



# NATIONAL FONO

*Pacific Community Leaders*

20-21 JUNE 2016

**FONO REPORT**

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## TĒNĀ KOUTOU KATOA, KAM NA MAURI, FAKAALOFA LAHI ATU, TALOHA NI, NI SA BULA VINAKA, FAKATALOFA ATU, MALO E LELEI, KIA ORANA, TALOFA LAVA

Bringing together Church leaders and Non-Government Organisations at the inaugural Pasefika Proud National Pacific Community Leaders Fono, to gather and share your knowledge and experience, and explore solutions that will strengthen our Pacific families, was significant.

By sharing this report with you, we have two aims; to summarise the key themes and community voices from the Fono, both for those who participated and those who couldn't make it; and, more importantly, to guide the work we do going forward.

*“What are we going to do about it?  
What are you going to do about it?  
What am I going to do about it?”*

In my opening address, I spoke about *A State of Care* report recently released by the Children's Commissioner. It stated that we are a nation that was failing too many of our kids.

The questions for us are clear: What are we going to do about it? What are you going to do about it? What am I going to do about it?

In order to make the transformative, generational change that is required, all of us have to take collective responsibility and ownership of the ways forward. If you leave it all to the government, we won't get it right. I can guarantee you that.

We all have a role to play in the changes that are required to ensure our most vulnerable children and families get the right support at the right time in the right way.

A week after the Fono, New Zealanders from all walks of life were united in a 'March for Moko' in towns and cities across the country. They rallied for an end to child abuse as Tania Shailer and David Haerewa, the killers of toddler Moko Rangitoheriri, were sentenced at the Rotorua High Court.

Amidst these tragedies, I feel we are reaching a tipping point. It's the point at which a slow, reversible change becomes irreversible, often with dramatic consequences.

I hope that such a point will be reached, therefore changing the lives of our families and communities for the better.

Now is that time. Government is embarking on changing the way it provides support and services to vulnerable children, young people and their families. We want to work with all of you. Those discussions are just beginning and together we need to work out the 'how'.

May this be the most powerful thing we have ever done.

### MURRAY EDRIDGE

*Deputy Chief Executive  
Child, Youth & Family and  
Community Investment*

# HOW TO READ THIS REPORT

This report aims to summarise the key themes and community voices from the Fono, both for those who participated and those who couldn't make it; and, more importantly, to guide the work we do going forward. Rather than following a chronology of the event, it has four key sections:

## GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES

Key points raised by Government keynote speakers are highlighted in this section.

This includes:

- Hon. Peseta Sam Lotu-liga
- Alfred Ngaro
- Superintendent Tusha Penny, NZ Police
- Jack Carroll, Programme Director Investing in Children

## SERVICE INNOVATIONS

In this section, four service innovations are presented as case studies, providing an overview of two faith-based family violence services and two provider-based family violence services.

- Affirming Works
- Churches Unite
- K'aute Pasifika
- The Fono

## GROWING THE KNOWLEDGE BASE

This section includes research, training and media tools that can be applied to the work we do in the area of family violence.

This includes:

- Formative evaluations of two faith-based and four provider-based family violence programmes
- Pacific Research Scholarships
  - University of Auckland
  - AUT
  - Massey University
  - Whitireia NZ
- Pacific Family Violence Training Programme
- Pasefika Proud Marketing and Media



## WORKING TOGETHER

This section includes content from the workshops on Day One and Day Two, including the content from sessions on the roles of Pacific Leaders (NGO's and Churches) and working together in the regions (Northland/Auckland, Midlands, Central and South Island).

## INTERWEAVED THROUGHOUT THE REPORT ARE:

### Personal Stories

A selection of personal stories of those who attended the Fono and who are working in the area of family violence.

### Provider Snapshots

A selection of Pacific providers who the Ministry of Social Development is working with.

### Fono Feedback

A selection of quotes captured at the event reflecting participant feedback on the Fono.

## MORE INFORMATION

For more information about any of the content included in this report

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# INSPIRING CHANGE TO STRENGTHEN FAMILIES



Pacific leaders from Churches and social services around New Zealand came together for the first time at the Pasefika Proud National Pacific Community Leaders Fono, hosted by the Ministry of Social Development, to build on existing solutions to further address family violence in Pacific families.

The Pasefika Proud tagline 'Our Families, Our People, Our Responsibility' was at the forefront throughout the Fono, held in Auckland on June 20-21.

Liz Tanielu, National Director, Pacific at the Ministry of Social Development, says the Fono generated "strong, courageous conversations around what was needed to take our families to another level".

*"[the Fono] generated strong, courageous conversations around what was needed to take our families to another level"*

- Liz Tanielu

"The aim is to develop responsive services that work for our families. Government is embarking on transformative change to how it supports vulnerable children and their families. We have an opportunity and responsibility to facilitate and enable families to be true partners in that process."

Akarere Henry, CEO of South Waikato Pacific Islands Community Services Trust, says the Fono was the most engaging and profound conference she has attended.

"The Fono renewed my commitment to being a change-maker in my community. It also compelled me to make a timeframe to be the change," she says.

"It engaged me on my cultural and spiritual value bases. It challenged me for evidence as to how I'm putting this into action. The great tone was set when we began with praise and worship. You came away knowing that change is coming."

Murray Edridge, Deputy Chief Executive, Child, Youth & Family and Community Investment, said "this is the first time that we have brought you all together (faith and providers) with the intent to do the work we are all committed to doing. This is significant work. As we go through the next few days we will explore the challenges that face our children, our young people, our families and our communities".

In his closing address, he called for a different narrative.

"There was a comment from the report back from the ministers about recasting our vision for families," he recalls.

## FONO FEEDBACK



Jean Mitaera – Lead Researcher Whitireia NZ

*"Pacific leaders must choose to lead the changes we want for ourselves, our families and our communities. The spaces and places we stand in today demand that we unshackle ourselves from the safety of the 'known', we must recast our vision with imagination and possibilities. If we do not, we run the risk of fulfilling every prediction that has already been cast about us."*



***"This is the first time that we have brought you all together (faith and providers) with the intent to do the work we are all committed to doing"***

**- Murray Edridge**

"It sat with me, particularly after I read an article that talked about our families living without a narrative. These are people whose backgrounds were so challenging that they didn't create a narrative. So, if they didn't have a narrative from the past, it's hard to have one for the current or the future. How do we think

about sitting alongside those families, walking the journey with them?"

Four innovative responses from the frontlines in dealing with family violence were showcased at the event by two Pacific providers of health and social services - The Fono (Auckland / Northland regions) and the Aere Tai Pacific Midland Collective (Midland region), and two faith based organisations - Churches Unite and Affirming Works.

Innovations showcased included designing services to wrap around a family and get to the root causes of family violence.

Liz Tanielu concluded: "Faith plays such an important part in the resilience that our families have, and it's up to us to work with them to provide them with the tools to develop their skills even further."

## FONO FEEDBACK



### *Rev. Jonathan Iona Pouli-Lefale*

*"Having previously spent 22 years with CYFS working on campaigns to help reduce and eliminate violence in families, it's refreshing to come back into this field facilitating the training of workers. There's a greater sense of drive which I attribute to the strong commitment of Liz and the MSD team. I was happy to see a lot of Ministers attending the Fono. It means the church is very much behind it. The presentations from both Church, government departments, like MSD, police and health and those who work with our people, was very positive. Our Samoan saying - "To'ese a nu'u potopoto" comes to mind. This proverb is about the whole village standing together as one people, when they travel."*

## PACIFIC PROVIDER SNAPSHOT

### *Fonua Ola*

Auckland Region

Fonua Ola Network is a social service 'for Pacific by Pacific' and catering for South, West, Central and East Auckland. Founded by a group of Pacific pioneers who had been serving Pacific communities since the 1970s, a range of services are on offer. These include social work counselling services, working with perpetrators who have been exposed to family violence, abuse, neglect and exhibit anti-social behaviour, and a 10 week parenting programme and a family violence programme to Pacific couples with vulnerable children.

Other services on offer include youth programmes for suicide prevention and goal planning, financial literacy services and community support services encouraging and promoting early childhood education, providing advice and support to parents, working with health services, local schools and Police.



## PACIFIC PROVIDER SNAPSHOT

### *Pacific Island Advisory and Cultural Trust*

Southland Region

The Pacific Island Advisory and Cultural Trust (PIACT) is a Pacific health provider based in Invercargill. The Trust aims to support our Pacific community to live and practice their own culture / traditions in a safe environment. Established in 1988, PIACT is the only specialist Pacific provider of health and social services in Invercargill or wider Southland.



The Trust promotes the well-being and cultural development of Pacific people, facilitating relationships with Churches and other organisations, and providing facilities and services for the benefit of the Pacific community. Services include an Early Childhood Education Centre, a primary health clinic, social and community services such as language classes, immigration and employment support, health promotion and community nursing and classes.

# GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES

Government has a significant work programme to support vulnerable children and families, with a new child-centred entity to be formed from 1 April 2017. Government is committed to working in partnership with Pacific communities to improve outcomes for vulnerable children and young people. There is also a ministerial work programme to address family violence and sexual violence. Keynote speakers provided Government perspectives including Hon. Peseta Sam Lotu-iiga, Minister for Pacific Peoples and Associate Minister of Health, Alfred Ngaro, Chairperson of the Social Services Select Committee, Tusha Penny, Superintendent NZ Police, and Jack Carroll, recently appointed Programme Director Investing in Children, who will lead the transformation programme team to develop the new Vulnerable Children's Entity.

## PESETA SAM LOTU-IIGA

*Minister for Pacific Peoples, Minister of Local Government, Minister for Ethnic Communities and Associate Minister of Health*



After an intense, soul-searching opening day at the Pasefika Proud Fono, the official dinner that evening provided the perfect opportunity to relax, unwind and connect.

But keynote speaker Minister Peseta Sam Lotu-iiga reminded attendees why they were there and what needs to be done.

*"This Fono is an ideal opportunity to talk about the current issues facing vulnerable Pacific families and to share innovative ways to improve their lives."*

*- Peseta Sam Lotu-iiga*

"I represent the Government here tonight, alongside my friend and colleague, Alfred Ngaro, a real warrior for social justice in this country," said Peseta, Minister for Pacific Peoples, Local Government and Ethnic Communities, and Associate Minister for Health.

"Our Government has put up its hand to say that we need to fix our house ... CYFS needs a revamp and things need to change."

That change has already begun with a significant work programme to support vulnerable children and families. It will result in a new child centred entity to be formed by April 2017.

Peseta stated that Pacific children are over-represented in the statistics for physical, sexual and emotional abuse. From that he urged community and church leaders to step up, "so we can all work together to tackle this."

"The government knows and understands the important contribution Pacific people make to New Zealand's economic, social and cultural well-being.

"But we cannot do it alone. The gathering at this Fono is an ideal opportunity to talk about the current issues facing vulnerable Pacific families and to share innovative ways to improve their lives."

Peseta was so impressed at the level of engagement at the Fono dinner, he turned up unannounced the following day to see the conference in action.

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## ALFRED NGARO

*Chairperson of the Social Services Select Committee*



As a first generation New Zealand-born Cook Islander, Alfred Ngaro recalls growing up in the Auckland inner-city suburb of Ponsonby in the 1970s.

"We had a three-bedroom house that was full of family, between 12-15 people, no insulation, no running water and an outside toilet," he recalls.

"But living in that house, I never had the sense that we were impoverished. We saw this country as the land of opportunity and lived and breathed it."

*"If we don't have the courage to step up and speak out, then what are we doing here today? We can talk all we like about what we need and from whom, but we are the ones that need to change"*

- Alfred Ngaro

Not that young Alfred was seen as a model child. Far from it.

"My parents would see me as a problem child. Mum would speak to me in the Cook Islands language, with words to the effect, 'You stupid little boy. Come here, I'm going to smack your ear!'"

Alfred's salvation was in the form of his loving grandmother, who he would turn to.

"My grandmother would say to me, 'You're not a problem to be solved. You're a potential to be realised'."

He believes the enormous potential of Pacific youth isn't being realised. The evidence, he points out, is in the statistics. From those statistics, serious questions need to be asked.

More importantly, Alfred adds, they also need to be answered to address family violence.

"Sure, there are parts of being Pacific which we can celebrate, but there are also parts that should make us cry," he told an attentive audience, drawing on his oratory skills which served him well as a pastor at the Tamaki Community Church.

"Why is it that we're two times more likely to cause serious harm to a family member than others? Three times more likely to report adults abusing their children? Five times more likely for our children to die from child abuse or neglect?"

What is needed, Alfred insists, is courage.

"We're not problems to be solved by the government. We are a potential to be realised," he says.

