



# CASE STUDY

## Because women are more

By Marie Toto + Candice Holt + Elissa Webster

### PROGRAM OVERVIEW

CARE International in Vanuatu is working to empower women and girls, build communities' resilience to disasters and climate change, and increase communities' access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene, with programs focused on Tafea province.

### Meet Jocelyn

For the last 15 years, Jocelyn Naupa's work to empower women and end gender-based violence in rural communities has been carried out far from the spotlight, but in March 2017, her "tireless and inspirational" efforts were recognised at the highest level when she was named the 2017 Andy Lynch Award winner by the Australian High Commissioner to Vanuatu.

A mother of six, 49-year-old Jocelyn is the founder of both the Women's Council and the People Living with Disabilities Association in Dillion's Bay, Erromango, and a leader in the community's Violence against Women's Committee and Community Disaster and Climate Change Committee.

"I had to take a boat from Dillion's Bay then two plane trips to be here today – it was not easy. Working to change the situation for women living in rural parts of Vanuatu isn't easy either. But it must be done. We must keep working to change things. And we must do it together," Jocelyn told the government ministers and other dignitaries who gathered to see her receive the award in Port Vila.

Jocelyn first started advocating for women's rights and empowerment in Santo in 2003 when she became a member of the Council of Women for the South Santo Area 2. Working to educate women about their rights, build their skills and connect them to a strong women's support network and other services, she would walk from community to community, carrying her baby on her back. She then served as the leader of the Women's Council and a member of the Violence Against Women Committee in South Santo Area 2 for several years before returning to her family's home community in Dillion's Bay in 2013.



Jocelyn Naupa was named the winner of the 2017 Andy Lynch Award by the Australian High Commissioner. © Yohann Lemonnier

Today, Jocelyn is a dedicated and energetic leader and advocate for women in Dillion's Bay, the wider Erromango area, and beyond. She has worked closely with CARE International as an integral part of the emergency response effort in southern Erromango after Cyclone Pam, and in building Dillion's Bay's resilience through the Community Disaster and Climate Change Committee. Jocelyn is the vice chair of the Community Disaster and Climate Change Committee and has also been a driving force in helping women across Tafea province to build the skills and confidence they need to become agents for change through CARE's Life Skills training. Through her work with CARE, Jocelyn now works closely with the Area Council in Dillon's Bay, advocating for and representing women and girls.

"Jocelyn is an absolute inspiration," says Charlie Damon, Program Director of CARE International in Vanuatu. "She is determined that women in Erromango will have their voices heard and take their place in decision-making in their communities. She has been really instrumental in the success of our programs in Erromango, which have seen women being recognised as equal and essential participants in preparing for disasters and building strong communities. I cannot think of a more deserving recipient of this award."

"Sometimes, people saw me as nothing, because I am only a woman. But in my heart, I knew that is not true: I am more, women are more."

Jocelyn says the award is recognition not only for her, but for all the rural women of Tafea. "Sometimes, people saw me as nothing, because I am only a woman. But in my heart, I knew that is not true: I am more, women are more, and I will continue to fight for and support women to make sure all women are empowered and believe in themselves."

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