



MALAMPA SKILLS CENTRE

Quarterly Report
Q2, 2025



Image 1: Invited guests posing inside the Vanuatu Travel Information Centre, Malampa branch during the official launching of the building in May.

DISABILITY INCLUSION

Priority area: Disability Inclusion and Child Desk Office Official Launching

Achievement/Outcome:

- On the 16th of April 2025, the Australian Deputy High Commissioner, Ms. Emily Fisher, officiated the opening of the newly renovated Disability Desk and Child Desk Office, under the Ministry of Justice, Youth and Community Services, in Lakatoro, Malekula.
- The renovation ensures the Child Protection Desk and the Disability Inclusion Desk have their own space to work. Until recently, these staff have been housed by the Department of Women's Affairs and the Malampa Skills Centre without an actual office to provide services to children and clients with disabilities.
- Like other service providers, it is vital for both Desks to have representatives on the ground in each province to provide support to people with disabilities and children, including vital referral pathways.
- The renovation was completed by locally based Yomal Construction company, which is owned by Mr. Guytou Julun and his family. His wife, Serel Julun, and his son, Yorick Julun, were part of the Certificate II in Building and Construction training at the Vanuatu Institute of Technology Malampa Campus at Southeast Malekula in 2023 and are currently working in the company.
- The renovation works only became a reality through the collaborative partnership between the Malampa Skills Centre, the Ministry of Youth, Justice and Community Services and the Malampa provincial government.



Image 2: MP Paul Paolo, Minister of Justice, Youth and Community Services, Hon. MP Job Andy, Deputy High Commissioner for the Australian High Commission Ms. Emily Fisher and President of Malampa Province, Mr. Perry Meltekoue posing in front of the renovated office building.



Image 3: Mr. Perry Meltekoue, President for Malampa Province, receiving keys to the renovated building from the MOJYCS, Mr. Job Andy, and the Deputy High Commissioner of the Australian High Commission, Ms. Emily Fisher.



Image 4 : Child Desk Coordinator, Mrs. Tristelle Garae, handing over a gift to Mr. Guytou Julun, owner and manager of Yomal construction who renovated the building and his wife, Serel Julun, and son, Yorick Julun, who are also employees of the construction company.

SKILLS FOR TOURISM

Priority area: Vanuatu Travel Information Centre (VTIC) – Malekula Branch Official Launching

Achievement/Outcome:

- The new VTIC Malekula Branch was launched on the 2nd of May, 2025 by the Australian Deputy High Commissioner, Ms. Emily Fisher, First Secretary of the New Zealand High Commission and the First Political Adviser of the Ministry of Trade
- The VTIC will support tourism growth in Malekula and across Malampa province by providing booking support to local tourism entrepreneurs, facilitating market access, both domestically and internationally, and providing marketing skills to operators.
- The building was built by local construction company, Malekula North Central South Construction Company. The company was established by trainees who completed a Certificate II in Building and Construction qualification at Rensarie in 2023 through the Malampa Skills Centre. Among the employees of the company there are two men with disabilities and two women.
- Through the Vanuatu Skills Partnership, the Australian Government has contributed over VUV 5 million to this project. The Vanuatu Government, through the Vanuatu Tourism Office and Department of Tourism, has contributed VUV 4 million, while the Malampa Provincial Government allocated land and space.
- This partnership is a demonstration of the Malampa Skills Centre's commitment to support the Government of Vanuatu to strengthen service delivery in rural and remote locations.



Image 5 :Vanuatu Tourism Office Staff, Mrs. Melisa Groundlin, Mrs. Lucy Cap, Mr. Nick Lunabek and Mr. Warren Gama, posing in front of the VTIC- Malampa Branch.



Image 6: Front entrance of the Vanuatu Travel Information Centre, Malampa Branch.



Image 7: Mrs. Aru Adele, VTO CEO, giving a tour to the invited guests inside the building and explaining how the office will assist in promoting and marketing local tourism activities.

SKILLS FOR TOURISM

Priority area: Malekula Market Ready Baseline Assessment

Achievement/Outcome:

- A Market Ready baseline assessment activity was conducted by the Vanuatu Tourism Office (VTO) with the support of the Vanuatu Skills Partnership in June 2025.
- Building on the findings of the Product Readiness survey conducted by the Department of Tourism in late 2024, the aim of this activity was to gather comprehensive information about the islands most advanced accommodation businesses who are ready for domestic and international markets.
- A total of 16 properties were visited and took their GPS locations were confirmed for online destination marketing. This included six bungalows, five guesthouses and three are self-contained accommodations.
- From these a detailed survey was conducted at 14 of the businesses with the owners or caretakers. According to the legal structure of the businesses surveyed, 12 are owned by individuals, 1 by a family and 1 by a partnership.
- Key opportunities noted for further improvement were operators advertising and basic marketing skills as well understanding of disability accessibility.
- Additional issues such as ongoing domestic airline scheduling changes and unreliable water systems were also noted as potential impacts on future visitor experience.
- This information will provide the VTO with a baseline for reporting, while also assisting in future decision-making and the marketing support to be provided to these tourism businesses in the future.



Image 8: Ms. Nanette Jimmy from the Vanuatu Tourism Office (second on the right) standing with Mr. Harry Rambay, Service Delivery Officer, Mrs. Jamine Makikon National Quality System Manager and Mr. Willie Kiltop Malampa Skills Centre Manager in front of the Malampa Skills Centre after the activity debrief.



