



SOUTH ISLAND FONO

Pacific Community Leaders



24 - 25 NOVEMBER 2016

FONO REPORT

INTRODUCTION

Pacific leaders from churches and social and health services in the South Island gathered at the inaugural South Island Pacific Community Leaders Fono in Christchurch on 24-25 November 2016.

The Fono's purpose was to mobilise Pacific community leaders to work with government and each other to better respond to and support our most vulnerable Pacific children, young people and their families, and to celebrate achievements locally.

The Pasefika Proud tagline 'Our Families, Our People, Our Responsibility' was at the forefront of the two-day Fono. Hosted by the Ministry of Social Development, the Fono built on the National Fono for Pacific Community Leaders held in Auckland on 20-21 June 2016 and the Wellington Pacific Leaders Fono held in Porirua on 20-21 September 2016.

The Fono had a strong youth presence, with representation from youth leaders throughout the South Island contributing.

Liz Tanielu, General Manager Pacific, Investing In Children at the Ministry of Social Development, said the Fono aimed to ignite conversation at a regional level to respond to vulnerable children.

"The aim is to co-design a holistic response for vulnerable Pacific children, young people and their families to achieve better outcomes," she said.

Gráinne Moss, Chief Executive designate of the new Ministry for Vulnerable Children Oranga Tamariki launching on 1 April 2017, talked about the ministry's new child-centred system.

"It is about the voice of the young person being central ... in the past it has sometimes got a little bit lost," she said.

"The government have now really listened to what will make a difference to the system and how that will make a difference to the community."

Over the two-day programme, keynote speakers provided government and Pacific Leader perspectives, while sector and youth focused discussions identified the key issues for vulnerable Pacific children, youth and their families in the South Island, and explored opportunities for collaboration. An overview of Government's work programmes was provided as well as how cultural frameworks can be applied to practice. Regional discussions centred on developing local solutions.

Liz committed to taking the information gathered at the Fono, and coordinating between government, Pacific NGOs and church groups, to inform work going forward.

"We take this opportunity to showcase key information we have gathered, and suggestions made, to work towards the common goal of achieving better outcomes for vulnerable families."



HOW TO READ THIS REPORT

This report aims to summarise the key themes and community voices from the Fono, in the following sections.

Keynote speakers

Points raised by some of the keynote speakers Hon. Peseta Sam Lotu-I'iga, Rev Fitifiti Luatua, Fa'amatuainu Tino Pereira and Gráinne Moss. Ailine Kei was also a keynote speaker.

Issues

A summary of issues faced by young Pacific children, young people and their families in the South Island region, to frame the conversation for action.

Government priorities

An overview of key government agencies' work priorities and how they can work together across government to strengthen responses for Pacific children, young people and their families.

Application of cultural frameworks

Overviews of two frameworks available to support responses to vulnerable Pacific children, young people and their families.

Sector discussions

Discussions between groups of NGOs and church leaders, exploring what more can be done to support our children, young people and their families.

Youth workshops

Discussion with young people and adults on growing the next generation of Pacific leaders.

Working lunches

A selection of family violence initiatives and programmes being delivered.

Local action plans

Summary action plans developed with input from young people.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Government is undertaking a significant work programme to support vulnerable children, young people and their families, with the establishment of the Ministry for Vulnerable Children, Oranga Tamariki on 1 April 2017.

In his keynote address, Minister for Pacific Peoples, Hon. Peseta Sam Lotu-l'iga called on participants to think about the importance of their work and urged them to work better, smarter and together to make positive change for our children, communities and families.

Reverend Fitifiti Luatua, Congregational Minister of the Samoan EFKS Hornby, drew on his experience from more than 30 years living in New Zealand and serving God as an ordained minister, and spoke of the migration challenges many Pacific families face when moving to New Zealand.

Providing a Pacific community leaders perspective, Fa'amatuanu Tino Pereira highlighted the significance of the South Island's Pacific community leaders coming together for the first time in more than ten years, and encouraged delegates to make the most of the opportunity.

Chief Executive designate, Ministry for Vulnerable Children Oranga Tamariki, Gráinne Moss spoke at the Fono dinner about the responsibility of the new ministry and its commitment to working in partnership with Pacific communities to improve outcomes for vulnerable Pacific children and young people.

HON PESETA SAM LOTU-I'IGA

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



In his opening address, the Minister for Pacific Peoples Hon. Peseta Sam Lotu-l'iga questioned whether our Pacific humour sometimes incorporates the acceptance and the normalisation of violence.

