

TUVALU FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION PLAN

# TE OLAGA OLA FILEMU

A LIFE EMBRACED WITH  
PEACE AND WELLBEING

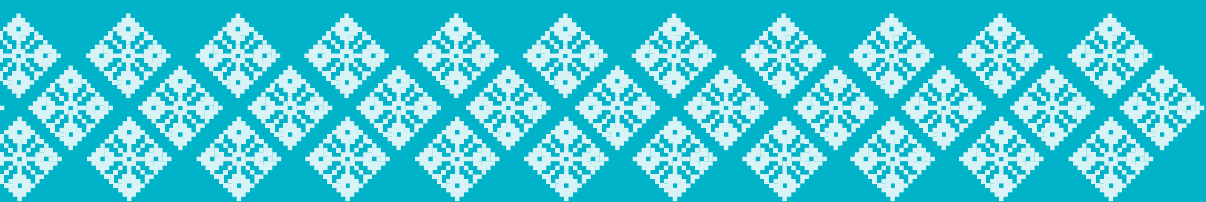
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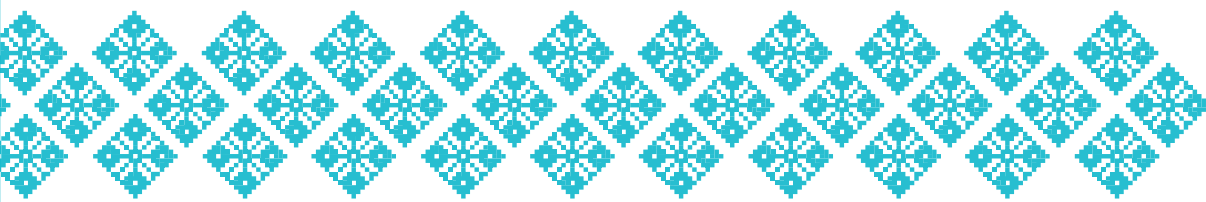




Tuvalu award ceremony



# FOREWORD



*“SE TAMA FAGAI FATA, SE TAMA ALAKAIKAI E, SE TAMA FAGASELE A TE KĀIGA, FAKAAKOI AKA LA I AU FAIGA FAKAPELEPELE.”*

*“A FAVOURITE, TREASURED AND WELL-LOVED CHILD IN THE FAMILY, PLEASE CHERISH AND ADORE WITH YOUR LOVING DEEDS.”*

As Tuvaluans become more settled in this new homeland of Aotearoa, they begin to explore and navigate their way as a community in response to the changing settings and currents of this modern life. We have come from small and isolated islands in Tuvalu to the vast, widespread land of New Zealand, and we need to hold on to our identity as Tuvaluans by preserving our language, traditions and culture.

As a community of Tuvaluans in New Zealand, we have a strong aspiration to not lose sight of who we are and to actively design, in the spirit of our traditions, our own, innovative solutions to challenges that arise. The *Tuvalu Family Violence Prevention Plan* is a great example of this. Tuvalu communities and churches around New Zealand were involved in its design through a series of workshops that gathered their views on what the prevention of, and early intervention in, family violence looks like. We want this Plan to work; we do not condone violence in our families.

We are a peaceful people and we want to reflect that in our daily lives with our loved ones.

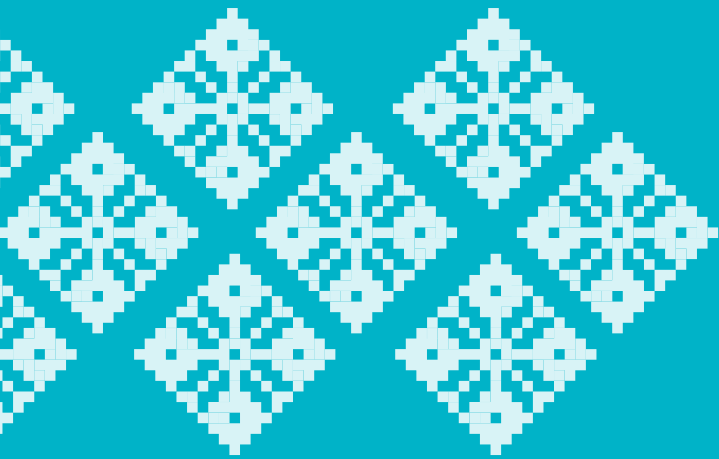
Our Tuvalu communities and churches are urged to reach out to our people, wherever they may be. We can all work together to eliminate child abuse and family violence, and help our families to live peaceful and prosperous lives. We, as parents, need to talk with our children and create a safe environment for everyone in the home, because everyone is a treasure in the family and in our community.

TUVALU MO TE ATUA.

**Mr. Uelese Malaga**

*President*

*Tuvalu Auckland Community Trust*



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THE *TUVALU FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION PLAN* WAS DEVELOPED THROUGH CONSULTATION WITH TUVALU COMMUNITIES ACROSS NEW ZEALAND.

The project to develop the Plan was administered by the Tuvalu Auckland Community Trust with funding provided by the Ministry of Social Development's Pasefika Proud programme. A project team (Rev Suamalie N T Iosefa Naisali, Sagaa Malua, Litala Eliuta and Manuila Tausi) conducted consultations around the country and compiled the Plan for review by participants and other interested parties. Consultations took place in Whangarei, Auckland, Tauranga, Hastings,

Palmerston North, Wellington, Christchurch, Oamaru and Dunedin.

During the consultations, a song about family wellbeing was composed by Rev Suamalie Naisali.

We thank everyone who contributed to this Plan. We also wish to acknowledge the support and advice provided to the project team from Marie Schmidt, Ministry of Social Development (MSD), Pasefika Proud.



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## TE OLAGA OLA FILEMU

Te olaga ola filemu	<i>A life embraced with peace and wellbeing</i>
Akoako fakatonu te fanau	<i>Educate and guide the children</i>
Ite āva mote matakū kite Atua	<i>In humility and the fear of the Lord</i>
Ka tupu ola lei te kāiga	<i>To strengthen wellbeing in the family</i>

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Fanau a Tuvalu i Niusila	<i>To all Tuvaluans in New Zealand</i>
Tiakina te olaga fakasauā	<i>Renounce the cycle of violence</i>
Ko au tū mo aganuku kote alofa	<i>Your culture and traditions embrace love</i>
// Ke manuia ola lei tino katoa //	<i>// For the peace and wellbeing of all people //</i>

