the sexual and reproductive health needs of Pacific and Timorese labour migrants under the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) Scheme. An expert panel discussed the research and confronting stories, such as women facing pregnancy-related discrimination, and workers unsure of their health rights. Solutions include the Health in My Language program, which delivers sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) education to migrant and refugee women in-language. The briefing ended with practical recommendations: clearer health information for workers, employer training, and policy reform to ensure PALM participants can live and work in Australia with safety and dignity.



Canberra, Australia - 25 November 2025

The APGPD was honoured to have Minister for Small Business, International Development, and Multicultural Affairs, and Assistant Minister for Social Services and the Prevention of Family Violence, speak at the launch of the annual UNFPA report. Speakers emphasised the point that SRHR is inextricably linked with economic participation and social cohesion and wellbeing for all members of society, and that ending gender-based violence (GBV) needs "a collective and active effort" from a broad range of stakeholders.

Fulfilling commitments to ICPD PoA and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



Manila, The Philippines - 3-4 September 2025

Hosted by the Philippines' Legislators Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD), the AFPPD's Annual Conference was successfully organized with participation of over 70 delegates from 26 countries. The conference and study visit were supported by the UNFPA and Japan Trust Fund (JTF).

In her opening remark, AFPPD Chair Hon. Kamikawa Yoko reflected on the transformative journey since the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). Once focused on controlling population growth, the ICPD has since shifted toward empowering individuals and upholding their rights. She emphasized how GBV, and the rights of women, youth, and older persons, are not optional but central to achieving peace and justice. "Legislators have a unique responsibility to transform global visions into national laws, ensure adequate budget allocations, and uphold the rights and well-being of all citizens."

Members shared examples from their home-states and called AFPPD to play pivotal role and discussed:

- Advancing Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality
- Youth at the Center - Policies for a Sustainable Future
- Promoting healthy & active aging in Asia-Pacific
- Parliamentarians Networking to Address the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Climate Change & Its Impact on Implementation of 2030 Agenda
- Upholding Global Commitments: Progress in Advancing ICPD and SDGs.

Rep. Krisel Lagman spoke of the vital role national parliamentarians play in ensuring that these global agendas are not only endorsed in principle but are also effectively implemented through national legislation. She acknowledged the progressive steps taken towards greater recognition of women's rights, expanded opportunities for the youth,

and a heightened societal consciousness around issues of justice and equality. She warned that these gains remain fragile and are threatened by persistent gender inequality, the spread of disinformation.

Session presenters called for intergovernmental collaboration, technology exchange, and inclusive health and information public campaigns that target women, the elderly, and underserved groups. Delegates agreed on practical steps such as study exchanges, joint forums, and country-level performance tracking to enhance cooperation on shared challenges, including aging populations and demographic shifts. Finally, delegates called for the involvement of youth, civil society, and governments in climate action, with a focus on equity, resilience, and advancing the 2030 Agenda in the face of escalating climate threats.



On 5 September, delegates from the AFPPD Regional Conference took a field visit to the headquarters of Meta Philippines for a linking and learning exchange program on digital safety and legislation. Speakers presented the Philippines' ongoing efforts to combat Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children and Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Materials. They emphasized the tech giant's commitment to protecting children online and ensuring their data privacy and Meta's latest efforts to enhance online safety for teenagers through platform updates and collaborations.

The final conference report can be accessed at AFPPD's website: <https://afppd.net/event/3-5-september-2025-manila-philippines>

AFPPD's 100th Executive Committee (ExCom) meeting

Manila, The Philippines - 3 September 2025

Hon. Kamikawa Yoko, Chair of AFPPD led the 100th Executive Committee (ExCom) meeting and expressed appreciation to all members for their ongoing commitment to the agenda of AFPPD.



Members have been actively participating in the AFPPD's programs and expressing their support and cooperation. Case studies were highlighted through presentations, and AFPPD training programs and organised study visits were discussing as being informative and useful. The members also suggested that AFPPD conduct programs covering its key pillars to enhance visibility and policy impact.

Arab-Asian Inter-Regional Meeting

Cairo, Egypt - 24-25 October 2025

Delegates of AFPPD attended the Arab-Asian Parliamentarians' dialogue, an exchange and study visit program, organized by Asian Population and Development Association and Forum of Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development. Hosted by the Parliament of Egypt, members discussed national policies with colleagues from the Arab region, as well as representatives of the civil society of Egypt. During the study visit, delegates visited Egyptian Red Crescent Society, learning about operational processes for humanitarian assistance to the victims in Gaza and Sudan. At the drug rehabilitation center, attendees learned about the government's efforts to prevent and treat young people from drug addiction.



Strengthening AFPPD-UNFPA cooperation

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia - 25 September 2025

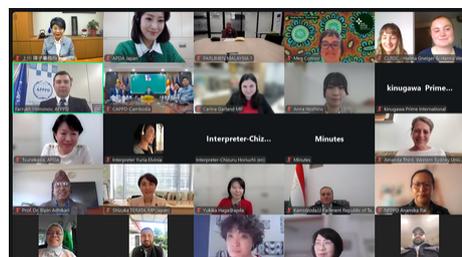
The Hon. Howard Lee, MP Malaysia & Secretary General of AFPPD met with Dr. Julitta Onabanjo, UNFPA Representative for Malaysia and Country Director for Thailand, for an enriching exchange on shared areas of work



between UNFPA and AFPPD. Dr. Onabanjo, who earlier this year joined AFPPD's 15th General Assembly in Kuala Lumpur, once again expressed her deep affinity and friendship with AFPPD. Hon. Lee took the opportunity to brief UNFPA representatives on the registration pathway of AFPPD's Secretariat in Malaysia, a process mandated by both the Malaysian Government and our Executive Committee.