Growing up, the Minister recalls how tales of “getting a hiding” by their parents would often result in laughter.

“We joke about the jandal and the salu (broom) and, dare I say it, we used to joke about the sapelu (machete),” he said.

“But is that appropriate behaviour, normalising the violence that too often occurs in our families?”

Peseta says the acceptance of such behaviour led to a reluctance by families to seek the appropriate help when needed. While acknowledging providers are doing their best for their communities, he says the government has and is

committed to providing the resources required. But he also asked each provider to realistically assess how well they're equipped to deal with the issue.

“I see a lot of people that have been involved in social services for a very long time,” he says.

“I ask you to think about whether your services meet the needs of our children, the required standards and whether the services provided to our families and communities are coordinated well.

“We all want to have our kids and families have successful lives, to live the dreams that our ancestors came here believing in. But today is about your response to investing in our children, our families and our communities.”

From a government perspective, Peseta asked providers to think about how they measure their success in dealing with issues and whether the children involved are doing well, not only in terms of education, but general health and wellbeing.

“We all want to have our kids and families have successful lives, to live the dreams that our ancestors came here believing in. But today is about your response to investing in our children, our families and our communities.”

- Hon Peseta Sam Lotu-l'iga

“Think about the importance of role models and what you are doing to make positive change for our kids, communities and families. Work better and smarter and I urge you to work together.”

REVEREND FITIFITI LUATUA

Samoan Congregational Minister of EFKS Hornby



Reverend Fitifiti Luatua drew on his experience from more than 30 years living in New Zealand and serving God as an ordained minister.

“Family violence, abuse of women and children, sexual abuse, drugs and alcohol, suicide, are not mere issues at all. Whether we like it or not, these things happen within surroundings where people live and operate,” he said.

“We need to understand the dynamics of how and why these things occur. We need to be aware of the impacts on our people mentally, physically and spiritually.”

He spoke of the excitement and the challenges faced by Pacific families moving to New Zealand.

“The process of leaving the security and comfort of one’s family and village back home, and moving to NZ is a major transition,” he said.

“When someone arrives in NZ, [pressures build] – simple things like accommodation...paying board or rent...power bills, doctors and healthcare, insurance, school expenses...leisure time, church obligations... the father and mother are working seven days and nights a week. What about the use of alcohol, drugs, gambling?” he said.

“Through my many years of ministry experience, these are the main roots to violence, abuse, sexual abuse and the many problems that affect our families and children.”

He called for more support for Pacific families living in New Zealand.

“This highlights the need for in-depth real immigration preparations for our people before they leave our countries, and the need for ongoing educational and pastoral support when they settle here,” he said.

The Reverend acknowledged the opportunity for delegates coming together at the Fono, and asked them to put aside their differences and work together.

“We must be grateful that we are part of the discussions, for what is the best possible outcomes, in this case for our vulnerable families...We will engage with the decision-makers to what will work best to improve outcomes for our vulnerable Pacific families, and to assure them the protection opportunities they deserve,” he said.

“This is not about me or about yourself, not about the Fijians or Samoans or Tongans. It’s about our Pacific people...We are all aware of our many differences, but that should not stop us from working together.”

“We need to connect and act collaboratively for the best of our vulnerable families and children. And such a call requires us to visit our cultural and spiritual values.”

- Reverend Fitifiti Luatua

He called on the group of Pacific leaders to draw on the cultural and spiritual values, and work together in their unique Pacific way.

“We need to connect and act collaboratively for the best of our vulnerable families and children. And such a call requires us to visit our cultural and spiritual values,” he said.

“How do we do it? The Pasefika way. We work together. Working collaboratively is based on the theological foundation of the vision of the church as the community of God’s people.”

FA’AMATUAINU TINO PEREIRA

Pacific leader on public sector issues and a leading conference facilitator



Pacific community leader Fa’amatua'inu Tino Pereira challenged delegates to set aside differences in order to work together to do what’s best for our communities and for our children.

As with rising with the tide, Fa’amatua'inu asked delegates to rise to the occasion rather than allowing differences to stagnate the search for solutions, “so you can walk out of here and think, ‘We came, we asked, and we did something for ourselves’.”

In his address to the Fono, comprising of government officials, church ministers, leaders, NGOs and community leaders, Fa’amatua'inu asked that they engage in a conversation over the two-day fono that would lead to a better way forward.