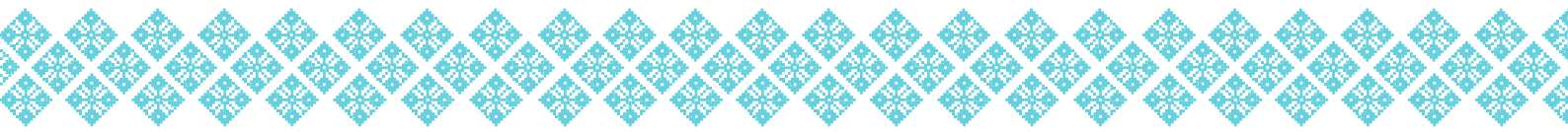
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Te lumanaki o kāiga ko fanau	<i>The future of families are the children</i>
Atafai puipui fakalei	<i>To be carefully nurtured and protected</i>
Ke fua mai ki fuataga lelei	<i>In order to become confident adults</i>
Ka ola manuia ei te kāiga	<i>And achieve happiness and wellbeing in the family</i>

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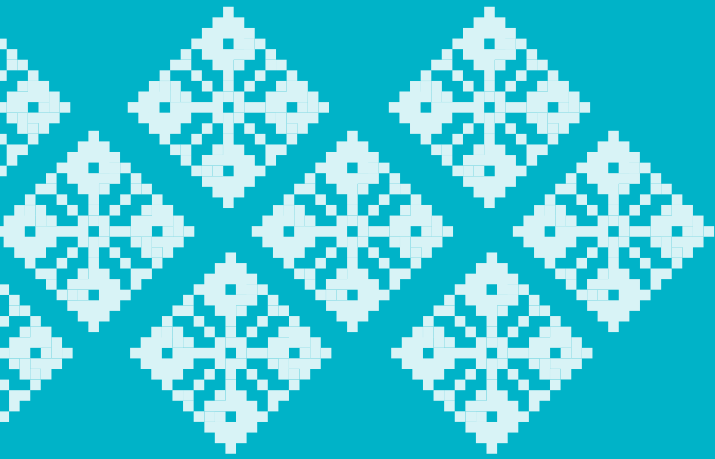
Composed by Rev Suamalie N T Iosefa Naisali, August 2018

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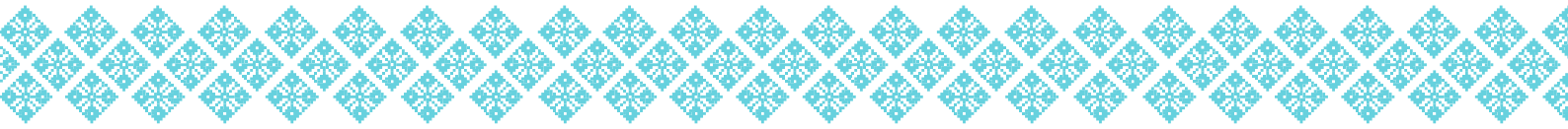
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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

'TE OLAGA OLA FILEMU' IS THE *TUVALU FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION PLAN*. IT WAS DEVELOPED IN COLLABORATION WITH TUVALU COMMUNITIES ACROSS NEW ZEALAND. IT INTEGRATES OUR UNIQUE TUVALU CULTURE AND VALUES IN FRAMING APPROACHES TO PREVENT THE OCCURRENCE AND REOCCURRENCE OF VIOLENCE IN TUVALU FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES, WITH THE EMPHASIS BEING MORE ON PREVENTION THAN INTERVENTION STRATEGIES.





## FAMILY WELLBEING IN TUVALU CULTURE

The Tuvaluan concept of wellbeing is captured in terms such as *olaga tokagamalie* (which refers to a state of being where families and communities live in a society that makes them feel secure and prepared in any circumstances), and *olaga lei* (which refers to living well or living a meaningful life in which people are able to access resources and use them to satisfy their basic needs and wants, and maintain good relationships that make them happy and satisfied) and is centred on Tuvaluan cultural and spiritual values and beliefs, families and communities.



*Kāiga ola filemu* is the term used to describe a peaceful family where individuals and the family have reached the optimum level of wellbeing. Individuals in the *kāiga ola filemu* exhibit the key values of *āva* (respect), *alofa* (love), *fakatalitonugina* (being trustworthy), *fealofani* (living in harmony with one another) and *fakatau fesoasoani* (helping one another) in their relationships with other members of the family. *Fakasauāga i loto i kāiga* (violence in the family) is a disruption in this optimum level of wellbeing in the family.



## FAMILY VIOLENCE AFFECTS TUVALUANS IN NEW ZEALAND

Family violence<sup>1</sup> in New Zealand is a public issue because it affects everyone, whether they are directly involved or not. What happens in families affects neighbourhoods, schools, workplaces and communities, and the results of violence in families spreads right through society.

We, as Tuvaluans in New Zealand, are part of New Zealand society and have an obligation to contribute to the overall aim of preventing, and ultimately eliminating, family violence. To do this, we need to change the attitudes and behaviours that have allowed family violence to continue in our Tuvalu families. We need to get Tuvaluans across New Zealand behind activities that raise awareness, educate, provide solutions and, we hope, lead to a decline in violence amongst Tuvalu families.

## VISION

The vision of the *Tuvalu Family Violence Prevention Plan* is that 'Tuvaluans live free from violence in safe families and communities across New Zealand'.

The Plan sets out actions for our community to deliver with support from external funding organisations. The Plan is a living document and will be updated as actions are completed and new opportunities are presented.

<sup>1</sup> The term 'family violence' encompasses all types of violence between family members. Sexual violence is one of the tactics often used by perpetrators of family violence, but it also occurs in a broader range of social relationships, and sometimes by strangers.