"But if we don't have the courage to step up and speak out, then what are we doing here today? We can talk all we like about what we need and from whom, but we are the ones that need to change."



**Robert Muller – General Manager of Village Collective**

*"Seeing MSD provide opportunities for senior government officials to engage with both community and service providers was very encouraging, as was hearing the commitment by all to addressing ongoing issues in our community...As a Public Health practitioner, prevention is key. It was great to be part of the discussions about how we're shaped by the environment people live in, but the system also shapes attitudes and behaviours."*

## FONO FEEDBACK

### TUSHA PENNY

*NZ Police Superintendent and National Manager of Child Protection and Sexual Violence*



Sitting all alone on a swing at 1am in the morning at Naenae Park in Lower Hutt wouldn't be regarded as the safest place to be.

Tusha Penny, then a local police sergeant, says not even the local so-called tough guys would venture into the park at that time of night.

So when she spotted a 10-year-old boy on the swing (after calls from concerned locals) and asked him why he was there all alone in the dark, the boy replied ...

"Because I feel safer here."

Tusha, a young mother at the time, wondered what on earth his home environment was like. It didn't take long to find out.

"When I did a check on the address, information about the years of family violence that occurred at the place and the other government agencies that had known about the family showed up," she said.

"I cannot tell you the amount of times that I've stood in hospitals, holding the hands of young mothers who would say to me, 'I just wish it was over ... I just wish he'd done it this time'.

"What goes on in those homes, when mothers no longer have the fight in them to stay around to look after their own children?"

Now a police superintendent and Police National Manager of Child Protection and Sexual Violence, Tusha Penny provides some sobering statistics on family violence for all of New Zealand, not only the Pacific population. They include:

- Of a national police force of 12,000, 41% of their frontline staff (almost 5000 police men and women) are involved in dealing with family harm or violence each day

- They go into an average of 289 homes every day
- More than half of all homicides are committed "by people who are meant to love us"
- New Zealand child abuse statistics are among the worst in the world

Tusha is proud to be Maori. She didn't hesitate mentioning she's of Ngati Porou descent. She enjoys working with Pacific communities and speaks fondly of the year she spent in Tonga setting up its family violence unit. That's why she's so passionate about bringing real, significant positive change.

For Tusha it's about people, families and communities owning up to the problem ... then fixing the problems with them.

She describes the timing of the Ministerial work programme to address family violence and sexual violence and the government's ongoing commitment to work with Pacific communities and organisations as "a perfect storm".

***"We've always had great, motivated people in the community, but now we've got the right structures in place and high level commitment from government"***

**- Tusha Penny**

"We've always had great, motivated people in the community, but now we've got the right structures in place and high level commitment from government," she says.

"You don't do things to people, you do it with people. If we can fix a home, we can fix a community ... absolutely. And if we all invest in our community, be honest, bold and face the issues so we can address them, we are unstoppable."

## JACK CARROLL

*Programme Director Investing in Children*



As a partner at KPMG, one of the 'big four' global accounting firms, Jack Carroll knows his organisational and strategic skills will be fully utilised with his secondment to lead the transformation programme to develop a new Vulnerable Children's Entity aimed at supporting vulnerable children and families.

Born and raised in Ireland and now living in Wellington, Jack admits this project matters more to him at a personal level compared to his usual roles.

"I've got three young boys myself," he says.

"When I leave this role, I want New Zealand to be in a better place for our children in the next generation to flourish."

The evidence is that for Pacific families, too many are not.

"Young people who have been in care told us the system often doesn't provide them with the nurturing love they require," he says.

"They crave the sense of belonging, being a part of a family that brings out the best in them. They don't have a voice in important decisions made about their own future."

Parents told the panel that CYF (Child Youth & Family) is quick to judge and their interactions with the organisation left them in turmoil with sadness, anger and feeling conflicted.

Carers said they were not recognised for their expertise and not fully supported with the resources required to look after these kids. On reflection, they admitted they didn't fully realise what they were signing up to.

Jack says a future model to effectively deal with these issues requires significant changes to core funding arrangements.

"We need to invest and intervene at an early stage so we're not escalating to a critical point," he says.

"That may even be to the point of pre-birth for children if we know the existing environment is one that represents drug and alcohol abuse, domestic violence, and so on."

During the Fono Jack spoke of a bill before the house raising the age on children in care from 17 to 18. At present, once they reach 17 there is no longer support for young people.

***"We need to invest and intervene at an early stage so we're not escalating to a critical point"***

**- Jack Carroll**

"They are left to their own devices in terms of finding housing, education, work and finding their way through the benefit system. But with the changes to 18, there will be a transition support service to help them with that. From 18 -25 there is an option for them to opt in to extra support if needed."

Care Connections, a new independent advocacy service, will provide a voice for youth in care and mechanisms for them to address the stigma of their care environment and develop their own advocacy and mentoring skills.

The new child-centred entity will be formed by April 2017.

The ultimate outcome for Jack and the government?

"All children and young people are in loving families and communities where they can be safe, strong, connected and able to flourish."

# INVESTING IN VULNERABLE CHILDREN

In his key note speech, Programme Director Investing in Children, Jack Carroll provided background on the formation of the child-centred entity, and an overview of how MSD intends to work with communities to implement proposed changes.

## CASE FOR CHANGE

The current system is:

- Failing to provide safe, stable and loving care
- Not meeting the needs of vulnerable children and young people
- Fragmented and lacking accountability
- Over represented by Māori and Pacific
- Complex and difficult to navigate

*“Vulnerable children are underrepresented in terms of their access to universal services in both health and education”*

## CURRENT FUNDING MODEL

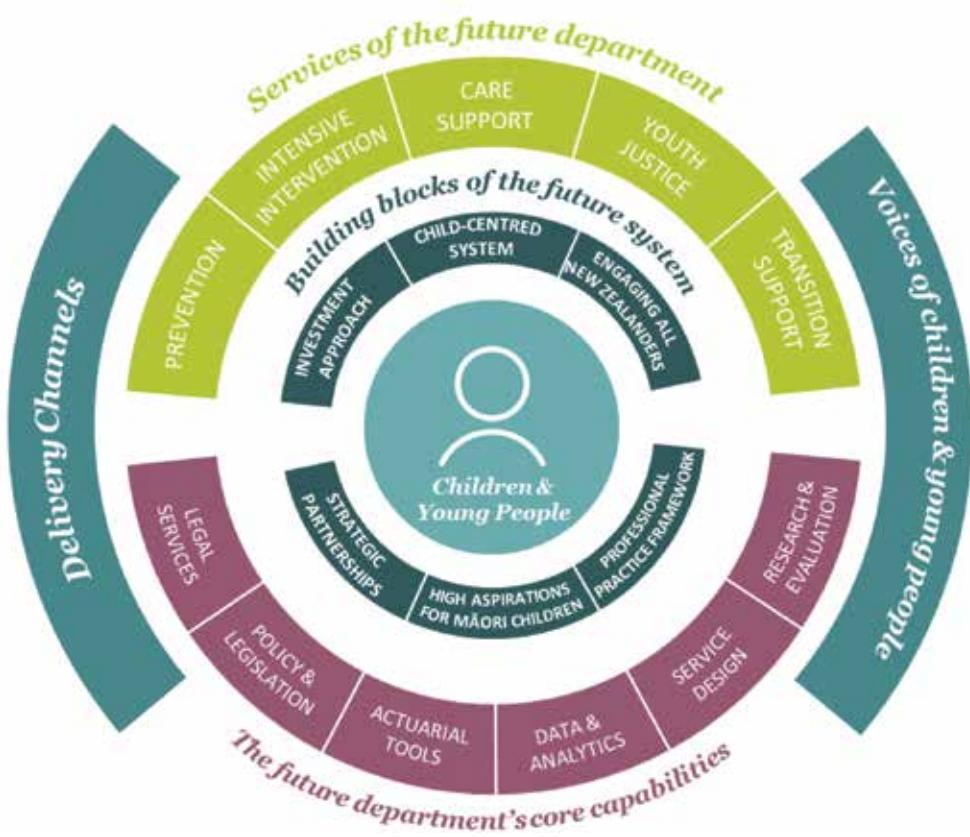
Funding for services for vulnerable children is divided among agencies:



*“Currently CYF doesn’t have a clear mandate to direct services from the wider sector towards the care and protection of vulnerable children”*

## FUTURE MODEL

*"All children and young people are in loving families and communities where they can be safe, strong, connected, and able to flourish"*



### Future funding model principles:

#### **Directly linked to children**

Whatever the children in care require, the funding is provided by one agency

#### **Flexible and autonomous**

Funding arrangements that are obtained supporting the necessary outcomes

#### **Long-term and sustainable services**

Funding values long term sustainable, secure, fully funded services

#### **Purchase of service interventions**

Funding enables the caregivers and the care case managers to purchase the interventions and services they need from community organisations

#### **Develop capabilities**

Funding supports community organisations to develop the capability needed to support kids moving forward, and invests in those community organisations

*"This is not a change that the government can achieve in isolation. All communities need to be involved and engaged in"*

*"We will work with your community to understand the support and solutions and help that you can provide in terms of the care and support for vulnerable children. And give you involvement in terms of the co-design of the sourcing frameworks and the service design"*

*- Jack Carroll*

# BREAKING THE CYCLE



**Mother of Divine Mercy Womens Refuge helps victims of family violence get away from harm and to begin the process of healing through a ‘whole family’ approach. Susana Fiú Fetalai shares her story and how it motivated her work in family violence.**

When Susana Fiú Fetalai walks into a room, she fills it with her warmth. Her experience and compassion prompted her to establish Mother of Divine Mercy Women's Refuge more than 20 years ago.

Once upon a time, the great, great grandmother would sleep with her children on shop corners to avoid an abusive husband.

"When my husband went to work, I'd find a hollowed-out tree and I'd prepare it knowing what was going to come when he came back home," Susana recalls.

She says she did that for 20 years before eventually going to a refuge to get the help she and her children needed. The experience ignited a passion to help others.

"I thank God that I've got that experience and can give back. I know it's helping our mothers, community and children."

Mother of Divine Mercy is one of two Pacific women's refuges, and offers frontline services including safe haven accommodation, tailored programmes for mothers' wellbeing and youth, training volunteers and post-refuge support.

Susana's daughter, Agnes Tuitama-Faifua, is support worker. She says "we're an independent refuge, but we network a lot with other faith-based and Pasifika networks. We have a lot of in-house programmes and workshops around preventing violence".

The refuge takes a 'whole family approach' providing counselling for victims and perpetrators to deal with violence.

Susana says it's about learning to talk and being honest in confronting the issues causing violence. It's often a product of so-called traditional methods of parenting passed down through generations which focus more on obedience than communication.

Mother of Divine Mercy Youth was set up to engage youth

affected by family violence. 21-year-old youth support worker Sialaoa (Sia) Lambert, says many youth raised in violent homes were turning to drugs and alcohol and joining gangs.

As a victim of abuse, Sia is grateful, not just for the refuge's help in getting her mum and her siblings out of her mother's cycle of always returning to their abusive step-father. The refuge provided them with counselling and other programmes which have helped them to move on and heal. It has also allowed her to help others in similar situations.

"I'm not ashamed to say that I've been through emotional, physical and sexual abuse, because I can help somebody else who is going through it. Yeah, it has been scarring, but if you continue to focus on the negative, you'll never get to the positive," she says.

"I've been able to heal properly and a big part of that is forgiveness within the family- not only forgiving your mum for letting you go through that, or forgiving your stepdad for abusing you, but forgiving yourself, especially, for still hurting."

This gap in representing and responding to youth needs, identified in her own service by Susana, was also voiced during the faith-based workshop at the Pasefika Proud Fono.

However Agnes, and Sia, who attended in Susana's place said that MSD and Pasefika Proud are headed in the right direction in order to mitigate this issue as well as address the wider issue of family violence.

Agnes says the idea of 'collaboration' (collaborating while taking action) was raised. "That's definitely what it comes down to; the more we work together, the stronger we are."

Mother of Divine Mercy hopes the government and other providers take this collaboration approach, with government working with Pacific and Pacific working with each other as they have done in reaching out to youth and to other service providers and churches.

