



The Beastly world-ending horrifying JAB... the VAX that is **SAVING LIVES**

By Andrew Kuliniasi after listening in on the Businesses for Health #vaccinework ZOOM challenge July 1, 2021

It's Andrew here, B4H's Millennial back at my B4H desk. I'm back to talk about getting vaccinated. Some of you may be thinking "Here he goes again." But! Hold up buster! I have no time for naysayers putting our public health in jeopardy - read on! (Was that good Dr. Ann? Is that how it's done?)

Good communication and leadership are key when it comes to the spread of accurate, facts about vaccines. Like the title of this article, you may have started reading thinking "Oh no!" only to be misled. In 2021 it is very easy to misinform and mislead people. Providing harmful or false information about vaccination is a menace. It preys upon the most vulnerable, but I want to use my powers to write stories and promote conversation about a thing which is proven to save lives.

Social media is a very big part of the miscommunication of information about the COVID-19 vaccine. Anna Maalsen, PNG's WHO country representative (Need last name and source of research) reported on social research in PNG. Anna reported that 50% of people surveyed receive news and vaccine information from social media, and only 14% indicated willingness to take the vaccine.

Seriously? WTF, do people really think "It's 666!" "You won't have kids!" "They want to control us." (Major eye roll) I digress...

Back to Speaking of communication and B4H's support for the "sleeves up" motivational story showing on Zoom. PNG has one of the richest and biggest story-telling cultures in the world. I would know, I'm part of it! And, in the effort to promote communication and conversation about COVID-19 with accurate information, Businesses for Health, ran its first ever PNG Vaccine story showing zoom challenge.

In the knowledge that one good story leads to another amongst friends, colleagues and communities, our private sector monthly COVID Zoom became a business influencer challenge. We asked 5 very influential businesspeople to initiate our vaccine storytelling challenge. Each was asked to share their story about how to promote more conversation about getting vaccinated.

Our storytelling business leader influencers are David Toua, Corporate Affairs, Steamships Trading, Chey Scovel, Director at PNG Business Council, Manufacturers Council, and board member at PNG Power, Dr Lynda Sirigoi, private medical practitioner and Melissa Gorogo, HR manager, Kenmore Group. Each offered fantastic, accurate, powerful and moving stories. I wish my family was online.

Here's my quick review...

David Toua relayed firsthand his experience and survival of COVID-19 disease.

"I could have got it from anyone! COVID-19 doesn't discriminate, not religion, race, borders or economic status. Vaccines might have side some effects but you're more likely to die from COVID-19 disease."

Chey Scovel was very precise with what he had to say.

"In March last year, Nuipila Pasin came in, unfortunately on lot of social media pages, I documented when someone posts something factual about COVID, one person acknowledges positively, and many more people jumped on the bandwagon with negative or unfounded comments about COVID-19. There is more hysteria about vaccines than truth. In PNG, no serious adverse reactions to the vaccine have been recorded to date. In PNG we've struggled with other diseases like HIV and TB but COVID-19 is much more easily spread."

Chey wondered if incentives would help. Like, "cash for a jab anybody?"

Dr Sirigoi moved me with her impassioned speech.

"Vaccines have been around for a long time and have changed the world by saving millions of lives. The fact that we're all here today is because of vaccines. Many of you have never heard of some of these diseases because of vaccines. All vaccines can have side effects most are minor, the COVID-19 vaccine is the same. Yet some conversations are hysterical and misinformed. A few years ago, in Samoa, vaccine misinformation spread by an irresponsible few, led to the preventable deaths of 80 children from measles! In 2018 we did rush to improve vaccination for

polio here in PNG and saved lives. My message about vaccines is "Nobody is safe, unless everybody is safe."

Sadly, due to cloud cover in Goroka, we didn't get to hear small business and PNG fashion champion Janet Sios give her planned story in Tok Pisin. Standby by.

To cap off the presentations Melissa Gorogo shared a personal story of her fears for her brother who suffered with, but survived COVID-19. Commending the health system in PNG for looking after him and getting him back to good health. She had the most elegant and simply moving presentation out of all, you only have to watch to know. this will be on our FB @B4HTB page.

At the end of the presentations Dr. Gary Nou gave a medical fact check response to the challengers. He then said something that really stuck with me. "What are people scared about? Honestly? Vaccination may be a choice of the individual, but why would you choose not to be vaccinated at the cost to the public's health?

I am reminded, fear is not always logical. Why would I be more scared of COVID-19 than the vaccine sent to protect me?

I admit it, I was hesitant, but I am young, a little silly, a bit selfish but I am also a social being. Thanks to my work, I have reconsidered my position. I will get vaccinated. Heck, I shall even get tested for HIV! But that's another story to keep you updated on.

this week its "sleeves up" to protect my family and community.

Until then, this is the millennial Andrew signing off! Check with www.businesses4health.com for the videos of this event and our e-news report.

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Thank you Andrew.