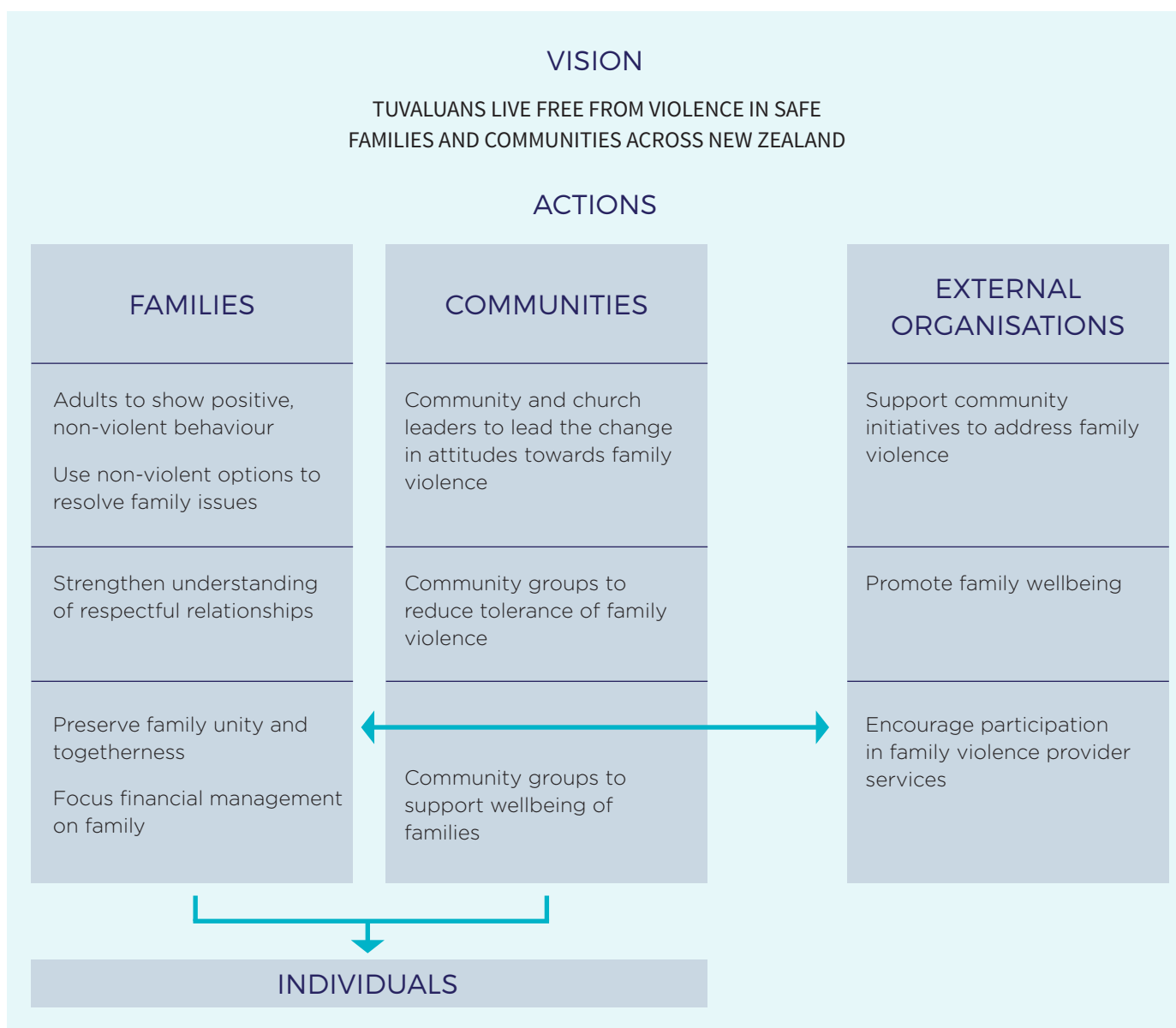
## STRATEGIC RESPONSES

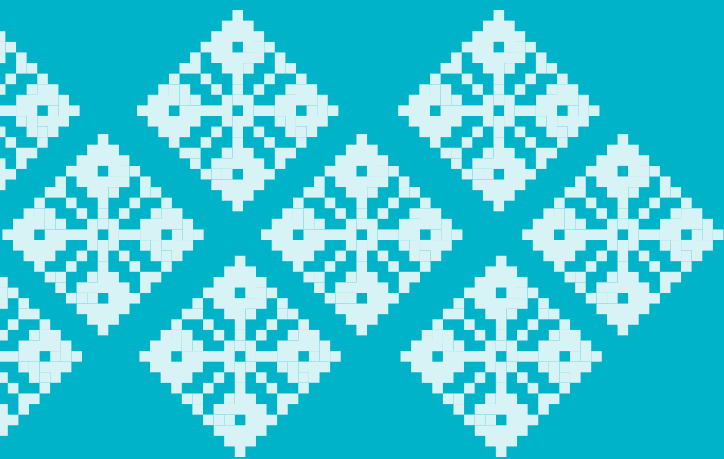
Family violence affects everyone. Therefore, all levels of society need to work collectively and collaboratively to eliminate family violence. Parents and other adults have a responsibility to show respectful attitudes and behaviour in their families. Leaders in Tuvalu community groups (including churches) need to look after the wellbeing of families. Funding organisations and Tuvalu community groups need to collaborate on efforts to eliminate family violence and also help victims and perpetrators and their families.

The *Tuvalu Family Violence Prevention Plan* strategic responses outlined below are based on families, communities and external organisations.

The successful implementation of the Plan depends on the commitment and collective efforts of all Tuvaluans in New Zealand. We know our Tuvalu culture has protective factors, such as respectful relationships, for family wellbeing and we ought to promote these protective factors to our children and families.

We need to show leadership, whether we are adults in families or leaders in the community, by being good role models of family wellbeing to our children and future leaders. We also need to work alongside other initiatives with the ultimate aim of eliminating family violence in New Zealand.





# INTRODUCTION

FAMILY VIOLENCE IN NEW ZEALAND IS A PUBLIC ISSUE BECAUSE IT AFFECTS EVERYONE, WHETHER THEY ARE DIRECTLY INVOLVED OR NOT. TUVALUAN PEOPLE LIVING IN NEW ZEALAND ARE PART OF NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY AND WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE OVERALL AIM OF PREVENTING, AND ULTIMATELY ELIMINATING, FAMILY VIOLENCE.

THIS *TUVALU FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION PLAN* SETS OUT OUR STRATEGIC APPROACH TO ADDRESSING VIOLENCE WITHIN OUR TUVALU FAMILIES, AND OUTLINES A SERIES OF ACTIONS THAT CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE FAMILIES ARE LIVING FREE FROM VIOLENCE. THE PLAN INTEGRATES OUR UNIQUE TUVALU CULTURE AND VALUES IN FRAMING APPROACHES TO PREVENT THE OCCURRENCE AND REOCCURRENCE OF VIOLENCE IN TUVALU FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES ACROSS NEW ZEALAND, WITH THE EMPHASIS BEING MORE ON PREVENTION THAN INTERVENTION STRATEGIES.



## WELLBEING FOR TUVALUANS IN NEW ZEALAND

### TUVALU CONCEPT OF FAMILY WELLBEING

Wellbeing is a global term associated with planning and public policy, and is also widely used in government policies and reports. The Tuvaluan concept of wellbeing is captured in terms such as *olaga tokagamalie* and *olaga lei* and is centred on Tuvaluan cultural and spiritual values and beliefs, family and community (Aselu, 2015).

Spiritual wellbeing explores the relationship between spirituality and humanity and magnifies the blessings of the spiritual God that contribute to peace and the integrity of creation. *Te Vaka Atua* involves the obligations and commitments of religion and society (through Tuvaluan leaders) to address ways in which they build peaceful, equitable, stable, happy, healthy societies that care for the environment and provide education, healthcare and humanitarian relief to those in need. These leaders play a leading role in promoting peace and wellbeing among people.

*Kāiga ola filemu* is the term used to describe a peaceful family where individuals and the family have reached the optimum level of wellbeing. Individuals in the *kāiga ola filemu* exhibit the key values of *āva* (respect), *alofa* (love), *fakatalitonugina* (being trustworthy), *fealofani* (living in harmony with one another) and *fakatau fesoasoani* (helping one another) in their relationships with other members of the family. The term *fakasauāga* describes violence. *Fakasauāga i loto i kāiga*, or violence in the family, is a disruption in this optimum level of wellbeing in the family.

