

FORMATIVE EVALUATION OF PACIFIC PROVIDER-BASED FAMILY VIOLENCE SERVICES

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RESEARCH SUMMARY

Integrity Professionals Limited (IPRO) report on the formative evaluations of four Pacific provider-based family violence services.

K'aute Pasifika Services Trust is a Hamilton based Pacific provider delivering an ethnic-specific home-based family violence awareness raising programme.

DOVE Hawkes Bay is a social service provider specialising in family violence services, delivering the Kainga Pacific Services (KPS).

Pacific Trust Otago is a Pacific provider delivering Samoan, Tongan, Cook Islands and English language Pasefika Proud family violence awareness programmes in the Otago region.

TOA (Treasuring Older Adults) Pacific is an Auckland provider delivering family violence awareness raising programmes for older Pacific people.

WHAT WERE THE FINDINGS?

The Nga Vaka o Kāiga Tapu Framework (even if not expressly stated) is a reflection of the way the four Pacific social service providers have currently been delivering social services to Pacific communities.

Key features in service design and delivery included:

- A strengths-based approach
- Incorporating wellbeing, peace and harmony as the desired state/outcome
- Recognising the significance of culture in achieving this outcome
- Acknowledging relational aspects – all people and things are interconnected and interdependent

All four providers deliver complementary services, whether social, education or health services – each service is not run in isolation and is part of a wider holistic initiative.

The evaluation found that the services facilitated:

- Increased levels of awareness in their respective Pacific communities
- Led to some self-reported behavioural change
- Increased perception of community focus and spirit on family violence prevention

Common critical success factors included:

- Community development approaches
- Working in collaboration and inter-sectorally
- Trained and knowledgeable staff
- Caring and committed staff and volunteers
- Effective resources (translated resources)
- Leadership in the community (Church Ministers and Elders)



What did the literature scan find?

There is little literature specifically targeting Pacific family violence prevention initiatives.

However, there is some evidence in sexual violence literature that suggests the following factors may be relevant when looking at family violence initiatives in Pacific communities:

- Ethnic and gender specific programmes that encourage communities to discuss best methods to prevent and find solutions to violence
- Home support services including family violence support (among other things) in the first two years of a child's life
- Parenting skills training that is culturally appropriate that emphasises non-physical discipline and support parents keep their children safe
- Services that are culturally responsive and viewed as safe and confidential
- School and community programmes that build on significant cultural relationships (e.g. between brother-sister relationships)

The literature also points to using Churches as effective settings for change as well as increased use of Pacific media (i.e. ethnic-specific radio).

Other literature also identified key factors that increased likelihood of seeing improved outcomes. In particular these included:

- Extensive community consultations contributing to successful outcomes
- Adequate resources
- A holistic and multi-disciplinary approach

Community mobilisation is also being seen as an emerging effective mechanism in preventing family violence.

This involves:

- Developing local ownership and leadership about family violence
- Community-led, holistic, iterative and inclusive activities

SOME IMPACT WAS IDENTIFIED

These included, but were not limited to:

1. An increased awareness of family violence (e.g. definitions etc.)
2. Some level of attitudinal change, self-reported by some programme participants

BUT THERE WERE AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT:

More capability building is required for all four providers to build on existing quality improvement processes. This includes developing independent mechanisms for collecting client feedback anonymously and greater access to family violence prevention training.

Further research is required to support the effectiveness of home-based family violence primary prevention initiatives for Pacific families.

All four providers developed their family violence primary prevention programmes differently, although the final models and designs share similarities.

Two providers started delivering community-based workshops before moving to home-based programmes. The other two providers continued to deliver community-based workshops.

Pasefika Proud embodies a vision of strong, vibrant and prosperous Pacific children, young people and their families. Wellbeing for Pacific families occurs when all aspects of the individual and collective are in balance, co-existing with environments, kinship and support systems while recognising *mana* and *tapu*.

Pacific cultures are strengths that can be used positively to promote and enhance resilience within Pacific families.

Pasefika Proud mobilises Pacific individuals, families and communities to take responsibility for the issues they are facing, find the solutions and take leadership in implementing them.

'OUR FAMILIES, OUR PEOPLE, OUR RESPONSIBILITY'

Find out more

Full research reports can be requested from Pasefika Proud. Email: Pasefika_Proud@msd.govt.nz