# SERVICE INNOVATION: FAITH-BASED INITIATIVE AFFIRMING WORKS



## PURPOSE

- Develop Tongan faith-based programme addressing violence
- Achieve ‘inter-agency engagement’ e.g. engage with education providers to ensure that children go back to education
- Provide wrap-around support to families with referral to other Affirming Works and other family and community based services they may benefit from
- Build a stronger community through transformational changes in our families

*“I was set free from depression. I lost the ability to dream, but having attended I was able to set myself free. I learnt from this programme how to control violence physically and verbally. My daughter and ex-husband saw the changes in me. Three weeks after the programme, CYF closed my case.”*

*Programme Participant*

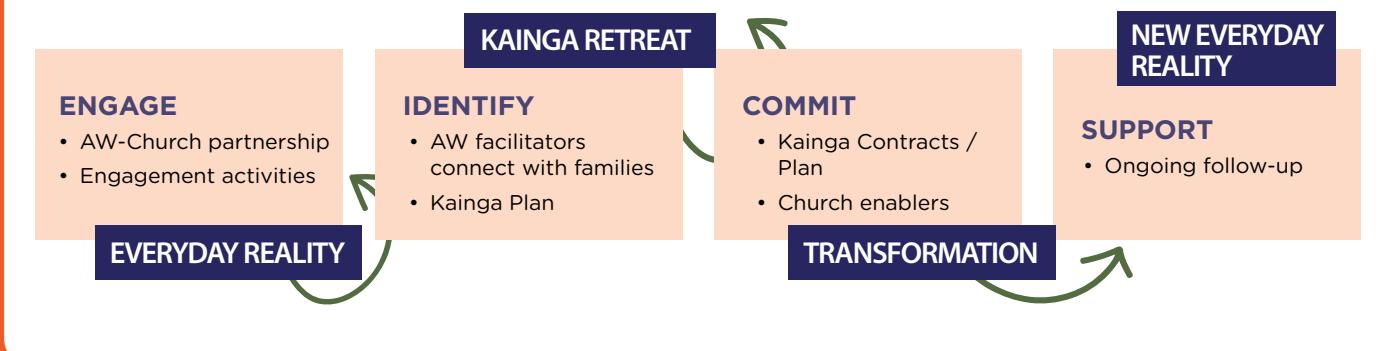
## KAINGA TU’UMALIE - AN OVERVIEW

Affirming Works (AW) is a faith-based organisation that partners with nominated Tongan Churches to deliver the Kainga Tu’umalie programme. Tongan Church leaders work with Affirming Works to engage families in the Kainga Tu’umalie programme and co-lead the retreat.

The retreat is fundamental to the overall initiative, providing a time of solace away from stress and pressures of everyday reality, giving families new opportunities to engage with each other in a safe environment. The retreat sets the scene for transformation of families, guiding their journey to live free from family violence. The programme’s strength is based on indigenous Tongan cultural knowledge interwoven with Biblical faith-narratives.

Affirming Works manages the retreat, programme sessions (such as biblical narratives, discussing the impacts of family violence and development of family plans) and monitoring follow-up support after the retreat. Follow-up support includes discussions with Church leaders to ensure participants are well supported post-programme, with connection to other faith-based services or agencies.

Families experienced a safe environment to acknowledge the impact of violence. The programme fosters the desire and ability to realise dreams. Families also experienced a re-awakened value of children and the need to take responsibility for their wellbeing, and family aspirations were strengthened to create a loving, peaceful and harmonious environment at home before it’s too late for the next generation.



# SERVICE INNOVATION: FAITH-BASED INITIATIVE CHURCHES UNITE



## PURPOSE

- Develop Church collaborations as communities of faith
- Provide quality response to vulnerable families who are most in need of support, information and quality services
- Engage and support families experiencing family violence
- Promote strengths-based initiatives

*"That's the model and the pattern that God has called us for. As a Church, we can all come together and say, 'yes we can do it'. I can see that pattern, pushing the project forward and seeing families coming through. That really signifies what God is ... he's all about family...."*

*- Father*

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

The Churches Unite initiative is an innovative collective of 9 Pacific different denominational Churches that collaborate to provide dedicated programmes focused on family violence prevention and intervention.

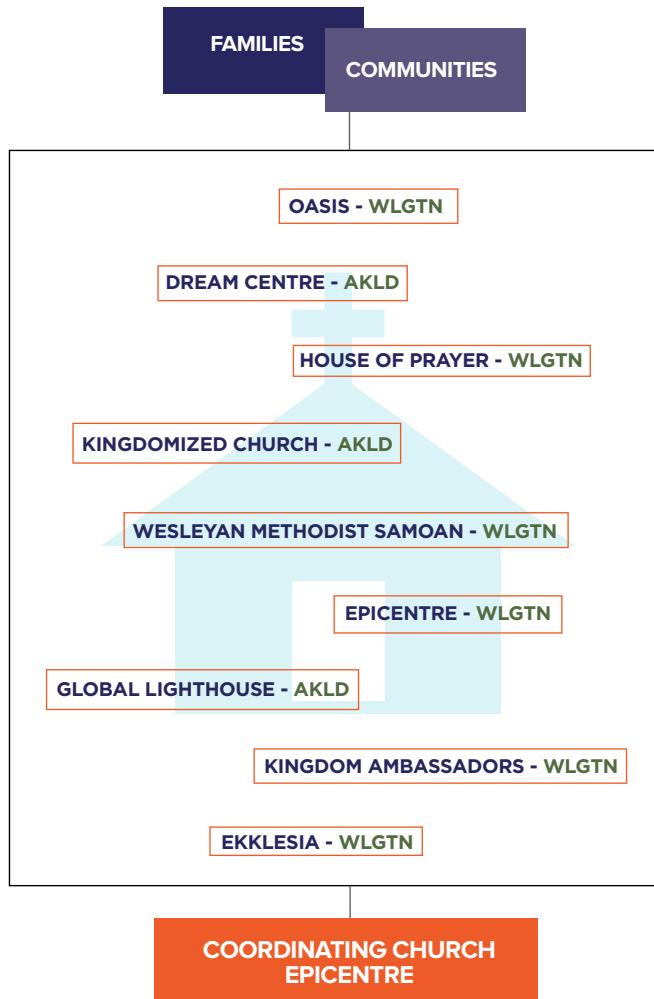
The Churches Unite approach utilises a range of activities to engage and support families, including interactive workshops, use of music and short video clips for the promotion of strengths-based messaging, developing individualised family action plans and referrals to other services.

Each participating Church developed their own plan of action (e.g. Pastoral care, counselling, prayer support, family mentorship), The Epicentre Church in Wellington coordinated this initiative. Churches Unite have developed a position paper that outlines the theological underpinnings for their approach.

Mentors of the programme were identified to support families both for the Church and wider community. Role models were identified within the programme, demonstrating violence-free leadership. Families were nurtured by a strong faith to seek and trust God to heal and restore family from the impact of violence.

Churches Unite released a song a few weeks after the Fono which promotes the common purpose and shared vision for being violence free. The song has had over 100,000 views since its release and can be viewed on the Pasefika Proud Facebook page.

[www.facebook.com/pasefikaproudnz](http://www.facebook.com/pasefikaproudnz)



*The Churches Unite Collective-Churches approach utilises a nominated Church within the collective – Epicentre, to administer and manage the overall project.*

# SERVICE INNOVATION: NGO INITIATIVE K'AUTE PASIFIKA



## PURPOSE

- Deliver a home-based family violence prevention and awareness raising programme to ethnic specific groups using the Nga Vaka o Kāiga Tapu framework
- Support Pacific families living in peace, harmony and wellbeing
- Reduce the incidence of violence in the homes of Pacific families
- Ensure Pacific communities understand domestic violence, consequences and the impact on families

*"It has really taught us and given us the idea to discover our journey freely. It has introduced us to the Tongan conceptual framework 'tafala tofola' – to roll out the mat for our family members to sit down and dialogue, which is what we do when we come together"*

*Tongan participant*

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

K'aute's home-based Pacific Family Violence Prevention Programme incorporates ethnic specific approaches to delivering family violence prevention programmes. A strengths-based approach builds on the strengths of the family, observing and respecting different Pacific cultural traditions, whilst also acknowledging commonalities. The programme focuses on 'continuums of wellbeing' and supports transformation of behaviour. The service focuses on primary prevention to increase community awareness of family violence.

K'aute has developed a significant number of relationships with key stakeholders in the local community, and receives referrals from the local family safe network. K'aute attends fortnightly engagement meetings of the network and is part of discussions related to best practice.

### FA'ATALATALANOA (DISCOVER)

- One-on-one in-home family visits
- Trialing of family strategies developed during the initial session

### FETUFATUFAAINA (UNCOVER)

- Smaller group sessions
- 2-3 families each
- Sharing of experiences

### FA'ALA'UAITELEINA (RECOVER)

- Family mix and mingle
- Presentation of family learning

# SERVICE INNOVATION: NGO INITIATIVE THE FONO



## PURPOSE

- Deliver a tailored Pacific crisis-intervention service to stop repeat incidents of family violence
- Provide 'wrap-around' support services for families with a focus on children and youth
- Develop and deliver a community mobilisation programme to prevent family violence

*"The programme helped a lot in terms of teaching me how to control my anger and how to lessen stress. I was taught ways to bring up the children and shown different ways of parenting that I hadn't heard before. It put things into perspective. Things have turned around, the kids listen and do their homework and we do things together."*

- Mother

## OVERVIEW

The Fono is a Pacific health and social services provider based in Auckland delivering a Pacific family violence crisis intervention service and a community mobilisation 'stop family violence' programme. The crisis intervention service is based on immediately engaging with families following an incident of family violence. Families then complete a needs assessment with a qualified social worker who, together with the family, develop a family plan and refers them to wrap-around support services within a three-month crisis period. Wrap-around services may be within The Fono, such as Family Start for children under-5 or enrolment in the health clinic, or external, such as referral to an alcohol or drugs specialist programme or a mental health support service, depending on needs of the family.

The Fono is involved in the Family Violence Interagency Response System (FVIARS), where agencies, specialist providers and community representatives meet twice-weekly to review cases, assess suitability with services and refer families experiencing family violence to the most appropriate family violence services.

Alongside the crisis intervention service The Fono runs a broader family violence education programme delivered through the Fono's own community network. The aim of the community mobilisation programme is to increase awareness of family violence and enable communities to support each other to make the changes required to build healthier and safer communities. They are also made aware of the crisis intervention service which they can access or refer community to, if needed.

### FVIARS

### Community Mobilisation Programme (Awareness Raising)

#### CRISIS REFERRAL

- Self-referral
- Police referral
- Community referral

#### FAMILY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

#### FAMILY PLAN

#### REFERRAL TO SUPPORT SERVICES

- Internal at The Fono
- External to other agencies

Crisis Intervention Service



## PACIFIC PROVIDER SNAPSHOT

### *Vaka Tautua*

Auckland, Wellington,  
Canterbury Regions

Vaka Tautua is a charitable organisation established in 2007 that aims to help improve the health and wellbeing of Pacific people in New Zealand. They provide community support for older peoples, people living with disability and those needing support for mental health.

Their programmes encourage families and communities to respect, promote and safeguard the rights of their service users within the health and disability sector. They also provide services like financial literacy, disability support, mental health community support and peer support, Like Minds Like Mine, older persons support and a family wellbeing programme.



## PACIFIC PROVIDER SNAPSHOT

### *Pacific Trust Canterbury*

Canterbury Region

Pacific Trust Canterbury was established in the 1990's and is based in central Christchurch. It is the largest provider of Pacific health and social services in the South Island and all services are delivered with Pacific values. Its mission is to enable Pacific and all communities to reach their full potential through the provision of quality services.



Services include a social work services and supporting families who have experienced family violence, mental health and addiction, Whanau Ora services, community development services, a Pacific health clinic, community primary health including Well Child and health promotion, and an earthquake support coordination service.

## PACIFIC PROVIDER SNAPSHOT

### *Pacific Health Service Hutt Valley*

Wellington Region

Pacific Health Services Hutt Valley is an independent Pacific Health Service provider whose vision is to lead the development of a healthy Pacific community in the Hutt Valley. The service employs registered nurses, a social worker, health family coach, community wellbeing and liaison worker, well-being/fitness instructor and administration support.

It provides a Tamariki Ora Well Child Service, community based outreach primary nursing, healthy lifestyle Pasefika programme, family against obesity project, family support and social services.



## PACIFIC PROVIDER SNAPSHOT

### *Dove Hawkes Bay Kainga Pasifika*

Hawkes Bay Region

Doves Hawkes Bay is a social service organisation specialising in family violence in an intervention and prevention role. It provides services to men, women and young people experiencing family violence with an emphasis on services for men.



Kainga Pasifika is the Pacific arm to Dove Hawkes Bay, and provides programmes/tools for individuals, families and communities to create more loving, respectful, family violence free homes. They also provide long and short term programmes that can be presented in English or in most Pacific languages.

## PACIFIC PROVIDER SNAPSHOT

### *Tongan Health Society*

Auckland Region and Kingdom of Tonga

Tongan Health Society (THS) is the first and only ethnic-specific Tongan organisation in New Zealand in the primary health care service space. THS provides social support services to Tongan families who have experienced family violence. This support entails one on one support over a period of time and is delivered across the Auckland region.