Image 9: Ms. Nanette Jimmy from the Vanuatu Tourism Officer interviewing Mr Kevin Maleb, the Manager of Tamtam Bungalows on Malekula.

SKILLS FOR CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

Priority area: Product Development- Paama Pandanus Quality Training

Achievement/Outcome:

- During a survey on pandanus usage and supply conducted last year, several women on Paama showed a keen interest in handicraft production. However, they lacked the necessary skills to produce quality pandanus for handicraft products in addition to knowledge on designs and styles beyond the traditional mat.
- In May, local coach Mrs. Patricia Mataru delivered a first ever 5-day workshop on quality production and use of Teri-Dyes to 19 local handicraft producers (all women, including one with disabilities).
- The workshop covered the process of harvesting pandanus leaves, washing the pandanus fibre and drying the leaves. The practical sessions demonstrated how to cook and dye the pandanus using Teri-Dyes to produce quality leaves, as well as basket weaving and the production of purses with zippers.
- At the end of the workshop, all 19 craft producers successfully created two handicraft products, a purse and a basket, with the skills learnt during the workshop.
- In addition, the women from across 10 communities on Pamma formed a handicraft producers' association to support their ongoing production efforts.
- This workshop was complemented by a weeklong Nursery workshop to support sustainable pandanus resource management on the island.



Image 10: Paama Handicraft Association members posing with their woven pandanus baskets and pandanus purses created during the workshop.



Image 11: Paama association members posing with their colored pandanus leaves.



Image 12: Mrs. Marie, a client with disabilities, weaving a new purse.

SKILLS FOR AGRIBUSINESS



Priority area: Paama Pandanus Nursery

Achievement/Outcome:

- The pandanus assessment conducted by the Department of Forestry (DOF) on Paama in 2024 found that the island had a limited supply of pandanus plants, creating challenges and potential risks in maintaining a consistent supply of raw materials for handicraft production.
- In response, the Malampa Skills Centre worked with the DOF and the Vanuatu Agriculture Research Training Centre (VARTC) to develop a pandanus nursery at Liro on Paama in May. This was done in conjunction with a product quality workshop for handicraft producers from the same community.
- During the activity, 19 local handicraft producers (all women, one with a disability) from ten communities on Paama came together to create the pandanus nursery. The nursery will ensure a sustainable supply of pandanus for the production of handicrafts from Paama, and will also provide environmental benefits, such as reducing the impact of high tides and coastal surges.
- A follow up trip is planned in the coming months to support the handicraft producers to transplant seedlings from the nursery to various locations within the community, and to continue seedling production.

Image 13: Seedlings prepared in the new Pandanus Nursery in Liro.



Image 14: Forestry Officer, Mr. Job Havo, explaining to the participants how to prepare a pandanus sucker for nursery preparation.



Image 15: Paama handicraft producers visiting the pandanus nursery prepared by VARTC Officer, Mr. Remoe Larkin, Forestry Officers, Mr. Job Havo and Mr. Steglar Tabi, DARD officer Mr. Paul William and community members.

LESSON LEARNED AND ACTIONS

LESSON 1: We need to ensure there is clear and consistent communication between the Partnership and our partners, and between Partnership staff at the Malampa Skills Centre and the Port Vila office to ensure everyone is in the loop and there is smooth implementation of our activities.

NEXT STEPS:

- Hold regular meetings with partners and be clear about when planned activities will be delivered.
- Ensure responsibilities for delivering activities through the Malampa Skills Centre are clear, including who is taking the lead on communicating with the workstream lead in Port Vila.

LESSON 2: It's critical that the financial commitments and other co-contributions from our partners for joint projects, including infrastructure projects, are clearly defined and agreed in advance.

NEXT STEPS:

- Ensure financial commitments and co-contributions are agreed with our partners well before a joint project gets underway, including clear deadlines for when they must be made.
- Record the agreement in writing so there are no misunderstandings.

WHAT ARE THE PRIORITIES FOR QUARTER 3?

- Reporting back to the community (Malua pepper farmer Association and Lingarak Plumbing).

Skills for Creative Industries

- MHC Business Plan Review and Producer meeting
- MHC Office renovations

Skills for Tourism

- Hospitality Workshop #1 - Group B & C Tourism Operators- Malekula
- Market Readiness Workshop and Coaching #1 - Malekula

Skills for Agribusiness

- Support DOF to facilitate a research survey into the outcomes from 'one mama 10 stamba'
- Paama Transplanting of Pandanus cutting (from the nursery) with DOF
- Refresher workshop for Seed Farmers
- Pepper promotion - raising awareness for local consumption to boost market demand for pepper linked to Malampa Week Celebrations/Report back to community

Skills for Infrastructure

- Launching and opening of Hokai Business Center
- Good governance workshop - (Registered plumbing training)

Inclusion

- Support to DWA with video documentary in Malekula focused on woman's Economic Empowerment In Non-Traditional Trades
- Collaborate with BOP to hold adaptive leadership training for Area Administrator and PTACs in Malampa
- Capacity building refresher workshop for Provincial Gov Staff and staff on UNCRPD and NDID policy & Disability Workshop

PARTICIPATION IN SKILLS DEVELOPMENT TRAINING*

SECTOR	WOMEN	MEN	TOTAL	PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
Skills for Creative Industries	19	0	19	1 woman with disabilities
Skills for Agribusiness	19	0	19	1 woman with disabilities
TOTAL	38	0	38	2 women with disabilities

**Participants in skills training activities only - this data excludes market access activities, consultations and events.*