Fa’amatua'inu reminded the audience of the history of the first Pacific people who arrived in New Zealand and their first point of contact and connection with each other.

“When our people first arrived in this country, what did they do first? Some of you will tell me that they organised a church,” he says.

“History shows that’s one of the first things our people did when they came here, because it’s a place to gather, to worship and to connect.”

Fa’amatua’inu spoke of how the church was the starting point which led our people to develop NGOs, advisory councils and providers in order to provide for our people, “because our communities deserve the best”.

He asked the South Island Pacific Leaders Fono delegates to recapture that sense of connectivity and collaboration in order to engage in conversation that would allow everyone to move forward together.

He challenged delegates to make their communities proud and take real responsibility by talking about the issues that confront and face them as they decide how they’re going to better look after their children.

“So, can we rise with the tide today?” he asked.

“And can we do what is best for us and for our families?”

GRÁINNE MOSS

Chief Executive designate, Ministry for Vulnerable Children Oranga Tamariki



Caring for New Zealand’s most vulnerable children is a big responsibility but one that Gráinne Moss is taking on with the utmost humility and open-mindedness. As the Chief Executive of the new Ministry for Vulnerable Children Oranga Tamariki, to be launched 1 April 2017, Gráinne is fully aware of the significant responsibility it carries.

As an accomplished executive and long-distance swimmer who has crossed both the English Channel and our own Cook Strait, possessing the stamina for such a demanding role shouldn’t be an issue. But despite her mother’s advice not to, Gráinne accepted the job to head the new ministry, as she’s determined to change New Zealand’s poor record of child abuse.

“It is about the voice of the young person being central ... in the past it has sometimes got a little bit lost,” she says.

“The government had now really listened to what will make a difference to the system and how that will make a difference to the community.”

Gráinne outlines three key areas “which we need to make work

in the future in order to lead an organisation that delivers better services to our children”.

Starting with the new Ministry’s 3100 staff she insisted that there was a need to mould the teams into a great organisation with great services that can be accessed at the right time by the people who need the services the most.

The second is to foster conversations between government departments as well as between the communities and government to sort out the overlaps within the system, which can create confusion as well as barriers to services.

“We have to help the system work better for our kids to get better access.”

The third area, which Gráinne says is important and most pressing, is “making sure that we remain a society that cares for our children and ensures they get the best opportunity to be the best people that they can be”.

“It is important for the voices of different communities to be heard, because culture can be a great strength rather than a great barrier, not only to building services, but in delivering them.”

- Gráinne Moss

“We know Pacific children and young people make up 11% of all of the care and protection reports of concern and 13% involve youth justice,” Gráinne says.

“It’s important I ensure, that in leading the new Ministry, we are responsive to the needs of Pacific children and young people and ensure that services are there for Pacific children so, hopefully in 10, 15 or 50 years’ time, I can look back and say there’s only 5%, or less.”

She says the Pasefika Proud Fono is a key place to start because of the “wealth of experience and expertise in Pacific organisations that can be hugely beneficial” to all of us.

“It is important for the voices of different communities to be heard, because culture can be a great strength rather than a great barrier, not only to building services, but in delivering them.”

The new chief executive says the overhaul of Child, Youth and Family is more than just a name change. She was reassured by the commitment from Parliament and from the public to improving children’s safety and wellbeing in New Zealand.

“If the community can step up in conjunction with the politicians, in conjunction with legislative changes, then I do think there is real hope for the future.”

“I am absolutely prepared to lead an organisation where we empower our social workers to do the best work that they can do for the benefit of children.”

“A lot of these issues are complex and those social workers do have to make very tough calls, and I’m there to support them when the tough calls are the right calls for the kids.”

ISSUES FACING PACIFIC CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES

Across the Fono, workshops identified issues that are faced by Pacific children, young people and their families in the South Island. This helped frame the conversation for action and how Pacific leaders can work together to develop solutions. Participants also identified issues relating to services and working with government as Pacific community leaders. Issues that were identified are outlined below.

ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY YOUTH FOR YOUTH

CULTURE AND TRADITIONS

Understanding traditional culture was considered the cause of conflicts at home, whether because children were not able to speak the language and communicate with elders and parents, or there was a struggle to balance and understand the boundaries of culture at home with New Zealand way of life. Many NZ-born or raised youth identified more with NZ culture.

The common practice of children and young people being seen and not heard left Pacific youth feeling isolated and had a negative impact.