Other services include an early childhood centre in Manurewa, a community centre and garden in Onehunga, and an Integrated Service Outcomes Unit focused on clinical and non-clinical navigation services to achieve health and well-being outcomes for community. THS is a RNZCGP teaching practice for GP registrars, and they run two medical centres in Onehunga and Panmure. A Tongan outreach project is delivered in the Kingdom of Tonga, and has close links with Tonga through their HVAZ programme. They also contract with 14 Tongan Churches in the Auckland DHB area.

## PACIFIC PROVIDER SNAPSHOT

### *Vaiola P.I. Budgeting Services Trust*

Auckland Region

Vaiola PI Budgeting Service Trust (VPIBS) is a community-based charitable trust, and an affiliated member of the New Zealand Federation of Family Budgeting Services. Formed in 1997 and located in Mangere, they service clients from all over Auckland.

The Trust provides budgeting information, advice and advocacy services, and around 84% of total clients are Pacific. Services that are culturally appropriate are more effective in meeting client needs. In addition, the Trust offers specially tailored programmes with core competencies and specialisation in the area of mortgagee sales and tenancy eviction cases, as well as educational financial literacy workshops for families.

## PACIFIC PROVIDER SNAPSHOT

### *Vaka Pasifika*

Auckland Region

Vaka Pasifika is a charitable trust with a mission to empower Pacific people to take charge of their lives and those of their family(s) to enjoy and participate in developing New Zealand society. The trust delivers social services for Pacific people and brings together social work providers to service Pacific people and better co-ordinate delivery and outcomes.

Services include family services such as parenting, anger management, emotional/psychological abuse, domestic/family violence, youth services such as truancy (individuals/group), substance abuse, self-esteem and hygiene, and training programmes such as report writing, cultural competency, financial management and budgeting.

## PACIFIC PROVIDER SNAPSHOT

### *Tuilaepa Mentoring Trust T.Y.M.S*

Auckland Region

The Tuilaepa Youth Mentoring Trust (TYMS) was formed to 'support young people's academic achievement, self-esteem, social competence, cultural identity and to foster a positive outlook in the community by providing a positive and caring relationship with a mentor and friend who will work with the young person to achieve their full potential for their future'.

Programmes focus on addressing the underlying needs of the young people. This is achieved through academic mentoring that is informed by a holistic approach to wellbeing. Qualified school teachers and youth workers act as 'academic mentors' and provide individual and group mentoring, which addresses education needs, values, life skills, physical fitness and cultural identity.

## PACIFIC PROVIDER SNAPSHOT

### *Aiga Atia'e Pasefika Family Trust*

Auckland Region

Aiga Atia'e Pasefika programmes are committed towards supporting, sharing and educating Pacific families in the South Auckland region experiencing hardship and cultural alienation to achieve harmony, improved skills, success and overall well-being.

Parenting programmes are offered for Pacific Matua, allowing them to speak in their own language, and share their values with others to improve their confidence, self-esteem and to identify appropriate resources to solve their own difficulties and needs. Aiga Atia'e Pasefika also delivers a service for Pacific Matua to break the cycle of abuse, violence and neglect, and understand their important roles as capable, responsible and reliable matua/parents in New Zealand society.

## PACIFIC PROVIDER SNAPSHOT

### *Pacific Trust Otago*

Otago Region

Pacific Trust Otago is a community owned and operated organisation that provides education, social, health and advocacy services to all Pacific communities and clients within Otago. The Trust's main aim is to support and mentor families to navigate change and build strong and sustainable communities. The Trust believes all families have the potential to reach their true goals and aspirations.

Services are provided under an adapted Fonotale (holistic) Model of Care - all services are delivered in a professional, confidential and loving manner. These include health promotion, Pasefika Pathways (Youth), a Well Child nurse, health link, parenting programmes, Pacific parents play group and a Pacific parents' support group.



# BUILDING CAPACITY FOR EFFECTIVE SERVICES



**Ofa Boyle, a long-time advocate for supporting families to become free of family violence, was recognised for her work at the inaugural Pasefika Proud Awards in 2013. She set up Fale Pasifika O Aoraki in 2008 with two other Pacific women, providing social support to the growing number of Pacific people in South Canterbury.**

Born in Tonga in a place called Lapaha the Mu'a district, known as the 'old capital' of Tonga, it took Ofa two years to adapt to life in the South Island when she moved here.

However, it was her experience as a newcomer adjusting that has helped her support others like her, who've made the move to the South Island.

At the time of setting up Fale Pasifika O Aoraki, there was no social service provider specifically for Pacific people in the region, so cultural and language barriers meant the community wasn't getting the support they needed.

***"Training would benefit not just the families in the region who would be helped by the services, but also those in the service"***

***- Ofa Boyle***

Ofa adds that it is easier for Pacific people to talk to people who are from a similar cultural background, saying that being there to support them in their new environment has been a huge help.

From family campaigns, like their 2014 partnership with the 'It's not OK' campaign, to youth anti-bullying campaigns and other projects which encourage the well-being of Pacific people in their new environment, Ofa works across the board making sure services run smoothly.

It explains why she was recognised for her work in the sector by Pasefika Proud, an award of which Ofa is extremely humbled by to this day.

But, she continues to feel that despite the amount of work done, or the awards she may receive, there's still more to do.

"It was an unexpected one, I was very humbled by it...but I felt there was more work to do out there, especially when there were not enough people to be passionate about working with family violence in our catchment area (Oamaru, Ashburton and Timaru)."

Winning the award gave her the courage to keep going, and fuelled her passion to work harder for the families in her region.

The Pasefika Proud National Pacific Leaders Fono allowed Ofa to voice issues that she felt needed to be addressed in order to help her region better look after families in crisis.

During the regional workshops, where providers and churches talked about how they can better work together to address these issues, Ofa raised the need for more people to be trained in dealing with family violence.

She talked about how the training would benefit not just the families in the region who would be helped by the services, but also those in the service, because the key is the safety of the family. Ofa wants to continue working to make sure that this way of thinking spreads through all levels of every organisation, so that what comes first is our families.

Ofa says first the change has to come from our communities, spreading out to individual families with the help of providers like Fale Pasifika o Aoraki.

"I'm passionate about making a change with our Pacific people."

"We need to live together in peace and harmony in our homes, community, cities and in New Zealand, and it will reflect wherever we go."

# GROWING THE KNOWLEDGE BASE

We need to grow our knowledge base using our stories and what works for our people and our communities.

## *Formative Evaluations*

In 2015, the Ministry of Social Development commissioned Massey University and Integrity Professionals Limited to undertake formative evaluations of two Pacific faith-based family violence services and four Pacific provider-based family violence services. Early findings of the formative evaluations were presented at the Fono.

## *Pacific Research Scholarships*

The University of Canterbury, through Yvonne Crichton-Hill as lead, has partnered with the Ministry of Social Development to oversee and administer a scholarship research programme for 2016 that is focussed on meeting research gaps identified in the *Nga Vaka o Kāiga Tapu Family Violence Research Plan, 2013-2018*. Early findings from the four awarded research scholarships were presented in working lunch sessions at the Fono. The four presentations were:

### UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND

Dr Vili Nosa and his student Gemma Malungalu reviewed literature surrounding Family Violence strategies and initiatives to improve the role of Pacific men in strengthening Pacific families.

### AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY (AUT)

Tagaloatele Professor Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop and her students Koleta Savaii and Eti Puni explored male and female perspectives of Healthy Marriage Relationships: a Samoan Case Study.

### MASSEY UNIVERSITY

Dr Siautu Alefaio-Tugia and her student Sesimani Havea presented on ethnic specific indigenous approaches to family restoration.

### WHITIREIA NZ

Jean Mitaera, and her students Helena Filipo and Langi Paasi presented their findings on Cook Island practices of atonement, reparation and forgiveness.

## *Pacific Family Violence Training Programmes*

In recent years, there has been increased focus on the variability of practice and understanding across the family violence and sexual violence workforces, highlighting the need for a systematic, sector-wide approach to improving skills and knowledge.

The *Nga Vaka o Kāiga Tapu: A Pacific Conceptual Framework to address family violence in New Zealand* has been combined with family violence best practice to develop the Pacific Family Violence Training Programmes, to build the capability of Pacific practitioners and influencers.

Alliance Health Plus, who has been contracted to finalise the Pacific Family Violence Training Programmes, presented a working lunch session on this work.

## *Pasefika Proud Marketing and Media*

The Pasefika Proud Campaign aims to provide clear and consistent messages about building strong Pacific families, preventing and addressing violence, and changing attitudes and behaviour. It is strengths-based and builds on positive actions already underway to support local, community level change and action.

This campaign has four core components – multi-media approaches, resources, events and community action initiatives.

Amatailevi Stella Muller (Bright Sunday) and Yolande Ah Chong (Pacific Media Network) presented a working lunch session on Pasefika Proud Marketing and Media - engaging with our people and our communities in formats that connect and effect change.

## FONO FEEDBACK



*Yvonne Crichton-Hill - Senior Lecturer and Head of Department, Human Services & Social Work, University of Canterbury*

*"I enjoyed facilitating a workshop on Pacific Research Scholarships with Whitireia and Massey University..... it was wonderful to see so many Pacific research students of all ages participating and engaging with us. There's a growing interest in researching our own cultures and a realisation that it's up to us as Pacific people to deal with it and create our own future free of violence."*

# FORMATIVE EVALUATION OF PACIFIC FAMILY VIOLENCE SERVICES

The Ministry of Social Development commissioned Massey University and Integrity Professionals Limited to undertake formative evaluations of two Pacific faith-based family violence services and four Pacific provider-based family violence services. Early findings of the formative evaluations were presented at the Fono.

## FAITH-BASED FAMILY VIOLENCE SERVICES

### BACKGROUND

Two Pacific-faith based initiatives were evaluated by Dr Siautu Alefaio-Tugia and Sesimani Havea, School of Psychology, Massey University:

- Affirming Works is a faith-based organisation and worked in close partnership with four Tongan Church denominations (Seventh Day Adventist, Catholic, Methodist and Pentecostal) on the Kainga Tu'umalie initiative
- Churches Unite is a collective of nine Churches that formed a collaboration and worked together on the Churches Unite initiative

### PURPOSE OF RESEARCH

- Document the innovative Pacific faith-based service delivery initiatives addressing family violence prevention and intervention in Aotearoa New Zealand
- Report on the development and progress of these initiatives and identify areas for improvement

### RECOMMENDATIONS FROM RESEARCH

- Increased support and resources for Pacific faith-based initiatives
- Further research collaborations to continue to document and develop Pacific faith-based initiatives with increased opportunities to share learnings
- Increased acknowledgement and representation of the role of faith in initiatives to prevent family violence within Pacific communities with opportunities for collaboration



### FINDINGS

#### KAINGA TU'UMALIE IMPACT - FAMILIES EXPERIENCES OF INITIATIVES

Participating in Kainga Tu'umalie has:

- Strengthened collective family values and beliefs
- Provided a safe, communal faith environment for families to share lived experiences
- Created a safe village-communal context for families to challenge perspective/mind-sets
- Provided a safe environment to acknowledge the impact of violence and the urgency to change
- Fostered the desire and ability to realise dreams
- Re-awakened the value of children and the need to take responsibility for their wellbeing
- Strengthened family aspirations to create a loving, peaceful and harmonious environment at home before it's too late for the next generation

#### CHURCHES UNITE IMPACT - FAMILIES EXPERIENCES OF INITIATIVES

Participating in Churches Unite has:

- Provided a forum to acknowledge impacts of violence in a safe, caring home environment
- Empowered families to identify their own needs, explore solutions and receive tailored support
- Supported families to access extra support and help where needed through wrap-around services
- Provided families with a plan to help them achieve their aspirations, living free of family violence



# PACIFIC PROVIDER-BASED FAMILY VIOLENCE SERVICES

## BACKGROUND

Four Pacific-provider initiatives were evaluated by Integrity Professionals Limited:

- 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 Pasifika 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



## PURPOSE OF RESEARCH

- Exploring the providers' use of the *Nga Vaka o Kāiga Tapu Framework* and other relevant cultural frameworks to support service development and improvement
- Document and gain an in-depth understanding of how providers design, develop and deliver their services to inform future service improvement and design

## CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS FOR PROVIDERS

- Community development approaches
- Working collaboratively and intersectorally
- Having trained, knowledgeable, caring and committed staff and volunteers
- Having effective resources
- Strong leadership within the community

## FINDINGS

- The *Nga Vaka o Kāiga Tapu Framework* is consistent with how these providers have been previously delivering social services to Pacific communities.
- The key features of the *Nga Vaka o Kāiga Tapu framework* that the four providers used were:
  - strengths based approach
  - stating that wellbeing, peace and harmony were the desired outcomes
  - emphasising the role that cultural identity and strengths play in achieving these outcomes
  - acknowledging that all people and things are interconnected and interdependent
- All four providers offer complementary services, whether it be social service, education or health services – each service is not run in isolation but as part of a wider holistic initiative.
- Provider models of service delivery facilitated positive impacts for families
- Self-reported impacts from some Pacific families included increased awareness of family violence and a level of attitudinal change

## FIND OUT MORE

Full research reports and summaries will be available from Pasifika Proud.