On 10 November, Hon. Lee also met with Aleksandar (Sasha) Bodiroza, Regional Director ad interim for UNFPA APRO at the the sideline of the ASEAN-UNFPA Forum on Population Dynamics and Development 2025. Productive cooperation between the two organisations was reconfirmed, with a mutually expressed desire to strengthen the relationship.

AFPPD Webinar on Impact of Social Media on Children and Young People



On 10 November 2025, the AFPPD webinar was attended by more than 60 participants. Speakers from Australia (Hon. Dr. Carina Garland, MP; Prof. Amanda Third, Co-Director of Young and Resilient Research Center at Western Sydney University) presented on Australia's Online Safety Amendment (Social Media Minimum Age) Act 2024, requiring social media platforms to take reasonable steps to prevent children under 16 from having accounts. Dr. Bipin Adhikari, Professor of Law, Kathmandu University shared his research on Role of Online and Media Platforms on GenZ Protests in Nepal.

Cyberbullying, exposure to harmful & illegal content, online addiction for children and young people were broadly discussed during the webinar. As stated by Hon. Kamikawa Yoko, MP Japan and AFPPD Chair: "[It is] parliamentarians' responsibility to coordinate responses & promote evidence-based policymaking in order to create a safer and healthier digital environment for children and young people".

Philippine Legislators Commit to Pursuing Evidence-Based Legislation for Children

Manila, The Philippines - 19 November 2025

Key findings from the Longitudinal Cohort Study on the Filipino Child, a landmark 15-year study that tracks the experiences of 5,000 Filipino children across dimensions of human capital formation from age 10 in 2016 to age 24 in 2030 were discussed during a national policy dialogue held at the Philippine House of Representatives.

Organized by PLCPD in partnership with UNFPA Philippines and the House Committee on the Welfare of Children, the dialogue was the first time findings of the cohort study were presented to legislators. Legislators commended the wealth of data provided by the cohort study and committed to maximizing its findings in legislation.

The study revealed that poverty and poor outcomes in nutrition and sexual and reproductive health adversely impact children's lives and productivity in adulthood.

The study also confirms that adolescent pregnancy and early marriage or union are major reasons why girls drop out of school and stay off-track, and most first pregnancies happen between ages 15 to 18.

In her opening remarks, Chair of the House Committee on the Welfare of Children Rep. Richelle Singson committed to transforming the data and insights from the study into legislative action that will empower and protect Filipino children. Other legislators made the same commitment, including Chair of the Committee on Youth and Sports Development who pledged to prioritize the bills on the Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy.

In the 20th Congress, PLCPD officers and members, including PLCPD Chair for the Senate, Sen. Risa Hontiveros, PLCPD Chair for the House of Representatives and AFPPD Treasurer Rep. Krisel Lagman, Rep. Renee Louise Co, Rep. Sarah Elago, Rep. Perci Cendaña, and Rep. Kaka Bag-ao, are frontrunners in filing bills on the Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy. A total of 14 bills have been filed in both houses of Congress.



Legislators, researchers, and partners at the National Policy Dialogue on the Longitudinal Cohort Study on the Filipino Child, 19 November



Progress on universal health coverage and women's leadership in Cambodia

Phnom Penh - 18-21 November 2025

Hon. Lork Kheng, Vice President of Cambodian Association of Parliamentarians for Population and Development (CAPPD), visited Luong Mae Hospital and Preah Ang Duong Hospital to advance the implementation of priority policies and the expansion of the social security system, aiming for Universal Health Coverage (UHC). She assessed the hospitals' work progress, challenges, and healthcare service delivery, offering recommendations to enhance service quality and achieve UHC.



A few days earlier on 14 November 2025, Hon. Lork Kheng also participated in a panel discussion on "Implementing Measures to Promote the Leadership of Women and Girls." The discussion took place during the National Forum on Women in Leadership and Governance, which was held under the main theme "Leadership of Women and Girls for All," and organized by the Ministry of Women's Affairs in Phnom Penh.

Key policy discussions in India

New Delhi, India - 8 November 2025

A hybrid meeting of experts, chaired by Prof. P. J. Kurien, Chairman of Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (IAPPD), identified key population and development issues for discussion with Members of Parliament at the upcoming IAPPD Standing Committee Meeting in December 2025.

Key points discussed include interstate migration and balanced development; India's progress toward replacement-level fertility; and drug Addiction and its socioeconomic impact. Additional observations included mental health issues among adolescents, especially stress and academic pressures, are a growing concern, though it was not selected as a primary theme for the Standing Committee. Furthermore, population ageing and its implications for healthcare, social security, and productive engagement were also discussed as an important emerging area.



Improving the wellbeing of women & girls in Tajikistan

Dushanbe, Tajikistan

The National Parliamentary Group of Tajikistan on Population and Development has addressed improving the wellbeing of women and girls and their reproductive health within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals.

On 10-11 November 2025 under the chairpersonship of the deputy speaker of the Parliament of Tajikistan, Mavsuma Muini, a roundtable was held on the topic 'Improving the wellbeing of women and girls and reproductive health - the priority direction of the Parliament of the country'. Parliamentarians, experts, civil society representatives, the UNFPA Country office and mass media participated.

Hon. Muini stated the importance of improving health for women and girls. The President and the government need to pay special attention to this sector. She called for continuously addressing this issue, including sexual and reproductive health, and access to quality and efficient medical and sanitary services.



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