HIGH EXPECTATIONS AND OTHER COMMITMENTS

There was high expectation of parents for young people to achieve at school, perform and participate at Church, sport and other community activities. There was also too much pressure to look after younger siblings and grandparents. Younger siblings were expected to obey the elders and do what they wanted.

There were cultural responsibilities for the eldest child to look after younger siblings and take care of the family. This had an impact on many Pacific youth who may have left school early to look for jobs to contribute to family finances and look after parents and elders. There was pressure on children to give up their own lives to look after their family.

Youth felt unsupported - as there was expectation to do well in everything but there's no time left to study or help with studies or practice or attend training.

There were also negative stereotypes and unrealistic expectations of Pacific youth at school from teachers and coaches - Pacific students felt that teachers expected them to do well in sports only and not academically.

PARENTING AND FAMILY LEADERSHIP

Pacific parents needed to prioritise their own immediate families in NZ and take care of them first before contributing to the extended family. Parents were taking on more than they could handle. Pacific families were expected to send money to families back in the islands to pay for fa'alavelaves regardless of whether families were able to afford them or not.

There was a lack of understanding and communication between parents and their NZ-born/raised children. There was a view that parents sometimes forgot they have children and focus on their jobs and themselves and don't spend time with children.

Having different perspectives to parents was not tolerated at home and made it hard to communicate with parents.

Inter-generational beliefs and values were different and young people needed to be taught about the differences to be able to understand and appreciate these differences.

FINANCIAL CAPABILITY AND DEBT

The lack of proper money management skills and inadequate income caused a lot of stress at home and put strain on all family members.

There was the perception that fa'alavelave were making their families poor and they couldn't afford to have some of the necessities that the average NZ family has. There were too many 'fa'alavelave'.

Parents' lack of budgeting knowledge left them in debt. Youth wanted to learn how to budget and handle money so that they didn't go through the same struggles and so that they could better support their families.

"Our parents spent their lives working in factories to give children a better life, just to pay for fa'alavelave."



OTHER CHALLENGES:

- Lack of knowledge and awareness about services available to Pacific youth and how to access them
- Lack of opportunities for Pacific youth
- Low self-esteem and confidence of Pacific youth, lack of ambition, motivation, acknowledgement and recognition
- Lack of resources for Pacific youth
- Peer pressure
- Lack of role models and leaders
- Family violence and abuse
- Mental health issues

GENERAL ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY PARTICIPANTS

FINANCIAL ISSUES

Financial difficulties and poverty were seen as significant factors that impacted on other issues like family violence, poor housing and health problems.

There was concern that the lack of financial capability of Pacific families led to debt, stress and affected children and relationships. Related issues that were identified included:

- Financial support to extended family
- Generational debt / family support - kids looking after kids, grandparents looking after kids, impacts on health, wellbeing and nutrition
- Lack of money - low incomes, lack of consistent income, lack of living wages and unemployment, forcing children to leave school to find jobs

CULTURAL IDENTITY/FAITH AND CONNECTEDNESS

There was a need to look at the past and now. The dream has changed. What was culture then is not the same now. Fa'aaloalo (respect) and alofa (love) for our parents are expressed differently now for young people, and these impact on identity issues.

There was a lack of spiritual teaching in homes that caused disconnection within families.

Sexism existed and some churches didn't accept this for our young people.

These issues disconnected older Pacific people from young people particularly with culture, as there are different interpretations. "Young people have to put on a mask, they're totally different at school than they are at home".

There was concern about the different issues faced by different groups of migrants - for example the issues faced by NZ born Pacific people were different from the issues faced by children or young people born in the islands that migrated as children or youth. These distinctions needed to be considered when discussing solutions for young Pacific people.

- Identity and multi-ethnicity
- Culture (do as I say and not as I do)
- Disconnection for all young people, children being excluded from Pacific culture groups because they have fair hair and blue eyes
- Loss/erosion/lack of cultural values, knowledge, understanding



CULTURAL TENSION

There are tensions between NZ values and traditional Pacific cultures which leads to tension/discrimination especially as it relates to behaviours at home or at Church. Some of the tension related to how culture and Christian values were used to justify the actions of violence, and the fear of judgment and expectation to conform to mainstream systems.



MIGRATION ISSUES

There were pressures for Pacific migrants coming to NZ, working and adjusting to a different life. There was stress from not having dreams and aspirations fulfilled. There were concerns about immigration status that impacted on ability to care for their family.