Email: [Pasifika\\_Proud@msd.govt.nz](mailto:Pasifika_Proud@msd.govt.nz)

# PACIFIC RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS

## UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND



**Identifying existing family violence strategies, initiatives and programmes specifically targeting Pacific men to improve their health and wellbeing was the aim of the University of Auckland's Research paper.**

As a Senior Lecturer at the University of Auckland's Pacific Health, Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, Dr Vili Nosa is driven by the need to improve Pacific men's health and status.

While alcohol, tobacco, diet, drugs and substance abuse commonly feature, Dr Vili has a particular interest relating to Pacific men's violence.

*"The studies are consistent across the Pacific in terms of the high levels of violence"*

Having presented and worked across the region, from Australia to Samoa, the Cook Islands, Tuvalu, Papua New Guinea, Niue and Hawaii, Vili has studied research and anti-violence initiatives targeting Pacific men in many of those countries as well as Canada.

"The studies are consistent across the Pacific in terms of the high levels of violence," he says.

"The key issue was looking out for initiatives that are suitable for our Pacific men here in New Zealand."

Dr Vili and student researcher Gemma Malungalu reviewed the available literature looking for positive strategies and initiatives to improve the role of Pacific men in strengthening families.

1. Pacific - Cultural appropriateness, taking into account the heterogeneity between sub Pacific ethnic groups, consultation with community, language and values

2. Feminist – Responsibility and accountability is reoriented towards the offenders of violence rather than the victims, who are most often women
3. Indigenous - The Hale Mua Initiative in Hawaii which addresses the issues of socio-cultural disconnectedness and increased health risks among native Hawaiian kāne (men) by establishing Hale Mua (men's houses)

### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A WAY FORWARD INCLUDE

- An overarching multi-faceted approach including Pacific, Feminist and Indigenous approaches
- Ensure practices prioritise three factors: prevent violence, cultural appropriateness and engagement of men
- Provide robust practices that encourage critical reflections of current peer culture and replacing with positive notions of masculinity
- Encourage service providers to include a more rigorous evaluation process

**TOPIC:** Family Violence strategies and initiatives to improve the role of Pacific men in strengthening families

**LEAD RESEARCHER:** Dr Vili Nosa

**STUDENT RESEARCHER:** Gemma Malungahu

# PACIFIC RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS

## AUT UNIVERSITY



Documenting traditional protective factors in Samoan families, in particular the feagaiga/brother-sister relationship – and their behaviour and expectations in today's families, provided a mixture of traditional and contemporary responses.

Masters students Koleta Savaii and Eti Puni presented some of their early findings of their research, which was conducted using as an Appreciative Inquiry (AI) process towards self-determined change.

The Talanoa (discussion) consisted of three groups (two same sex, one mixed), 20 individuals (10 males, 10 females) and all with a minimum 10 years residency in New Zealand.

### QUESTIONS RAISED

- Their expectations around marriage as an institution
- The roles of husbands and wives
- The feagaiga as a protective mechanism – its ideals, values and practice
- The place of feagaiga and whether its ideals and behaviours applied to all females

believe physical violence is acceptable as a form of discipline – and those who have lived a significantly long time in New Zealand, where this is no longer viewed as acceptable.

*“The most definitive finding was the differences in views by those more recently from Samoa – who believe physical violence is acceptable as a form of discipline – and those who have lived a significantly long time in New Zealand, where this is no longer viewed as acceptable”*

**TOPIC:** Perceptions of Healthy Marriage Relationships: Samoan Case Study

**LEAD RESEARCHER:** Tagaloatele Professor Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop

**STUDENT RESEARCHER:** Koleta Savaii and Eti Puni

While the views voiced by the participants were diverse, Professor Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop, AUT's first Professor of Pacific Studies, said the most definitive finding was the differences in views by those more recently from Samoa – who

# PACIFIC RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS

# MASSEY UNIVERSITY



An ethnic-specific approach to family restoration was embraced by Tongan faith leaders as a concept, creating a place of safety and a powerful and living platform.

Sesimani Havea feels blessed to be the Research Officer for the paper titled *Fofola e fala kae talanoa e kainga - A powerful living platform of family transformation*.

"Looking at how churches can work together with the providers to support our people is important work," she says.

"What's most exciting is the opportunity to look at the strengths we have in terms of faith in God and our relationships within our families. It will take us to a new level."

Research looks at the convergence of Tongan indigenous knowledge with spiritual knowledge. It is connected to the Kainga Tu-malie programme: Exploring Fofola a Fala with Tongan Faith Leaders and the Affirming Works church-partnership project.

The concept is that everyone is equal on the mat - whether you're the victim or perpetrator, a contractor or church leader.

## EMERGING THEMES OF FOFOLA E FALA AS:

- a 'converging concept' (Fa'utaha)
- a 'kolo malu' (place of safety) and a 'kolo hufanga'(place of refuge)
- a 'powerful and living platform'

Fa'utaha is a Tongan metaphorical concept that explains the impact of Fofola e fala. The literal translation of Fa'utaha is unity, togetherness, strong sense of harmony and being in balance as a collective.

Fa'utaha is a concept that converges relationships, meaning it applies to both husband-wife, parents-children, and across broader family relationships.

It conveys the 'essence' of fofola e fala, and explains the depth of impact that Fofola e fala creates, building strong relationships through quality time; for family time.

*"The concept is that everyone is equal on the mat - whether you're the victim or perpetrator, a contractor or church leader"*

For a participating church elder, Fofola e fala was "a significant learning about the importance of quality time, a time of prayer, and devotion, sharing (talatalanoa) and bringing each members voice to the family circle."

A church elder said it was "the proper forum for constructing and nurturing of the Tongan family."

"No wonder our ancestors practiced this method, reinforcing the significance of quality time of talanoa of Dad, Mum and the children to develop and maintain oneness within the family structure."

**TOPIC:** Ethnic specific indigenous approaches to family restoration

**LEAD RESEARCHER:** Dr Siautu Alefaio-Tugia

**STUDENT RESEARCHER:** Sesimani Havea

# PACIFIC RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS

## WHITIREIA NZ



**Identifying Cook Islands Maori concepts and practices of atonement, reparation and forgiveness to inform the teaching content of Pacific and non-Pacific social work students showed the need for more Cook Islands academics to publish in this area.**

As a Cook Islander and the Social Work Leader at Whitireia New Zealand, Jean Mitaera loved nothing more than seeing Pacific student researchers of all ages participating at the Pasefika Proud Fono Power Lunch Sessions on Pacific Research Scholarships.

"It shows more of us are participating in the changes we want and need for ourselves as Pacific people," she says.

To move forward, however, Jean says the need to look back and reflect is as important as ever.

What's more, she adds, the increasing number of Pacific research students provides a more relatable, inclusive insight into their own history.

The aim of Whitireia New Zealand's literature review for the Pacific Research Scholarships is to "Identify Cook Islands Maori concepts of atonement, reparation and forgiveness to inform the teaching content of Pacific and non-Pacific social work students".

### KEY LEARNINGS:

- Literature that mentioned family violence was recent and adopted New Zealand frameworks
- Historical accounts were often translated and documented by missionaries
- Few academics/scholars of Cook Islands descent had published in this area

### LITERATURE REVEALED THEMES OF:

- Punishment, revenge and banishment
- Gifting or taking of a child, woman and/or land
- Revising key words led to new potential concepts of reconciliation, mediation and healing – enua (land) and ngati (family/tribe) concepts and practices

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

- An urgent need for further research on enua and ngati narratives, regarding reconciliation, mediation and healing as a way of promptly responding to the dearth of literature
- Cook Islands Maori tumu korero (the source, cause or reason) and scholars must uiapa'anga (meet) to theorise and name the concepts that will inform Cook Islands family violence/social work/community practice

**TOPIC:** Cook Islands practices of atonement, reparation and forgiveness

**LEAD RESEARCHER:** Jean Mitaera

**STUDENT RESEARCHER:** Helena Filipo and Langi Paasi

# PACIFIC FAMILY VIOLENCE TRAINING PROGRAMME



In a working lunch, Gayle Lafaiali'i (Alliance Health Plus) and Fa'amatuainu Tino Pereira (Pacific Adviser) presented on progress on revising and finalising the ethnic-specific Pacific Family Violence Training Programmes, designed to build the capability of Pacific practitioners and influencers to provide culturally appropriate responses to Pacific families where there is family violence.

The *Nga Vaka o Kāiga Tapu Framework* has been combined with family violence best practice to develop the Pacific Family Violence Training Programmes.

The Pacific Family Violence Training Programme has been designed to provide, implement and embed a set of competencies for workers across the family violence system, from primary prevention to long term recovery.

Developed and piloted in Auckland and Porirua from 2012-2014, the programme had an evaluation completed in September 2014. Alliance Health Plus is overseeing the revision and implementation of the training programmes in light of the evaluation and as the first ethnic specific programme, the Samoan pilot is currently underway.

The nine-day programme brings together both cultural knowledge and an understanding of all forms of family violence for victims, perpetrators, their children and other family members.

The programme has been designed to be interactive with time for in-depth case studies and group work. A manual has been developed as well as an online Moodle learning site to support participants with other relevant resources.

"The strengths-based programme has been designed around Pacific values and cultural practices that protect the family," Gayle Lafaiali'i Project Manager for the Alliance Health Plus' Community Initiatives Hub says.

Gayle says the 7-module course will cover family violence dynamics, statistics and legislation as well as applying Samoan cultural concepts on how to work effectively with Samoan families, victims and perpetrators.

"This is a community-driven solution, very hands-on and practical for those working at the coal face," she says.

*"The strengths-based programme has been designed around Pacific values and cultural practices that protect the family,"*

- **Gayle Lafaiali'i**

"It's ideal for Church leaders or teachers, early childhood centre managers or anyone engaging with Samoan families trying to address family violence.

"Additionally, frontline social workers will find the cultural models a wonderful resource to applying Samoan ways of knowing that will resonate with their community. Having ethnic-specific training programmes will support those who work with Pacific families to provide a more effective response."

The next phase of the work will be the revision of the seven other ethnic-specific training programmes.

# PASEFIKA PROUD MARKETING AND MEDIA



We need to engage with our people and our communities in formats that connect with them to promote healthy and respectful relationships. In a working lunch session, Amatailevi Stella Muller (Bright Sunday) and Yolande Ah Chong (Pacific Media Network) presented on Pasefika Proud Marketing and Media.

As the Pacific Media Network's culture and community representative, Yolande Ah Chong realised the need to provide compelling, challenging, but ultimately positive messages to promote Pasefika Proud.

Pasefika Proud messages are crafted in a cultural context to help reinforce values around family, honour and respectful relationships.

Yolande says cultural metaphors around families and relationships in the form of narratives create a sense of validation towards the way to think and behave, and investing in story-telling is more effective than traditional forms of advertising for Pacific families.

As part of a national Pasefika Proud campaign, the network's team has performed live through a national roadshow, on video and on radio via Pacific station 531 PI.

The roadshow performance featured families from Tongan, Samoan and Niuean perspectives.

Tonga - *Fofola e fala kae talanoa e kaiga*

Samoa - *O le mea uliuli i le mata o tama o lona tuafafine*

Niue - *Hifi Ulu*

The Tongan theme was based around a father who was humble and loving.

"He put his wife right up there," says Yolande.

"And he spoke of how his own father and grandfather were humble and patient. Whenever issues of conflict arose they reverted to the Fofola e fala process, where the wife's voice was also heard."

The Samoan performance - *O le mea uliuli i le mata o tama o lona tuafafine* - was based around having respect for your

siblings, in particular a brother's respect for his sister.

"He loves and cherishes his wife, but he honours and respects his sister, who he has always looked after."

Yolande admits the different platforms provided their own challenges, as radio couldn't provide the visual impact of their videos and live performances.

But the overall theme remained consistent throughout.

*"Cultural metaphors around families and relationships in the form of narratives create a sense of validation towards the way to think and behave"*

"At the end of the day we were able to ensure that our messages were positive and loving, and provided a sense that ensured a feeling of safety and security."