### Kapo te vaka e se tāgina

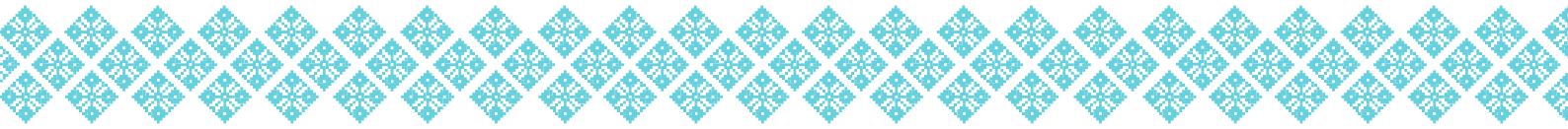
*Care for the wellbeing of all people*

Family violence is a concept that Tuvaluan people struggle with because it challenges Tuvalu's traditional values and culture, which give greater rights to men while marginalising women and children in most aspects of family life as well as the wider community. This inequality is supported by the following results from the 2007 Tuvalu Demographic and Health Survey (Tuvalu Central Statistics Division, SPC and Macro International Inc., 2009):

- Women have limited decision-making participation in some areas. Thirty-seven percent of women make the decisions about their healthcare and around a third of women make decisions about daily household purchases on their own.
- Most women (70 percent) and men (73 percent) believe that a husband is justified in beating his wife in at least one of these situations: neglecting the children, going out without informing her husband, and arguing with her husband.

Family violence is also concealed by the Tuvaluan sense of pride and desire to avoid drawing attention to shameful behaviour (McMurray, 2006). This stigma of concealing family violence needs to be removed in order to achieve wellbeing in families and communities.





## TUVALUANS IN NEW ZEALAND

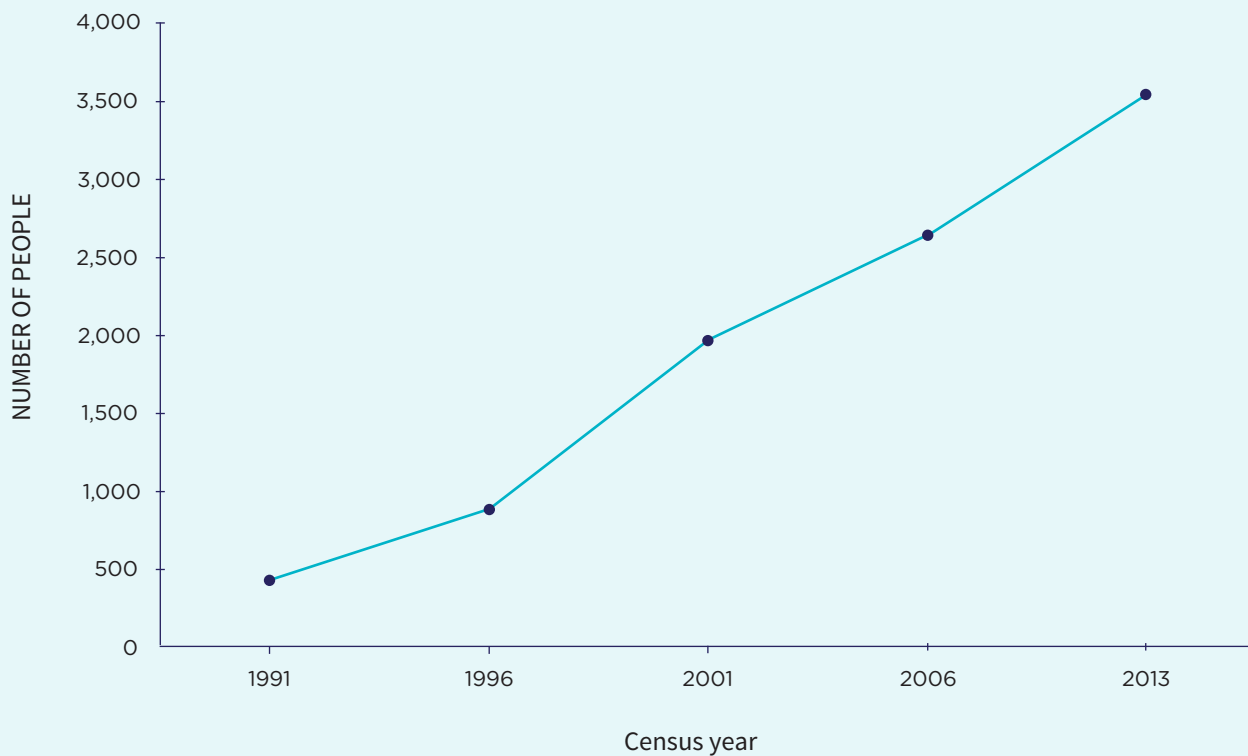
Tuvalu's economy has not been able to generate enough jobs for the growing demand for employment, and migration has helped to cushion these employment shortages (Simati, 2009). Furthermore, migrants from Tuvalu come to New Zealand not only for the job opportunities, but also for higher educational opportunities for their children.

The early Tuvaluans who settled in New Zealand in the 1960s came through Samoa and Tokelau, and some Tuvaluans came to New Zealand in the 1970s to work on

11-month contracts through a New Zealand Government labour scheme. The greatest influx of Tuvaluans to New Zealand has occurred since the 1990s. Figure 1.1 shows the steady increase in the Tuvaluan population in New Zealand, from 432 in 1991 to 3,537 in 2013, with the majority of Tuvaluans living in Auckland.

In the 2013 New Zealand Census, the top three regions where Tuvaluans lived were Auckland (72 percent), Wellington (13 percent) and Otago (3 percent). Within Auckland, around three in four Tuvaluans lived in the western suburbs.

FIGURE 1.1 TUVALUANS IN NEW ZEALAND (1991 - 2013)



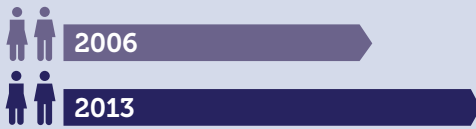
Source: Stats NZ, 2014



## PROFILE OF TUVALUANS IN NEW ZEALAND IN 2013

### The population of Tuvaluans was 3,537 in 2013

a 35% increase from 2,628 in 2006



### The majority of Tuvaluans lived in Auckland

72% lived in the Auckland region, 13% lived in the Wellington region and 3% lived in the Otago region.