A lack of a strong sense of identity impacted on well-being. We have to raise our expectations for ourselves and educate others about what it means to be Pacific.

There was a lack of support/links for Pacific migrants and a lack of knowledge about how to access support.

CHURCH

There was a need for the Biblical/spiritual influence of the church to cater to the needs of young people. But there was agreement of the importance of religion and church in life.

TECHNOLOGY

Parents and church leaders didn't know how to provide support to Pacific children and young people. Much was taught at home and church, but the environment that young people were exposed to outside of this had a huge influence on young people.



YOUNG PEOPLES' NEEDS

There was a need to value and hear young people. Anxiety and pressure to belong to two worlds was taking a toll on our young people.

There was agreement that there was a lack of opportunities for young people in schools, community, church and family.

We need to raise the goals and aspirations of young people. We need better role models in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and more Pacific mentors.

PARENTING

There was a need to provide support to Pacific parents about the new ways of parenting in New Zealand - this was lacking for Pacific people. There was a lack of knowledge especially about transitioning from life in the islands with traditional ways of parenting. Some parents lack understanding to support children / young people. Work pressures impacted on quality time with the families.

Our expectations as fathers were unrealistic and sometimes misaligned. Some fathers also lacked confidence and motivation. Fathers were often poor examples of role models e.g. fighting in front of children

Conflict between the traditional roles of parents and the New Zealand norm was mentioned frequently (this was echoed in the issues raised by youth).

There was a need to find better ways to communicate between young people and their parents. Having time (because of the need to have multiple jobs etc) to spend with children and young people was identified as an issue.



EDUCATION

Lack of knowledge and understanding of the NCEA system was identified as a barrier to parents' involvement in their children's education. There was also a view that education and school environments were not culturally responsive - teachers, resources, policies.

The gap in educational achievement is still an issue.

SOCIETAL ISSUES

There was a view that there was stereotyping and institutional racism and bias that impacted on Pacific youth. There was low expectation of achievement.

HOUSING

Poor quality housing and cost of housing was also raised.



EARTHQUAKES

There were discussions about the impact of the earthquake on service providers and the people of Christchurch. There was post-earthquake stress that was also having an impact (more fatigue).

- Quake related stress and issues
- Earthquake impacts – children and adults

MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION

- Depression
- Suicide – growing issue among Pacific people, huge stigma with suicide and mental illness within culture and Christianity
- Alcohol and drug abuse
- Gambling



ABUSE AND VIOLENCE

- Sexual abuse and incest, and family violence
- Taboo, secrecy, shame
- Children unable to do anything when hurt/harmed, not able to defend, physically, emotionally, mentally
- Bullying

OTHER ISSUES

- Disability – shame, access, fear
- Local specific data regarding Pacific i.e. stats
- Population size, specifically population based funding
- Workforce development

ISSUES RELATING TO SERVICES

THE NEED FOR RESPONSIVE SERVICES

There was a discussion on how there is not one model for the delivery of services targeting Pacific families. We have to transition from the old ways of doing things to a more present/modern way – where services are more responsive to the needs of Pacific people.

There are few services targeting older Pacific people.

FUNDING LEVELS

Providers talked about the tension amongst service providers caused by funding cuts and how this is a barrier to collaboration. There was also a concern that the funding levels are too low to support the services that are needed.



KNOWLEDGE OF SERVICES

It was clear that many Pacific people and even other providers were not aware of other services that were available to provide support to vulnerable families and children. There was no clear or transparent environment or gaps analysis. There was no knowledge of what was available and what support was available.

There was also a caution that some of the reluctance to use services may be because people may be choosing to isolate themselves whether because of discrimination or the shame of asking for help.



WORKING WITH GOVERNMENT

The challenges of working with government were raised as another issue. Leaders felt that in the past they had voiced concern with government but hadn't heard back. Funding was also raised in this context and providers called for funding to be more flexible and regional with an example provided around a workshop in Dunedin that wasn't funded to be delivered in Oamaru but was relevant to their area.

Under-resourcing was raised as a significant issue for providers, stating that new work came in but there was an expectation that existing staff complete more work with their already big case-loads.

One participant highlighted that government contract requirements were too strict for certain services, such as a funder requirement / criteria to have a qualified teacher to run education-related programmes. Another example was provided where an NGO's support service goes to parent teacher interviews on parents' behalf while the parents are working. No qualification is needed for this service which is more about communication, however is expected by the funder.