A video developed by Bright Sunday for Pasefika Proud was also screened during the Fono.

Amatailevi Stella Muller says it was framed around the responsibilities of families to intervene and break the cycle of violence.

"We pieced the video to target Pacific professionals, featuring a contemporary New Zealand-born Pacific couple and family confronting abuse," she says.

"As friends and family, it's our business to intervene, not to pass judgement, but to call it out before it escalates."

# UNDERSTANDING AND ACTION THROUGH FAITH



Pastors Apolo and Maria Simeona



Rev Masunu Utumapu

**During faith-based workshops, it became apparent how passionate the delegates were about finding solutions to the issues of family violence within their congregations and communities.**

The large workshop room was humming as delegates, representing various churches from around New Zealand, put their heads together in deep and lengthy discussions. Despite their differences in beliefs and faiths, some key messages on the issues at hand remained consistent.

Those messages included the need to action solutions, and addressing family violence within churches by first understanding families within their congregations through talanoa (communication).

Pastors Maria and Apolo Simeona founded Kings Lake Living Waters in Taupo a decade ago. Maria says that “it’s about acknowledging who they are as people, and not just as part of our church.”

The Tokelauan/Samoan speaks both languages fluently. She came from a Samoan church to pastoring a multi-ethnic one with her Tokelauan-born husband, and understands the need to have healthy dialogue with her congregation, including being open about subjects such as family violence and sexual abuse.

“We all need to go back to basics by going to the families to try and understand why there is violence. Learning more about their backgrounds assists us in what we can do as a church to help them,” she says.

Pastor Maria, who’s also a whanau worker for Family Start in Taupo, has worked with families at risk of drugs, alcohol and family violence. She stresses the importance for churches to respond to the needs of vulnerable Pacific communities.

“We helped a family in our own church who had been through family violence,” she recalls.

“We didn’t know about it (the family violence) as a church, but I was aware through a social worker within the community. I was able to dip into it via the church and provide the church perspective in helping them out. They are now getting counselling from a Fijian pastor who we work closely with.”

That’s how, Pastor Maria says, our churches should be involved – first understanding what and how they can help before getting the help they need. In some cases she says extra measures need to be taken to ensure the safety of those involved.

“It’s not until we take their loved ones out of their home into a safe house and cannot find the family anywhere that they tend to come back to the church and ask for help.”

Rev Masunu Utumapu, from Samoan Methodist Church in Auckland South Synod, runs various groups and activities for each age group in his church, dedicating his time outside of church hours to building relationships between them.

*“We all need to go back to basics by going to the families to try and understand why there is violence”*

*- Pastor Maria Simeona*

“As a minister, I’m trying in so many ways to help my congregation, especially parents. We have small group discussions on Sunday. In the morning the preacher preaches the gospel,” he says.

“During the evening session the group of matais (chiefs) and kids sit together to discuss and try to explain and clarify what has been said by the minister.”

It’s one way his congregation attempts to strengthen relationships within families to address family violence.

The Reverend says that it’s important to help parents be more understanding, and “to become more educated, so that they know how to properly discipline themselves towards their kids”.

“You can’t help unless the parents understand.”

He adds the Fono was “a good thing”.

# AGENTS OF CHANGE



**When Malagaoma Allan Va'a began mentoring South Auckland Pacific youth in the mid-1980s the young men that he worked with saw him as a big brother. He laughs at how he's seen by them now.**

"I went from being a big brother to an uncle or father-type figure, and now I'm a grandpa," he laughs.

The faces have changed, but not the rebellious traits of the youths he mentors. Allan works with young fathers – some barely into their teens - as part of Iosis Family Solutions, a non-profit faith-based organisation in Manurewa. He aims to instil key principles, such as teaching them respect and honouring their word.

"It's amazing how many of our young fathers are so blasé about it. If they're invited to attend an event, they'll say yes, but won't turn up. There's no sense of guilt, either," he says.

"It's connected to the way they see themselves. It's like, 'No one sees me as being important, so why bother?' I try and make them see that their word is their bond. It underpins their reputation. A man of their word is worth so much in our community."

Through his work Allan has confronted the reality of the challenges and dangers faced by youth within their own family environment. For all the talk about the sacrifices made by Pacific families, Allan has seen too many children on the receiving end of family violence.

"The sad reality is that some kids we've dealt with have been preyed upon by their own parents."

Despite the trauma, Allan says his young men still crave for a loving family environment. His role is teaching them to be the best father they can be.

"The Dads might not be perfect, and have had many negative experiences, but they love their children. They want to protect them from what many of them had to endure."

Allan attended the Fono to see "if the rhetoric about troubled youth had changed". It has, he says, due to the impact of social media.

"The access to material on social media can drive our young kids crazy," he says.

He enjoyed the engagement during the session for Social Service Providers, but added that the Fono's value will ultimately be determined by what follows.

"There are some great young Pacific leaders coming through," he says. "But among our community leaders there's too much gate-keeping and trying to protect what they've got, instead of sharing the knowledge."

Allan understands funding is always a key issue, prompting being questioned as to whether he would continue to do the same work without it.

"Damn straight I would," is his passionate response.

He recalls getting a call in the early morning hours from the sister of a well-known street fighter who had badly cut his arm and needed to go to hospital. He wouldn't go. Allan contacted him and his voice was all the affirmation required to seek help. That was a turning point for a young man, who now captains his local premier rugby league team.

"I've had grown men come through our doors who I had worked with when they were young boys. They say they just wanted to thank me personally for turning their lives around," he says.

"Things like that give me a level of satisfaction that no amount of money can buy. Sure, a lot of the time the job is thankless. But we don't do it for thanks. We do it for change."

## FONO FEEDBACK



*Kabwea Tiban – Project Manager – K'aute Pasifika Trust  
Aere Tai Pacific Midland Collective*

*"There was a real purpose to the Fono and we appreciated the strong support from MSD to make such an event happen. The overall content was good, but I found the group workshop for the Social Service providers on the first day was too crowded and rushed. Coming from the regions, I appreciated the focus on sustainability and was interested in the discussion moving towards a formal funding agency separated from the mainstream funders."*

# THE ROLE OF PACIFIC LEADERS



Fa'amatuainu Tino Pereira



Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph

As Pacific leaders, we have a role to play. What can we do more of – differently and collectively for our communities? What do we need more of? In the Pacific Leaders' Address, Reverend Dr Tokerau Joseph and Fa'amatuainu (Inu) Tino Pereira contributed perspectives on the role the Church and Providers play in strengthening Pacific families.

## FA'AMATUAINU TINO PEREIRA

*Pacific consultant on public sector issues and a leading conference facilitator*

When Inu Pereira left a successful and lengthy broadcasting career with Radio New Zealand in the late 1990s, he thought his days in the media spotlight had passed. He was mistaken. Mainstream media embraced having an articulate and media-savvy spokesperson representing the Pacific community. But interviewer-turned-interviewee soon found the tables turned against him.

"I had been asked to speak as a Pacific person, specifically for the Samoan community, at a gathering about domestic violence organised by the Ministry of Justice," Inu recalls.

***"Collectively we should work together for all of our Pacific families. They are our people and our responsibility"***

*- Fa'amatuainu Tino Pereira*

"When some people said that smacking and using physical force on our families was part of our culture, or fa'a Samoa, I remonstrated that such abuse was inexcusable and there was nothing cultural about it."

Inu faced the wrath of sections of his community. Being on the receiving end of negative nationwide coverage relating to

the Pacific community left him distressed and confused. It also raised painful memories of his own upbringing where violence featured.

Salvation then came from the growing New Zealand-born and educated Pacific population, who supported his decision to speak out. He says the support provided by "the early, courageous NGO Pacific providers and enlightened church ministers" gave him the strength to devote energy towards influencing government structures and policy frameworks for programmes aimed at addressing family violence.

In 2009 he was appointed Chair of the Pacific Advisory Group to the Ministerial Taskforce on for Action on Violence Within Families. In 2012, after years of engaging Pacific communities, it launched *Nga Vaka o Kāiga, a Pacific Conceptual Framework to address family violence in New Zealand*.

The title encompasses words from seven Pacific communities and means 'The Sailing Vessels of Sacred Families'.

Inu knows family violence statistics detailed at the Pasifika Proud Fono show there is still much work to be done. But he is as optimistic as ever.

"Our political representation is growing. Our church communities are increasingly asset-owning entities," he says.

"We are top of the tops from music, sport, artistic performances and general entertainment. Our academic class is growing and we have a number of very wealthy people, although none will reveal themselves .... for obvious reasons.

"But collectively we should work together for all of our Pacific families. They are our people and our responsibility."



## REV DR TOKERAU JOSEPH

*Reverend of the First Church of Otago*

As the first and only Cook Islands Presbyterian minister to hold a doctorate, Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph appreciates the value of knowing one's history and culture.

While his doctorate explored ethnic relations in congregations of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand, his keynote address at the Pasefika Proud Fono displayed a keen knowledge of the history of Pacific churches throughout New Zealand.

***“What is our gospel response to end the economic and employment disparities our communities face?”***

**- Tokerau Joseph**

“These congregations were initially pan-Pacific in nature, like the PIC (Pacific Island Church), which enabled different island groups to worship and work together in ways that forged a cooperative life and identity,” says Dr Joseph, who was born in Rarotonga but moved to New Zealand at the age of five.

### PACIFIC PROVIDER SNAPSHOT

#### *TOA Pacific Inc*

Auckland Region

TOA Pacific advocates on behalf of Pacific Older People and Pacific Aiga Carers, delivering programmes for Pacific seniors. TOA is the acronym for Treasured Older Adults, an accolade given to older people as carriers of wisdom and treasures of yester years.

Programmes include the MAAMA programme – health and disability information/education for Pacific older people in Counties Manukau, Empower to Pamper – prevention of elder abuse and neglect for Pacific people in Auckland, TOAPAC – a national network for all Pacific Aiga Carers, MATALA programme – adult literacy, Asiasiga and Tama Health and Wellbeing – home visitation for older people service and Time Out – adult literacy programme catering for people with Alzheimer’s or who have suffered from a stroke.

### PACIFIC PROVIDER SNAPSHOT

#### *Taeaomanino Trust*

Wellington Region

Taeaomanino Trust is a social service and health provider based in Porirua. The Trust was formed to provide social services to Pacific people and its vision is for Pacific people to realise their potential with courage and optimism.

The organisation provides culturally appropriate services that improve the social well-being and mental health of Pacific children, families and communities. These include adult services such as alcohol and drug counselling, family therapy, anger management support and a discovery programme focussing on young men, and services for children such as social workers in schools, after school care, home based support and youth programmes.

“Specific-Pacific churches followed giving Pacific people places where they felt they belonged. Their denominational convictions also kept communities connected throughout New Zealand.”

Times have changed. Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph, who also runs a Samoan and Cook Islands service, says Pacific churches, as agents of positive change, “need to ask how they can make a difference to the current challenges of Pacific people.”

“What is our gospel response to end the economic and employment disparities our communities face?” he asks.

“What part can we play to alleviate the plight of the increasing number of the homeless, living on the streets or in their cars? And how might our theology engage with cultural assumptions about family violence, so that the dignity and wellbeing in our families are upheld?”

Dr Joseph knows Pacific churches in New Zealand have something to offer their people, as they do to the country they now call home.

“We are taught to love thou and thy neighbour. If there was ever a matter of Pacific people standing up to make a difference, as Jesus did, it was through the church. If there was ever a time to do so again, it is now.”

### PACIFIC PROVIDER SNAPSHOT

#### *P.A.C.I.F.I.C.A INC*

Nationwide

PACIFICA INC was established in 1976 and is a national organisation with 17 branches operating throughout New Zealand. The organisation seeks to provide opportunities for Pacific women to contribute effectively to the cultural, social, economic and political development of Aotearoa. The regional structure ensures connectivity within regions and to share learnings and be part of the policy and strategic direction of the organisation.

PACIFICA INC works in partnership with a variety of organisations including Creative New Zealand, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, local councils and the Ministry for Pacific Peoples. PACIFICA INC recently completed 10 years of health education and promotion for the Breast and Cervical Screening programmes.



# "COLLABORACTION"



As Pacific leaders we have a role to play. Exploring what we can do more of, differently and collectively, for our communities and what we need more of, was the focus of faith-based and provider-based workshops on Day One. On Day Two, leaders from faith and provider organisations from the regions discussed how we can take action at a regional level and work better together for our families.

## *Role of Pacific Leaders – Church & Community*

The success of any church is based on the success of its families. Church leaders have trusted relationships with families, and can be part of the solutions to strengthen and support their families. Church leaders from many denominations participated in a workshop, to identify key issues for their families, communities and churches, and possible solutions to address these.