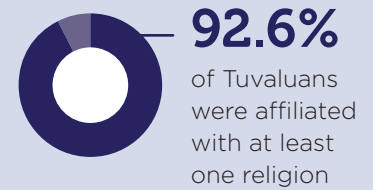
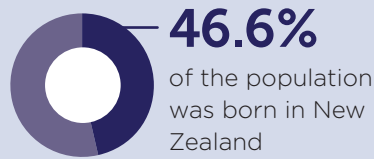


- Since the 2013 Census an increasing number of Tuvaluans have moved out of Auckland and set up Tuvalu communities in Whāngārei, Tauranga and Hastings.
- The flow of migrants from Tuvalu has been increasing due to the Pacific Access Category, and possibly the Recognised Seasonal Employer scheme and the impacts of climate change and sea-level rise on Tuvalu.

### Age

The Tuvalu community had a median age of **19.2** years

### Population and religion



### Qualification, labour market and income



Tuvaluans aged 15 years and over had a formal qualification

**54.8%**

Tuvaluans aged 15 years and over were in the labour force, \$14,600 was the median annual income for Tuvaluans aged 15 years and over

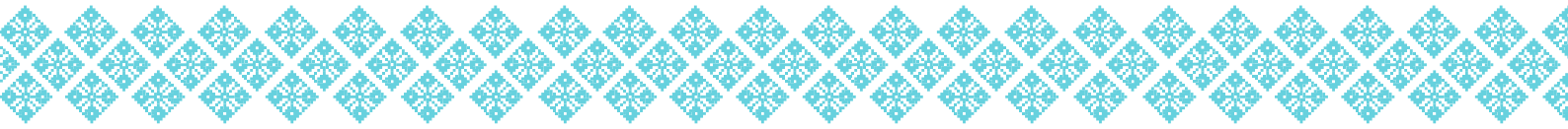
### Households and families



**Tuvaluans lived in large households and more likely to live in extended families**

**37%**  
of Tuvalu households had two or three families

**52.8%**  
of Tuvaluans lived in extended families



## WHY WE NEED A FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION PLAN FOR TUVALUANS

Family violence in New Zealand is a public issue because it affects everyone, whether they are directly involved or not. What happens in families affects neighbourhoods, schools, workplaces and communities, and the results of violence in families spread right through society.

We, as Tuvaluans in New Zealand, are part, albeit small, of the New Zealand society. In that context we have an obligation to contribute to the overall aim of preventing, and ultimately eliminating, family violence in New Zealand. To do this we need to change the attitudes and behaviours that have allowed family violence to continue in our communities.

While family violence statistics are not available for Tuvalu<sup>2</sup>, anecdotal evidence from social workers suggests that family violence is a growing problem for Tuvaluans, particularly those living in Auckland. Therefore, we need Tuvaluans across New Zealand to get behind activities that raise awareness, educate, provide solutions and, we hope, lead to a decline in violence amongst Tuvalu families.

## FAMILY VIOLENCE IN NEW ZEALAND

Family violence covers a broad range of controlling behaviours, commonly of a physical, sexual and/or psychological nature that typically involve fear, intimidation and emotional deprivation. It occurs within a variety of close interpersonal relationships, such as between partners, parents and children, and siblings, and in other relationships where significant others are not part of physical households, but are part of the families and/or are fulfilling the function of family (see Appendix A for details).

Family violence seriously compromises children's safety and wellbeing. It can also negatively affect children's



Whangarei

personal growth and potential, so their needs and interests should be given priority in any initiative that aims to prevent family violence. We know that the majority of family violence perpetrators are men and the victims are women and children. We know that in many cases family violence is used by people who have had it used on them before, making them both the victims and the perpetrators.

We know that in many families violence is intergenerational. But we also know that family violence is preventable and social change is possible.

In New Zealand, one in seven children grow up in violent homes, and one in three girls and up to one in seven boys are subject to a form of sexual abuse by the time they reach 16<sup>3</sup>. Exposure to this type of violence has lifelong impacts on child and youth wellbeing: they are three times more likely to attempt suicide, make up almost 80 percent of youth offenders, and are less likely to succeed in the education system and beyond. Family violence is one of the largest drivers of violent crime and makes up around 50 percent of all homicides.

Additional information on family violence in New Zealand from 2008/2009 to the 2017/2018 financial year is given in Appendix B. The trends in Figure B.1 show the number of people convicted of any of the three main types of family violence, namely breach of protection order, common assault (domestic) and male assaults female.

<sup>2</sup> New Zealand Police at the time of requesting statistics for Tuvalu was unable to provide this information due to the Police analyst resources being deployed to the Christchurch mosque shootings.

<sup>3</sup> New Zealand Government Cabinet Paper: Breaking the Inter-Generational Cycle of Family Violence and Sexual Violence (2018) available at <https://www.justice.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Publications/breaking-the-inter-generational-cycle-of-family-violence-and-sexual-violence.pdf>



Around half of family violence convictions are for males assaulting females. While the overall number of people convicted of family violence is fluctuating, the number and proportion of people imprisoned owing to family violence slowly rose in the 10-year period. The number of Pacific people convicted of family violence has been decreasing, but there were still 660 people convicted in 2017/2018, of whom the majority were males assaulting females (see Figure B.2).

## BUILDING ON PREVIOUS EFFORTS TO PREVENT FAMILY VIOLENCE

Work to address family violence in New Zealand has been evolving for many years. In 1994 the economic cost of family violence was estimated at \$1.2 billion per year. More recently the cost of child abuse and intimate partner violence alone has been estimated at \$4.1 million to \$7 billion.

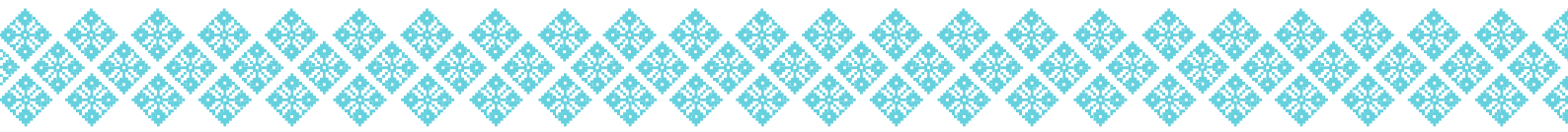
In September 2001 the Government released *Te Rito*, its official response to, and framework for, implementing the family violence prevention plan of action (Ministry of Social Development, 2002). In 2007 the 'It's not OK' campaign was initiated by the Taskforce for Action on Violence within Families. More recently, *Pasefika Proud* and a part of its Workforce Development stream of work, *Nga Vaka o Kāiga Tapu*, are examples of family violence approaches that are targeted at the Pacific community in New Zealand.

Through *Nga Vaka o Kāiga Tapu*, a Tuvalu conceptual framework for addressing family violence was developed<sup>4</sup>. Training programmes for service providers and practitioners have been developed and rolled out to practitioners and Pacific community leaders.

The *Tuvalu Family Violence Prevention Plan* integrates our unique Tuvalu culture and values in framing approaches to prevent the occurrence and reoccurrence of violence in Tuvalu families across New Zealand.