REACHING OUR PEOPLE



Tapu Tuisuga



Pacific Service Coordinator at Stopping Violence Services Christchurch, Tapu Tuisuga, realised a long time ago that people needed more than a bible verse and a prayer to combat family violence. The trained counsellor says the South Island Pasefika Proud Pacific Community Leaders Fono in Christchurch was a great starting place.

When Tapu Tuisuga oversaw bible studies for prisoners in American Samoa, it dawned upon him that the inmates needed practical ways to deal with issues.

"I came to realise that some of these guys needed more than just a bible verse and a prayer to get them through," says the 45-year-old Samoan-born and raised counsellor.

Tapu also trained as a pastor in Fiji and met his wife there while she was doing missionary work with her parents.

The two made their way to American Samoa to help with a new church where Tapu realised where his true calling was.

His experiences are applicable to the many families that Tapu has worked with over the years as a trained counsellor, including his role as Pacific Service Coordinator at Stopping Violence Services Christchurch, where he now works.

"I provide therapeutic counselling and educational programmes for perpetrators of family violence, but I also work with the whole family."

He makes home visits to families, talking with victims and working with children. His particular service is new, as are his methods for most of the communities and families he works with.

"In the past we have often worked with the perpetrators, but not with the victims," he says.

"So, as I am working with all of them, I raise the awareness of what it's been like for these victims living through that experience. It all happens in a safe environment that is completely in their control."

Tapu says being able to talk about their experience is vital, because in too many Pacific households it's seen as normal cultural behaviour.

"Because up until I raised it, they thought it was all fine ... that beating their kids or slapping around their partners and wives was just normal cultural stuff," he says.

"But for the perpetrators to hear from the victims that it isn't fine, and for the victims to let it out in a safe environment, is a real eye-opener for some."

Tapu says he has battled non-engagement from families for most of his career for a number of reasons. These include shame of admitting to domestic violence in their homes and not being proactive in seeking help until it's too late.

For Tapu it's important that solutions reach the people that most need them.

"How do we translate what we're talking about at this level to the families we're working with?"

"Because often we come up with ideas on how to do that, but I feel that the families still do what they normally do."

He believes the South Island Fono was beneficial in finding solutions.

"It's a really great concept in terms of having Pacific people come together; we've never had that in the past, but I've learnt from sharing our experiences," he says.

"Our communities in this region are growing, so it's really good to come together and to network."

Tapu thinks it's great getting Church leaders on board as "that's where the majority of our people are".

Tapu knows this not just from his experience as a trained pastor, but also because he's visited one of the churches in Christchurch to do just that.

"It was really good when the pastor was on board because a lot of the feedback was that this was the first time they'd actually sat down and talked about this," he recalls.

"My visit made them realise that it's okay to talk about these issues and to challenge some of these cultural beliefs, not to knock them down, while respecting them and learning other methods of parenting," he says.

"It would be really good if we could hold more workshops in churches so that our people could be more informed."

GOVERNMENT WORK PRIORITIES

Lead Pacific Advisors from the key government agencies presented an overview of their respective work priorities and how they can work together across government to strengthen responses for Pacific children, young people and their families. The discussion was facilitated by Pauline Winter (CEO, Ministry for Pacific Peoples), panellists included Amanaki Misa (Ministry for Pacific Peoples), Matafanua Hilda Fa'asalele (Chief Advisor, Pacific Health, Ministry of Health), Liz Tanielu (General Manager Pacific, Investing In Children, Ministry of Social Development) and Mark Tulia (Ministry of Education).

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (MSD)

The aim and vision of MSD is to help New Zealanders to help themselves to be safe, strong and independent.

Services include:

- Care and protection of our most vulnerable children and young people
- Employment, income support services and superannuation
- Funding to community support service providers
- Social policy advice to the government
- Student allowances and loans
- Social housing assessments

We have heard previously the reasons for the creation of the new child-centred system (refer to page 4). Challenge: The current system is fragmented.

Ministry for Vulnerable Children Oranga Tamariki

From 1 April 2017 the new Ministry for Vulnerable Children – Oranga Tamariki comes into effect. This new agency will take a proactive and child-centred approach to meeting the needs of vulnerable children and young people.

It is a stand-alone agency that will incorporate Child, Youth and Family, Community Investment and the Children's Teams.