## *Role of Pacific Leaders – Pacific NGOs*

Pacific NGO's from all over New Zealand were asked to explore what they fear most, and how they can be more sustainable and innovative. They were also tasked with identifying what solutions they are prepared to share as well as their preferred funding model.

## *Working together in the regions*

Within four regional clusters - Auckland and Northland, Midlands, Central, and South Island – leaders discussed ways of collaborating regionally to keep families and communities safe. It was also an opportunity to get together to see what others provide for vulnerable Pacific families.



# ROLE OF PACIFIC LEADERS PACIFIC NGOS

## WHAT COMPROMISES OUR SUSTAINABILITY?

- A Pacific model requires leadership in governance, people, environment and social wellbeing
- We want to determine our sustainability and determine what good outcomes are for our people
- Lack of investment in infrastructure
- The changeable policies/processes/systems or even a change to government impacts on momentum for social services/work
- Inadequate funding and short term funding terms. We are asked to dream big but funding terms are short. We are offered \$10 for \$20 worth of work
- Many NGOs are in 'survival' mode and cannot think of sustainability



*"Resources need to go hand in hand with a coherent, coordinated strategy. That could happen across government, because many of our providers are dealing with multiple government agencies for similar services that we are providing to Pacific people"*

## INNOVATIVE IDEAS

- Applying our 'Pacific-ness' but moving from secular to faith-based models of support/service delivery
- Frontload the investment on the child at risk before they cost the state
- Define innovation and funding models through our eyes
- Building new collective responses, with local councils, DHBs, NGOs
- Pre-colonisation was focussed on collective well-being. Our present is focussed on building collaborations without government funding. Our future may be more about building connections and collaborations with others such as universities and businesses
- Co-design with funders and create a platform to connect / share data
- Scarcity can breed innovation (for example Otara Scorpions – where rugby league provided a pathways out of offending)



## WHAT CAN WE SHARE?

- Technology can be an enabler
- “Grow your own” storytelling for evidence
- Establishment of a Pacific disabilities organisation
- Commitment to long term family violence training
- Use of social media
- Listening to our elders to open doors to wisdom
- Align with larger collectives for economies of scale



*“The environment for innovation requires courage and a new way of doing things, including things that haven’t been done before”*



## PREFERRED FUNDING MODEL

1. Partnerships with Churches
2. Collectives
3. Pacific funding agency

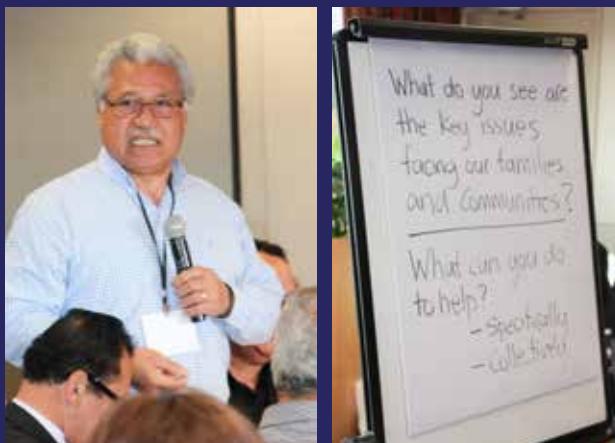


# ROLE OF PACIFIC LEADERS CHURCH & COMMUNITY

## KEY ISSUES IN OUR FAMILIES, COMMUNITIES & CHURCHES

### SOCIO-ECONOMIC ISSUES

- Financial stress that results in reduced access to health and education
- Housing affordability / overcrowding / homelessness
- Multiple jobs to make a living wage – so no time for family
- Obligations to families back home
- Lack of financial literacy



### HEALTH

- Mental health issues – anxiety, suicide
- Addiction/ abuse issues – drugs, alcohol, gambling
- Obesity/ diabetes

### NEW MIGRANTS

- Language barriers
- Acclimatisation
- Lack of employment
- Impact of moving into the homes of already struggling families



### GENERATIONAL GAPS BETWEEN PARENTS AND CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- Poor communication
- Loss of cultural values
- Disconnection

### FAMILY VIOLENCE

- Physical/sexual/ emotional abuse
- Cyber-bullying
- Physical discipline



### FAMILY

- Lack of family centred activities, no fun times
- Lack of fathers
- Climate issues back home and the impact on the families there and here
- Pride in seeking help

### ISSUES FOR THE CHURCH

- Lack of vision by Church leadership
- Loss of Christian values
- Lack of contemporary relevance
- No voice of youth/young adults
- Churches can be inward looking
- Lack of succession planning in Churches
- Parents and children attending different Churches
- Credibility – need to demonstrate they can deliver

*“From earliest years, Pacific churches in New Zealand have, and continue to, exercise strong pastoral and social justice roles for our Pacific people. As religious institutions, the formation and transformational capacity of Pacific churches upon its members cannot be underestimated”*

# COLLECTIVE SOLUTIONS IDENTIFIED

## CHURCH LEADERSHIP

- Walk the talk as leaders
- Be relevant and upskill leaders in advocacy and service provision
- Build capacity
- Apply flexible and holistic approaches
- Take a proactive approach, not a reactive approach
- Be transparent as Church leaders
- Engage and involve youth in decision making
- Using the Bible as the foundation, operating from a common theological foundation and using consistent messages
- Women Church leaders being more visible and involved in the conversations
- Develop a theological position on family violence
- Supporting families in areas such as:
  - positive change starts from the home
  - setting family vision and goals
  - making good lifestyle choices
- Start topical conversations in the community eg; suicide, poverty, alcohol abuse, sexuality etc



*“What’s the difference between an NGO and Church? The Church is the ‘sleeping giant’ when it comes to achieving policy for Pacific people. That can’t be ignored”*

## GOVERNMENT

- Policy makers being more open to hearing the views of Church leaders
- Partner Church and Government and allow Churches to feedback on proposed policies and changes from the start
- Support a living wage
- Affordable services including subsidised dental care

## COLLABORATION/PARTNERSHIPS

- Create an environment to ‘talk’ as leaders eg annual national fono
- ‘Unify’ to become one of the largest service providers – under God’s flag: one vision, one mission
- Work with providers for a common purpose
- Coordinate and mobilise resources within the community
- Leverage the strong people base Churches have
- Utilise media technology to show case strong Pacific families
- Connecting with local NGOs, Government and private sector to understand relevant information and the types of services available
- Capitalise on the collective asset base of Churches

## PROVISION OF A RANGE OF PROGRAMMES AND SERVICES THROUGH CHURCHES SUCH AS:

- Child rearing, life skills
- Homework centres
- Financial literacy
- Healthier lifestyles
- Prevention awareness through activities such as retreats, youth groups
- Orientation of migrants to adapt and adjust, not just a pamphlet
- Family violence programmes

# WORKING TOGETHER IN THE REGIONS

For many Pacific leaders, this was the first time they had joined together in their regions to discuss how to respond to the needs of vulnerable Pacific families. Many valued the opportunity to network and share what support and services each provided in their communities and called for more regional fono. Common themes included a need to network and share resources better together within regions; leverage off respective strengths; form collective voices to better support and advocate for our communities. The theme was “Collaboraction”- to take more action together.

## SHARED UNDERSTANDING AND TRUST

A broad understanding of the services available to a community within the region is crucial to being able to work better together, advocate appropriately, reduce duplication and identify gaps in services and/or support.

Faith and social service providers can then determine how to leverage off each other to promote well-being in their community. We have to model the strengths-based approach in our dealings with each other.

New technology (eg: the Neighbourly App) can support the implementation of a regional directory and support regular communication.

There was a need to build shared vision and goals for our community – this will focus us on the needs of our community and build collaborative actions.



*“Working alongside Pacific providers at the Fono provided reassurance and strength for an organisation like ours, which is small and geographically isolated. We gained ideas as to how we can better use the regional collectives. The need for leadership is important in the sense that we need to see every one of us as leaders in our own right. Hearing from and understanding the church base was also valuable and made us realise the opportunities to work together. We have to make it work”*



## COLLECTIVES

Forming collectives and/or coalitions can provide a platform to share and advocate more meaningfully on behalf of vulnerable Pacific communities. It can provide greater visibility and resources to smaller groups.



## NEW MODELS OF ENGAGEMENT

Traditional models of engagement may not be adequate – complex problems need innovative engagement solutions. Regions will need to determine how to include both Church leaders with NGO providers. Both have similar goals – the well-being of Pacific families and communities. There was a call to form true partnerships with Government.



## TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

There was a strong desire to share learnings regionally, including what works for whom and how.

There was a call to translate research into practice.

There was a need to share training and resources help build capacity and competence to respond to the needs of families.





### Tina McNicholas – Viti Weligitoni Community Association

*"The speaking line-up and topics were informative and timely, given the significant transformations taking place within the social development sector, and the ever increasing burden of family violence. It was encouraging to see so many Pacific church and NGO/social services leaders together, creating what seemed to be a genuine willingness to work together and form partnerships beyond the fono. An area that could have been included in the programme was some time for ethnic-specific caucus, to enable more open, in-depth conversations which allow us to unpack culturally sensitive issues associated with family violence within our ethnic communities. The fono generated an important wave of renewed commitment and resolve to act collectively, and to combine resources as Pasifika across the country."*

### FONO FEEDBACK

### PACIFIC PROVIDER SNAPSHOT

#### LIA TRUST

Auckland Region

LIA (Lalotoa I Aotearoa Community and Social Services Trust) was initially incorporated in 1998 whose services are formulated believing that children and young people should live free from abuse, neglect, poverty and discrimination.

Services provided include basic life skills development programmes for adults, programmes for adult or child/adolescent perpetrators of family violence, counselling and/or programmes for adult victims of family violence, emergency housing, family support services, information, advice and advocacy and social work support.

### PACIFIC PROVIDER SNAPSHOT

#### Pinikilicious

Wellington Region

Pinikilicious was launched in 2014 as a community outreach campaign that encourages church communities to pay tribute to the contribution of Pasifika women in churches, communities and families and to make the health and wellbeing of Pasifika women and girls' one of their priorities. The group encourages Pasifika women to be resilient, healthy and courageous with a sense of fun and be part of campaigns and events to benefit them and their families

The group have recently been involved with the Pasifika Proud family violence awareness campaign and is targeting members of 12 - 15 churches associated with the Mafutaga Ekalesia So'ofa'tasi Poirura, and are of different denominations such as EFKS, Presbyterian, Methodist and Catholic.

### PACIFIC PROVIDER SNAPSHOT

#### Pacific Island Women's Refuge

Auckland Region

Pacific Island Women's Refuge is a member of the National Collective of Independent Women's Refuge and offers a 24-hour crisis intervention service for women and children experiencing family violence and abuse, together with emergency accommodation, support, advocacy, telephone counselling and community education programmes.

Services provided include general medical services, dental services, social services, community services, education and Whanau Ora.

### PACIFIC PROVIDER SNAPSHOT

#### Viti Weligitoni Community Association

Wellington Region

The Viti Weligitoni Community Association is the newly-established umbrella group for the Wellington Fijian community. The group's membership includes Churches, local community organisations, traditional confederacy groups and interest groups across the Wellington region. The group works with a number of community groups within the Wellington Fijian and Pacific communities including Wellington Fiji Social Services Trust, Wesley Methodist Church, First Community Trust and Hutt City Methodist.

The purpose of the group is to share information, provide services and events that will benefit members of the community. Viti Weligitoni Community Association is looking at developing and delivering mentoring and leadership programmes targeting Fijian children and young people.

# PROUD TO BE PASEFIKA



**As CEO of South Waikato Pacific Islands Community Services (SWPICS) in Tokoroa for more than a decade, Akarere Henry is proud of their family violence work undertaken since she joined the organisation.**

"We were part of one of the first collectives in the country when we teamed up with three other stakeholders – the Salvation Army, local iwi and the Tokoroa Council of Social Services," she says.

"It works well in providing a greater capacity that still allows us at SWPICS to work on services that pertain to our community. It was a forward-thinking approach that allowed a greater common approach and feeling that the whole town was behind us dealing with family violence."

From a population that peaked to 20,000 by the early 1970s, when the Kinleith Paper Mill was at its peak, Tokoroa's population now stands at 13,000. With the mill employing far fewer people today, unemployment has increased, forcing a number of people to move out of town.

Akarere says an increasing number of households consist of grandparents taking care of their grandchildren, while the parents live and work out of town where the jobs are.

Statistics state family violence has increased with it. Akarere disagrees.

"There's more awareness and speaking out about it and that's a good thing. As more people pluck up the courage to come forward and report it, which they wouldn't have done 10 years ago, of course the stats will grow," she says.

"We're also better off in the fact that the tools and our know-how to support our people are better."