<sup>4</sup> Toku Fou Tiale: A Tuvalu Conceptual Framework for Addressing Family Violence (2012) available at [www.pasefikaproud.co.nz/assets/Resources-for-download/PasefikaProudResource-Nga-Vaka-o-Kaiga-Tapu-Pacific-Framework-Tuvalu.pdf](http://www.pasefikaproud.co.nz/assets/Resources-for-download/PasefikaProudResource-Nga-Vaka-o-Kaiga-Tapu-Pacific-Framework-Tuvalu.pdf)



## LINKS WITH OTHER CURRENT INITIATIVES TO PREVENT FAMILY VIOLENCE

The Government has recently passed legislation to provide a modern and enabling framework to address family violence and sexual violence effectively.

A cross-government joint venture has been set up to develop new ways of working across government, and with iwi and communities, to reduce family violence and sexual violence through an integrated response.

This will help ensure that victims and families get help tailored to their needs, while perpetrators are held to account and supported to change their behaviour. The projects that are relevant to the *Tuvalu Family Violence Prevention Plan* include:

- Designing a national strategy and action plan to prevent and reduce family violence and sexual violence

- Appointing agencies to lead the coordination of primary prevention and perpetrator programmes. They will help coordinate services and investment decisions in these areas, with the Ministry of Social Development taking the lead for family violence primary prevention
- Piloting an integrated safety response model that sees government and community services working together more closely to ensure that families experiencing violence get the help they need
- Ensuring partnerships with Māori and communities through an interim Te Rōpū and wider stakeholders, to put the needs and priorities of victims and perpetrators, along with their families, at the heart of all decisions and services.

There are also family violence prevention strategies developed at the regional level<sup>5</sup> and ethnic group level<sup>6</sup>.

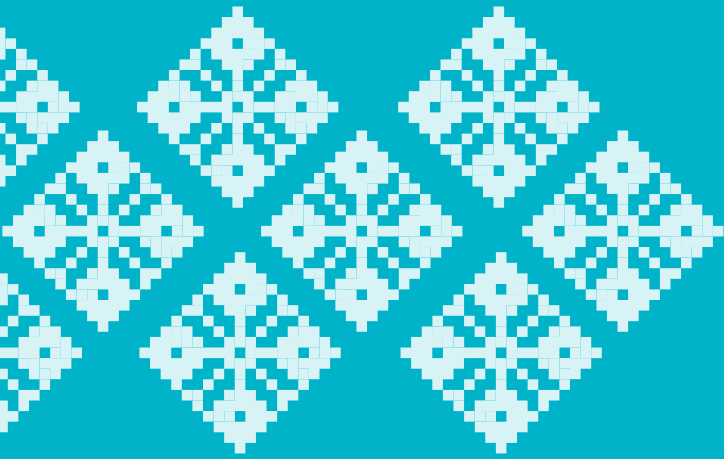
It is anticipated that the *Tuvalu Family Violence Prevention Plan* will operate alongside these initiatives and complement these efforts in reducing family violence in New Zealand.



<sup>5</sup> Tāmaki Makaurau – E Tu: Working Together to End Violence in Auckland (2015) available at <https://nzfvc.org.nz/sites/nzfvc.org.nz/files/Tāmaki-Makaurau-E-Tu%21-Aug-2015.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> Pathways for Change: Addressing Violence in Pacific Families and Communities 2019, MSD





# THE PLAN TO PREVENT FAMILY VIOLENCE

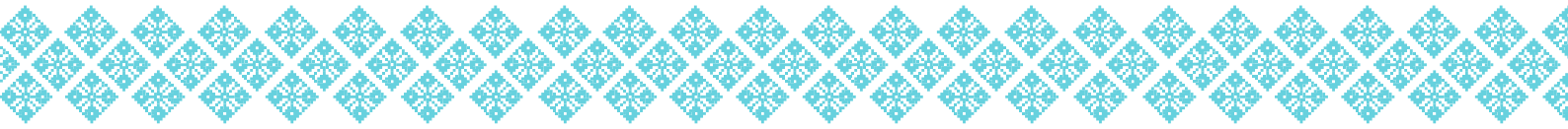
GIVEN THE DIRECT LINKAGES BETWEEN CULTURE AND FAMILY WELLBEING, OUR OBJECTIVE IS THE CREATION OF AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE CHILDREN GROW UP FREE FROM VIOLENCE, WHERE TUVALUANS IN NEW ZEALAND HAVE RESPECTFUL AND HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS AND WHERE TUVALUAN FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES ARE SAFE. ACHIEVING THIS OBJECTIVE REQUIRES A WHOLE-OF-COMMUNITY APPROACH TO DRIVE SOLUTIONS THAT ARE BASED ON TUVALU CULTURE AND VALUES.



Palmerston North



Dunedin



**Seu te malau kae tagaki ki te galu**

*Catch the red snapper, but carefully watch the wave*

## WHAT IS THE TUVALU FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION PLAN?

The *Tuvalu Family Violence Prevention Plan* adds to current initiatives to address family violence in Pacific families with a focus on Tuvalu's strength-based culture to achieve family wellbeing. For this Plan to succeed, it needs the commitment of Tuvalu communities around New Zealand, as well as partnerships with external funding agencies, including the New Zealand Government.

The Plan focuses on preventing violence by raising awareness of and reinforcing respectful relationships that are rooted in our culture. The aim is to bring attitudinal and behavioural change at the individual, family and community levels, with a particular focus on young people.

While the focus is on prevention measures, the Plan also allows victims (mainly women and children) who have experienced violence to rebuild their lives as quickly as possible as part of our community-wide response.

The Plan sets out actions for our community to deliver with support from external funding agencies. Furthermore, the Plan is a living document and will be updated as new actions are completed and new opportunities are presented.



Christchurch

## VISION AND TARGETS

The vision of the Plan is that 'Tuvaluans live free from violence in safe families and communities across New Zealand'.

To measure the success of this vision, we have set the following target: 'a significant and sustained reduction in family violence among the Tuvalu families in New Zealand'.

To know if this target is being achieved, the following indicators of change will be used to show progress:

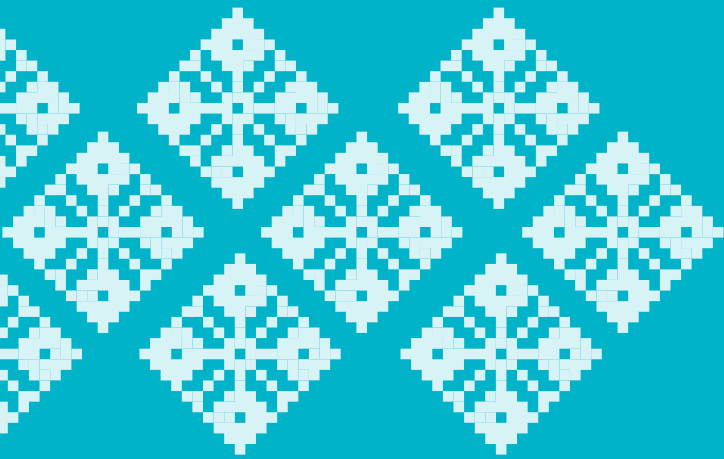
- Reduced prevalence of family violence
- Increased proportion of women who feel safe in their homes
- Reduced proportion of children exposed to family violence.