The transformational change programme is underpinned by six key building blocks:

- Engage all New Zealanders – no single agency on its own will ever have the ability to deliver the range of services needed to improve outcomes

- A child-centred system – a system where we recognise that only stable and loving families can provide the love and care that children need, more intensively supporting these families whether birth or caregiving families, and providing opportunities for young people to shape effective policy and services
- Strategic partnering – is about government, organisations and communities working together around a common objective to achieve a collective impact. It is not about creating a larger government but recognising that communities, local providers and iwi are better placed to support families
- An investment approach – considers a lifetime view of the wellbeing of individual children, and intervenes early in evidence-based ways to address vulnerability
- High aspiration for Māori – reducing the over-representation of Māori children by investing in evidence-based interventions to make the biggest difference and through strong connections to culture by partnering with Māori
- A trauma-informed practice framework – recognising the trauma that this group of children and young people have suffered and seeking to improve it in order to improve life outcomes

Oranga Tamariki will focus on five core services

- Prevention services
- Intensive intervention services
- Care support services
- Youth justice services
- Transition support services

A key challenge and reminder from the floor was to focus and understand the unique perspectives and needs of Pacific peoples who are from the South Island. Too often, the focus and emphasis was on the needs of Pacific peoples from Auckland and the North Island.





MINISTRY FOR PACIFIC PEOPLES (MPP)

There are three work priorities:

Education qualification and skills

- Educational achievement can enable economic and social well-being. This is a key strategy to lift Pacific people out of poverty and into greater skills and high wage jobs

Employment and entrepreneurship

- Getting Pacific people into employment
- Helping them to realise their employment pathways

Language, culture and identity

- Celebrating language and recognising it as an asset for building resilience
- Strengthening young people by building their cultural identities using language



MINISTRY OF HEALTH (MOH)

MoH has a strong focus on Pacific children, young people and families. The Pacific health strategy is guided by *Aia Mo'ui: Pathways to Pacific Health and Wellbeing 2014-2018*.

Pacific people are showing improvements in some health indicators:

- Before school checks are improving
- Immunisation rates for Pacific children are very high
- Access to a GP is higher for Pacific than the national average
- Rheumatic fever cases have dropped significantly

However there are indications where Pacific people are not doing so well:

- Pacific new-born / infants are less likely to be enrolled with a GP by 3 months old
- Rates for exclusive breastfeeding for children are decreasing
- Enrolment in dental services for children is poor – oral health results are worse than Maori and other populations
- More than 25% of Pacific young people are unable to access services when they need them
- 28% of Pacific youth are reported as self-harming

Despite greater access to GP services, Pacific people's health outcomes are not improving. This indicates that improving access alone will not address health outcomes, it has to be the right support at the right time. There needs to be greater focus on prevention and the underlying factors that contribute to poorer health outcomes. The health system needs to address this issue to better accommodate and support our Pacific families.

MoH is committed to having a better conversation with the Pacific community. They want to understand what is important to Pacific families, what the gaps in services are, and what MoH can do to support communities in the way forward. They called on Fono delegates to be disruptive, to help break the cycle and not accept just doing the same old things all the time for the same results.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (MOE)

The *Pasifika Education Plan 2013 – 2017 (PEP)* is aimed at raising Pasifika learners' participation, engagement and achievement from early learning through to tertiary education.

The PEP's vision is to see 'Five out of five Pasifika learners participating, engaging and achieving in education, secure in their identities, languages and cultures and contributing fully to Aotearoa New Zealand's social, cultural and economic wellbeing'.

Five focus areas

- Early Childhood Education – targeting participation funding programmes to locate under 5's who are not enrolled in education
- Schooling – focusing on achievement of national standards and NCEA with an 85% achievement target
- Tertiary – retention rates and completion rates for qualifications of Pasifika learners
- Building strong strategic collaboration across education partner agencies including NZQA, Careers NZ, MPP, AERO, Educanz, NZ Star and TEC
- Building system capability and capacity including developing the Pasifika Teachers Network, investing in professional development with Pasifika responsive learning development and the Pasifika success talanoa initiative, and the Pasifika Power Up – Homework Centre

END OF FONO REFLECTIONS



CHILD, YOUTH AND FAMILY, MSD

Your voice counts. Va'aifetu has come from a desire and willingness from community leaders to work together to ensure our children have better outcomes within the CYF systems.



We will weave principles of family, culture, diversity and evidence into the Pacific lens applied to our work.

Let's work together as leaders within our communities to claim back our children.

IMMIGRATION NZ, MBIE

Immigration is part of a bigger equation for support for families.