As a member of the Pacific Advisory Group that designed *Nga Vaka o Kāiga Tapu Framework*, which helped drive Pasefika Proud, Akarere is proud of the work being done.

A highlight was when Pacific Media Network brought its Auckland team to Tokoroa to perform a drama-based roadshow. Akarere describes the performances as uniquely Pacific, with humour mixed in with raw and at times graphic performances.

"When someone watching it says 'Hey, that's what happens in my family' and recognises the intense display of damage and pain family violence has caused, it's a start," she says.

"Pasefika Proud is a great advocate for our people taking responsibility for ourselves, instead of labouring a chip on our shoulder that somehow we're owed something."

Akarere is proud to be of Cook Islands descent, with her father from Aitutaki, her mother from Penrhyn and her husband from Pukapuka. She's also proud to be born and bred in Tokoroa. Most of all, however, she's proud at how united the town's Pacific population is.

"Tokoroa is quite unique in the blending of Pacific cultures. It gives us strength, as we see with Pasefika Proud."

## FONO FEEDBACK



### *Fonoti Pati Umaga – disability advocate*

*"Family violence involving people with disabilities is under the radar within our sector. While it's acknowledged, I know the services are not being accessed as much as they should be by our communities. There remains a stigma around disabilities, as though it's some kind of curse."*

# SHINING A LIGHT OF HOPE



**The soft, reserved tones of Rev Linda Teleo Hope couldn't mask the passion of her feelings at the Pasefika Proud Fono's Keynote address, which included the announcement of a new child-centred entity aimed at supporting vulnerable children and families.**

Linda acknowledged the addresses by Jack Carroll, Programme Director Investing in Children, NZ Police Superintendent Tusha Penny and the Q&A Panel Session conducted by Ruth Palmer (MSD) and Emma Powell (ACC).

But it compelled her to raise whether the *Nga Vaka o Kāiga Tapu Framework* – launched under much fanfare by MSD in 2012, will ever be acted upon.

*"That's why I'm so passionate about the research we've done. We're shining a light in an area filled with so much darkness."* - Linda Teleo Hope

"I've been working with our communities in a voluntary capacity for such a long period of time, and we believed the work we did towards the *Nga Vaka o Kāiga Tapu Framework* was groundbreaking in so many ways," says Linda.

She was the lead contributor to the Tokelau content in the Framework document, and is both the Tokelau and Tuvalu National Community Minister for the Presbyterian Church of NZ.

"We were able to bring our competencies in our languages to the fore – focusing on the key relationships with an aim of restoring them within families," says Linda.

"Of course there's challenges because of the perpetrators, but who will take them apart from us? How well prepared are we and how do we address these issues?"

Particularly, Linda adds, when some elders and so-called leaders are part of the problem. She believes too many subjects are regarded as taboo and the time is now for families and communities to confront them.

"That's why I'm so passionate about the research we've done. We're shining a light in an area filled with so much darkness."

Rev Linda also found hope for Pacific communities in the positive way that churches and social service providers engaged at the conference.

"One of the biggest outcomes for me was the desire to collaborate, particularly between faith and social service providers. Instead of protecting our little piece of the pie there was a genuine feeling of wanting to talk and share," she says.

"We got an inkling of the power of what God's love can do and attending this conference was totally worthwhile. All I ask is for respect of our work and our intellect and appreciate what we have accomplished as small communities."

## FONO FEEDBACK



### *Dr Aiiloilo Elise Puni – Community Leader & Business Practitioner*

*"The Fono provided the opportunity for both the faith and social services sector from various regions to share their experiences and see how we could gain from them. But my concern is that it won't affect the trend of government agencies and large organisations like the DHBs to move into service provisions. This side-lines us from fully participating in the economic development of New Zealand. Our Pacific communities are still seen as consumers rather than producers or service providers. Setting aside more Pacific-specific resources is the only way we can address that imbalance."*

# BUILDING MOMENTUM



## TĒNĀ KOUTOU KATOA, KAM NA MAURI, FAKAALOFA LAHI ATU, TALOHA NI, NI SA BULA VINAKA, FAKATALOFA ATU, MALO E LELEI, KIA ORANA, TALOFA LAVA

As the Pasefika Proud National Pacific Community Leaders Fono in Auckland came to a conclusion, I was energised, excited and a little relieved by the passion and commitment shown by everyone at the Fono.

We were all focussed on mobilising our Pacific communities to play an active role to positively strengthen our responses to our families. We are at that critical 'tipping point'. We have an opportunity to positively engage with how government supports vulnerable Pacific children, young people and their families.

This report is a vital resource to continue to spark conversations about the ways we can collectively address violence and abuse within our families.

Bringing faith communities to the Fono alongside social service providers was a significant point of difference to previous events.

The Church has a significant cultural and spiritual role in the lives of Pacific peoples. Almost three-quarters - 73% - of New Zealand's total Pacific population, are affiliated to a church. The success of any church is based on the success of its families. Church leaders have long-standing and trusted relationships with their families that will outlast any connection with government agencies or social service providers, so why not engage with them to effect positive change for our families? We cannot afford to ignore the potential of the Church as a change agent in the lives of Pacific families.

This is a genuine opportunity to equip our Pacific Church leaders with the necessary tools to better support their families to be strong and successful - so they can start leading the change.

Providers welcomed opportunities to share their knowledge, expertise and connect with others who work with vulnerable families and to connect with those in their region - an opportunity they do not get often enough.

There was the goodwill, energy and desire to do things differently. While resources were discussed, more often the conversation turned to what actions can be taken to ensure that services and support are delivered to achieve best outcomes for families and how any gaps can be filled.

With each generation, we're seeing new leaders emerge. We're now into our third or fourth generations of New Zealand-born, who still identify as Pacific. There is an increasing proportion who have mixed ethnicity as well.

We're also seeing a cultural renaissance, a desire to learn our languages and understand our practices. How can we build on that groundswell to turn our knowledge and expertise into providing relevant tools to deliver services that respond to our people most in need, while also allowing our cultures to thrive in New Zealand? As we all go about our work, we should constantly ask this of ourselves.

There's an expression which goes 'no one else is coming' to highlight the urgency and responsibility we have to lead the change. The Fono created an opportunity to recast the vision, mobilise the movement and consider opportunities to activate this at strategic, national and regional levels.

Strong, safe, vibrant and successful families are our asset base for our future. We hope this report and the Fono will build a groundswell of action so more of our people can benefit. At the end of the day, it is 'Our Families, Our People and Our Responsibility'.

The momentum for positive transformation has started. Let's build on it.

### LIZ TANIELU

*National Director Pacific  
Ministry of Social Development*

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Pacific Unit, Ministry of Social Development, would like to express our deepest appreciation to all those who participated at our engaging, thought-provoking and entertaining Fono. Special acknowledgement goes to our many presenters, facilitators, entertainment and MC, that made the event such a success.

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Hon. Peseta Sam Lotu-liga  
Alfred Ngaro  
Jack Carroll  
Superintendent Tusha Penny  
Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph  
Fa'amatuainu Tino Pereira

## PANEL PRESENTERS

Holika 'Uhila  
Leaupepe Peta Karalus  
Tevita Filisonu'u Funaki  
Ps Tofilau Kerupi Tavita  
Catherine Poutasi  
Odette Frost-Kruse  
Dr Siautu Alefaio-Tugia  
Sesimani Havea



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Eti Puni – Student Researcher

**UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND**  
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**MASSEY UNIVERSITY**  
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Sesimani Havea – Student Researcher

**WHITIREIA NZ**  
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Langi Paasi – Student Researcher



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Ali'imuamua Sandra Alofivae  
Jean Mitaera  
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Ma'a Brian Sagala - Master of Ceremonies  
Leo'o TJ Taotua - Entertainment  
Lime & Soda - Event Management  
House of Décor



## EVENT REPORTING & PHOTOGRAPHY

Oceania Media





# PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS AT THE FONO

## NORTHLAND

Northland Pacific Islands Charitable Trust

## AUCKLAND

Affirming Works  
Alliance Health Plus Trust  
Anglican Trust for Women and Children  
Auckland District Health Board  
Auckland Dream Centre  
Auckland Eastern Bays Kuki Trust  
Auckland University of Technology (AUT)  
Bader Drive Healthcare  
Catholic Church Panmure  
Counties Manukau District Health Board  
Crosspower NZ  
EFKS Blockhouse Bay  
Eternal Christian Fellowship  
Family Life, Papakura Pacific Island Presbyterian Church  
Feiloaiga i Manu - Independent Researcher  
Fonua Ola Network Trust  
Fountain of Praise AOG  
Free Church of Tonga  
Global Lighthouse  
Grace Community Christian Church  
Harbourside Church

Healthy Families Manukau, Manurewa-Papakura  
Kingdom Ambassadors International Fellowship - Auckland  
Kingdomized Church  
Lalotoa I Aotearoa Community and Social Services (LIA) Trust Inc  
Malaeola Catholic Church  
Mangere East Family Services  
Methodist Church of Samoa  
Mother of Divine Mercy Refuge  
Norwestern Cook Island  
Onehunga Cooperating Parish  
Otara PIC  
Pacific Home Care  
Pacific Islands Womens Refuge  
Pasifika Foundation Trust  
Penina Health Trust  
PIC, Papakura  
PIC, Tamaki  
Salvation Army  
Samoa Independent SDA Church  
Seventh Day Adventist of NZ  
St Peter Chanel Catholic Church  
Ta'imua Youth Ministries  
Tangata O Le Moana  
The Dream Centre  
The Fono  
The Free Church of Tonga  
The Village Collective  
TOA Pacific  
Tongan Catholic Chaplaincy  
Tuilaepa Youth Mentoring  
Tuvalu Congregation Christian Church Henderson  
University of Auckland  
Vahefonua Tongan Methodist Mission Trust  
Vaiola Pacific Islands Budgeting Services  
Wesley Church  
Wesley Pukekohe Methodist, Waiuku  
Yeshua Ethos Social Services

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## MIDLANDS

- Aeretai Pacific Provider Collective  
Hastings Methodist Church of New Zealand  
K'aute Pasifika Trust  
King's Force Health  
Kings Lake of Living Water, Taupo  
Kiribati Uniting Church in New Zealand  
Rotorua Pacific Islands Development Charitable Trust  
Samoan Assembly of God - Hamilton  
South Waikato Pacific Islands Community Services  
The Reformed Christian Church of Tuvalu in New Zealand



## SOUTHERN

- Canterbury Fiji Social Services Trust  
EFKS Nelson  
Fale Pasifika O Aoraki Trust Society Inc  
First Presbyterian Church of Otago  
Kimi Hauora Wairau  
Lomipeau South Island Pacific Providers Collective  
Marlborough Pacific Trust  
Pacific Islands and Cultural Trust (PIACT)  
Pacific Trust Canterbury  
Pacific Trust Otago  
Samoan Church Ministers Christchurch  
Tangata Atumotu Trust  
University of Canterbury



## CENTRAL

- Central Pacific Collective  
EFKS Cannons Creek  
EFKS Masterton  
EFKS Upper Hutt  
EFKS/CCC of Samoa, Porirua  
Ekalesia Kelisano  
Tuvalu-Tokelau  
Ekklesia Church  
Epicentre Church  
Evangelical Wesley Church, Wellington  
Folau Alofa Charitable Trust  
Hope Centre NZ  
Hosanna World Outreach Centre  
Kainga Pasifika Services  
King's House Church  
Pacific Graphic Design  
Pacific Health Social Services Porirua  
Pacific Health Service Hutt Valley  
Pacific Islanders' Community Trust of Gisborne  
Pasifika Fanau Aroha  
PIC, Newtown, Wellington  
PIC, Porirua  
PIC, St Davids  
Pinikilicious  
St Andrews Presbyterian Church  
Strong Pacific Families Porirua  
Taeaomanino Trust  
The Family Centre, Petone  
Vaka Pasifika  
Victory Church Porirua  
Wellington Kiribati Catholic Church  
Wellington Region Pasifika Services Inc  
Wesley Samoan Church - Wellington  
Whitireia New Zealand



## NATIONAL

- ACC  
Assembly of God NZ  
Bright Sunday  
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints  
Disabled Persons Assembly NZ Inc.  
EFKSNZ Trust  
Integrity Professionals  
Le Va  
Malatest International  
Massey University  
Methodist Church  
Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment  
Ministry of Social Development  
New Zealand Police  
Oceania Media  
P.A.C.I.F.I.C.A Inc  
Pacific Leaders Forum  
Pacific Media Network  
Vaka Tautua  
Westone Productions



## INTERNATIONAL

- Ministry of Women Community and Social Development, Samoa  
Samoa Observer  
Tongan Health Society Inc.





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