Due to the small population of Tuvalu people in New Zealand, however, there may be challenges in collecting data.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

In order to successfully use our Tuvalu culture to address family violence, we include the following values and principles to guide our work in creating change in our worldview about family violence:

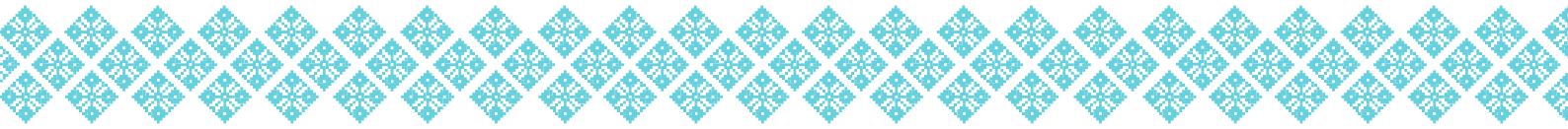
1. **Encompass cultural and spiritual values** – By using our unique cultural and spiritual values and beliefs to inform the solutions that contribute to wellbeing.
2. **Ensure inclusion** – Family violence affects everyone, so our work must be accessible and inclusive for all Tuvaluans living in New Zealand to ensure they are safe and live in an environment that is free of violence.
3. **Take risks to change behaviour** – While acknowledging the importance of our culture and the need to preserve it, we also accept the new environment we now live in and therefore aim to make sensible adjustments in order to achieve long-term success.
4. **Ongoing** – By recognising that the arrival of new migrants from Tuvalu will require ongoing support on family violence.
5. **Partnership** – We will work alongside other partners with the aim of reducing family violence through an integrated response.



# STRATEGIC RESPONSES

FAMILY VIOLENCE AFFECTS EVERYONE. THEREFORE, ALL LEVELS OF SOCIETY NEED TO WORK COLLECTIVELY AND COLLABORATIVELY TO ELIMINATE FAMILY VIOLENCE. PARENTS AND ADULTS HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO SHOW RESPECTFUL ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIOUR IN THEIR FAMILIES. LEADERS IN TUVALU COMMUNITY GROUPS (INCLUDING CHURCHES) NEED TO LOOK AFTER THE WELLBEING OF FAMILIES. FUNDING AGENCIES AND TUVALU COMMUNITY GROUPS NEED TO COLLABORATE ON EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE FAMILY VIOLENCE AND ALSO HELP VICTIMS, PERPETRATORS AND THEIR FAMILIES.





## STRATEGY 1: STRENGTHEN WELLBEING AND RESILIENCE IN INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES

Changing and shaping the attitudes and behaviours of young people is critical to preventing family violence in the future. Education can help in encouraging young people to develop positive and respectful relationships and attitudes.

Positive and respectful attitudes are essential to ensure that everyone lives in safe families free from violence. However, leadership within the Tuvalu family and community governance structure is dominated by men. The structure therefore tends to undermine the status of women and children.

### ACTION 1.1: ADULTS TO SHOW POSITIVE NON-VIOLENT BEHAVIOUR

Children model what their parents do and incorporate their values and attitudes into their own lives. It is therefore important that parents set the right examples for their children. Negative examples can be detrimental to a child's development and can lead to bad behaviour. Parents serve as role models, not only through direct interactions with their children, but through the examples they set with their attitudes and behaviour within their families and in wider society. Children also learn from other adults in their own households, as well as extended family. Furthermore, positive parenting practices and violence-free home environments are crucial to the development of healthy social behaviour skills and relationships.

This action focuses on encouraging parents and adults to embrace their responsibilities as leaders in their families and display key values of peace and wellbeing (respect, love, trustworthy, etc) in their relationships with other members of their family. Given the men's role as head of the family, this action urges men to take a leading role in discouraging violent behaviour and respecting the human rights of women and children.

**Surround yourself with positive vibes and people**

*Children*

### ACTION 1.2: USE NON-VIOLENT OPTIONS TO RESOLVE FAMILY ISSUES

Family members have difficulties, disagreements, trials and troubles. Misunderstandings are a normal part of family life. There are times when someone in a family offends others or hurts their feelings. These conflicts need to be resolved constructively and promptly, thereby not allowing bad feelings to fester. Family members need to spend a lot of time engaged in open conversations with each other, sharing their feelings, opinions, concerns and perspectives. If there are particular issues affecting a family, they may plan special family meetings to discuss them.

This action builds strong and healthy interpersonal relationships between family members. It also looks at building positive attitudes and beliefs, social norms and ways to confront controlling, aggressive and ultimately violent behaviour. Non-violent practices for resolving family issues that are based on Tuvalu culture are supported.

**Akoako ke olagina te ALOFA**

*Show acts of LOVE*

*Men*

### ACTION 1.3: STRENGTHEN UNDERSTANDING OF VĀSIA FAKAALOALO (RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS)

In Tuvalu culture, the respectful relationships between family members protect women and children from violence, particularly violence by opposite-gender cousins (*tuagāne/tuagaene*) and uncles (*tuātina*).

The value of these relationships should be preserved. With future generations of Tuvaluans born and raised in New Zealand, there is a critical need to educate them on the value of these respectful relationships as protective factors against family violence.

This action strengthens the understanding of Tuvalu children of their culture. Parents and adults, particularly uncles, need to value these respectful relationships themselves by practising what they teach the children.



## ACTION 1.4: PRESERVE FAMILY UNITY AND TOGETHERNESS

Given their busy lives in New Zealand, it is difficult for families to find time to come together for daily evening devotion, as it is normal practice in our Tuvalu culture. Healthy families, however, always find time to be together in order to express that members value and care about each other. This makes family members feel connected and helps to build and strengthen family bonds. Family time is not only restricted to evening devotion; it is about engaging in shared activities such as eating meals together, playing games, going on picnics, watching sporting events and enjoying recreational activities.

This action maintains family unity and monitors the wellbeing of family members. It enables members of a family to be connected and care about each other.



## ACTION 1.5: FOCUS FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT ON FAMILY

*Tauliaga* are obligations and responsibilities of reciprocity that exist in families in our Tuvalu culture. These obligations can be met through money or in kind, as long as the recipient recognises the presence of families in special occasions such as birthdays, weddings and funerals.

