



Alison Mayer (fourth left) from the Centre for Digital Storytelling with some of the young people.

Students train in making short films

By **GEORGE TOLANA**

SIX young people from three secondary schools in Central are being trained to make short films about sexual and reproductive health issues affecting their lives.

The training is being organised by Marie Stopes PNG which is working with the Centre for Digital Storytelling to train the students.

The students will share stories about how issues such as teenage pregnancy, peer pressure, sexually-

transmitted infections and stigma from their families affected them and how they dealt with them.

The resulting films will be used as peer education tools and in advocacy to improve services for young people.

Noah Waikai, from Sogeri National High School, said: "The workshop has given me the chance to share my experience, and has opened a door for me to see the issues that are rarely talked about due

to stigma and cultural barriers.

"It gives us the courage to tell other Papua New Guineans that it's not right for women to suffer due to stigma and lack of health services.

"It's our responsibility to care for the girls affected."

Marie Stopes PNG offers high quality reproductive health services such as family planning. Young people can get more information and advice by calling the Yangpela hotline on 7200 5314.