*Tauliaga* become *fakalavelave* when individuals are directed, usually by a leader of a family, to provide financial contributions. These contributions are difficult to budget for as they are not planned in advance and they occur on an ad-hoc basis. While the majority of

first-generation Tuvaluans in New Zealand still have a strong sense of connection towards their *kāiga*, *kaulotu*, *fenua* and *atufenua*<sup>7</sup>, both in New Zealand and in Tuvalu, the wellbeing of the family should be given precedence ahead of these *fakalavelave*. Furthermore, the availability and accessibility of gambling, alcohol and drugs are risk factors to be controlled in managing the financial wellbeing of a family.

This action promotes financial prudence and foresight for the wellbeing of families ahead of the desire to meet cultural obligations such as *tauliaga* and *fakalavelave*.

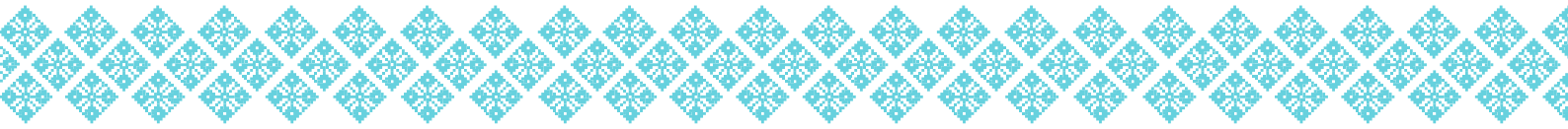
## STRATEGY 2: SUPPORT SERVICES FROM TUVALU COMMUNITY GROUPS

Family violence in our Tuvalu culture is under-reported because of the shame brought on the family. Furthermore, family violence is considered a private issue, and people in the community usually do not want to get involved. But family violence affects all people and we should no longer be willing to accept the damage it inflicts on individuals, families and the whole Tuvalu population in New Zealand. If we want everyone to live free from family violence, we need to challenge aspects of our culture and behaviours that drive or support family violence.

## ACTION 2.1: COMMUNITY AND CHURCH LEADERS TO LEAD THE CHANGE IN ATTITUDES TOWARDS FAMILY VIOLENCE

Unity and sharing are key values in nurturing strong and vibrant Tuvalu families. Extended families often come together to celebrate important milestones in life or plan for the wellbeing of their children. Tuvalu island communities meet at least once a month to discuss development issues, and have at least one anniversary celebration in a year. Church congregations meet every Sunday for worship and discuss development issues at least once a month. In Auckland, Tuvaluans are grouped into extended families, villages on an island, the eight islands of Tuvalu, church congregations, and the whole country. Therefore, an individual and/or family can be part of up to five collectives that seek financial contributions. In areas outside Auckland though, Tuvaluans usually come together under the whole country and, to some extent, island groups and church congregations.

<sup>7</sup> Toku Fou Tiale: A Tuvalu Conceptual Framework for Addressing Family Violence (2012) – see Figure 3, page 8.



This action encourages community and church leaders to talk more openly about family violence and its harmful impacts on children. It is also important to form groups (men, women, youth, combined community and church leaders such as *Faifeau*) that can help perpetrators to change their attitudes and behaviour, as well as help victims with their healing and restoration process.

**Peaceful homes contribute to good learning progress in our children and their overall performance**

*Women*

### ACTION 2.2: COMMUNITY GROUPS TO REDUCE TOLERANCE OF FAMILY VIOLENCE

Family violence is a community problem that requires a community-wide response. It is important that everyone, particularly community and church leaders, plays their part in reducing family violence.

This action focuses on encouraging people in Tuvalu community groups to embrace their responsibilities as community members and play a critical role in preventing and reducing violence against women and children. People need to look out for and support each other, and they also need to speak out for individuals and families who are affected by family violence.



### ACTION 2.3: COMMUNITY GROUPS TO SUPPORT WELLBEING OF FAMILIES

We know that strong families are the building blocks of strong communities. We also know that communities have a great influence on families' lives. Just as plants are more likely to thrive in a garden with good soil and plenty of sunlight and water, families are more likely to thrive in nurturing communities.

This action challenges community and church leaders to consider the wellbeing of families in their development planning and decisions, particularly around financial issues that have adverse impacts on families. They also need to look at the role of the community group in supporting families in need, not only with assisting families who require support due to family violence, but with the overall wellbeing of families.



### STRATEGY 3: EXTERNAL SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY-LED CHANGE AND CAPABILITY-BUILDING

The New Zealand Government is focused on the wellbeing of children, families, whānau and communities, so reducing family violence and sexual violence is essential. The New Zealand Government also recognises that the needs and priorities of victims and perpetrators, along with their families, have to sit at the heart of all decisions it makes and services it provides. Consequently, it has established a dedicated agent or body within government that is responsible for improving the ways in which government agencies work together collectively to reduce family violence and sexual violence.

This lead agent will work with other populations in New Zealand, such as our Tuvalu migrant population, who have distinct needs.



The New Zealand Government knows Pacific peoples have a greater exposure to violence. Pacific students are three and a half times more likely to report witnessing adults hitting other adults in their homes, and twice as likely to report having experienced sexual abuse or coercion, than their New Zealand European counterparts. Yet there are very few Pacific family and sexual violence services available to them.

### **ACTION 3.1: SUPPORT COMMUNITY INITIATIVES TO CHANGE ATTITUDES TOWARDS AND BEHAVIOUR AROUND FAMILY VIOLENCE**

Tuvalu community groups will take responsibility for developing solutions to eliminate family violence in the areas they live in, but they will need support from external organisations (including the New Zealand Government and other funding agencies).

This action is designed to work in partnership with external organisations to reduce family violence in Tuvalu families across New Zealand. It also includes the sharing of knowledge and learnings with other populations in New Zealand.

### **ACTION 3.2: PROMOTE INITIATIVES ON FAMILY WELLBEING**

Migrating to New Zealand presents both opportunities and challenges. It takes time for migrants to settle well

in New Zealand, so new migrants need all the help they can get from Tuvalu community groups, as well as external organisations.

This action encourages Tuvalu community groups to coordinate access to organisations that provide safe and culturally relevant services to families in need, particularly new migrants.

### **ACTION 3.3: ENCOURAGE COMMUNITY INITIATIVES TO INCREASE TUVALU PARTICIPATION IN FAMILY VIOLENCE PROVIDER SERVICES**

As a relatively small population in New Zealand, with a small number of practitioners working in family violence, we need to increase our capacity to respond to families at risk of family violence. We need to upskill potential future leaders to have the capability and confidence to help families who have experienced family violence. Tuvalu families can also contribute to intervention efforts by providing care for victims of family violence.

This action supports young people to expand their knowledge of family violence and access funding to enable them to contribute to the efforts to reduce family violence. It also encourages Tuvalu families to register as caregivers for victims who need safe places to live.