We know that Pacific families have turned up in the middle of winter in Christchurch from the islands not dressed appropriately. At Immigration NZ, we want to be better at supporting good re-settlement for families.



We don't want to be the enemy, we want to help and want Pacific leaders and communities to engage with us. If a visa is running out, if someone has lost their job, if things have got complicated, then come to us and we can and want to help.

Community needs to drive changes. We want to work in partnership with you to help drive positive change.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

We need to do more listening to the choices that you make as communities.

We know that we can influence 85% of what makes people well.

We need to work together with all agencies around the table to support families.

We understand and need to know more about the end to end process of what you as community providers do, to ensure we're smarter about what we do.

We need to demonstrate / measure results and value our impact for government funding.

We can work closer with community and be as transparent as possible.



MINISTRY FOR PACIFIC PEOPLES

Government agencies need to work better together, smarter and stronger.

We need to communicate clearly about what we can do for you and what we're doing to support you.

We need to keep the momentum going, we can't just stop here. We need to come together as regularly as we can to create opportunities for collaboration and partnerships to support better outcomes for our families.



CANTERBURY DHB

We need to do more listening with Pacific communities and engage better so that we're delivering the services that you need, want and value.

We need to work more closely with other government colleagues - a more aligned approach where we create buckets of money for you to spend in your community rather than different contracts for siloed services.

APPLICATION OF CULTURAL FRAMEWORKS

A facilitated session provided overviews of two frameworks available to support responses to vulnerable Pacific children and their families. These were *Nga Vaka o Kāiga Tapu* – a Pacific conceptual framework to prevent family violence and *Va'aifetu: Guardians and Guardianship of Stars*.

NGA VAKA O KĀIGA TAPU – A PACIFIC CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK TO PREVENT FAMILY VIOLENCE

Nga Vaka o Kāiga Tapu is a conceptual framework for addressing family violence in eight Pacific communities in New Zealand. It is informed by, and aligned with, the eight ethnic specific conceptual reports on addressing family violence, and a literature review, which include:

- Cook Island Māori
- Fijian
- Kiribati
- Niuean
- Samoan
- Tokelauan
- Tongan
- Tuvaluan

The framework includes key concepts and principles that promote family wellbeing and takes a strengths-based approach. It has been developed by Pacific peoples including church, academic, cultural and practitioner perspectives.

Nga Vaka o Kāiga Tapu was conceived following the Champions of Change Fono in 2010, resolving that solutions to violence lie within Pacific communities themselves and that Pacific communities will find the solutions and take leadership in implementing those solutions.

Application of the framework

Nga Vaka o Kāiga Tapu is a living document designed to have broad application, whether in policy or practice. An example of its application is the Pacific Family Violence Training Programmes.

The purpose of the training programme is to build the capability of Pacific family violence practitioners and influencers to provide culturally appropriate responses. For more information on the training programme see the working lunch section.

Part of this work includes exploring how to make the resources and training available to a wider audience. The Council of Social Work Schools have also adopted Nga Vaka o Kāiga Tapu to inform their 'Pacific' teaching.

VA'AIFETU: GUARDIANS AND GUARDIANSHIP OF STARS

Va'aifetu provides cultural knowledge and insight to help Pacific and non-Pacific practitioners work more effectively with Pacific children, youth and their families within the Child, Youth & Family system in the context of statutory child protection, youth justice and adoptions.

Va'aifetu was developed in response to calls from Pacific communities for CYFs to do better for Pacific children, young people and their families that are involved in CYF. Community leaders, elders, Pacific academics and professionals in the NGO sector walked alongside CYF's Pacific practitioners to reflect important Pacific values, realities and worldviews in a meaningful way.

Va'aifetu doesn't attempt to provide a comprehensive review of the vast diversity present by the cultures of Oceania. Instead it illustrates some of the differences and similarities between the larger groups in Aotearoa, and for the purposes of statutory social work intervention.

CULTURAL FRAMEWORKS

There are eight cultural practice frameworks, providing practical guidelines of basic considerations and 'to dos' when planning and conducting engagement:

- Cook Island Māori
- Fijian (ITaukei)
- Fijian-Indian
- Niuean
- Samoan
- Tokelauan
- Tongan
- Tuvaluan

VA'AIFETU CONSISTS OF 2 PIECES OF WORK

- Data, literature, practice environment is a reference source
- Principles, cultural frameworks, guidelines, is a practical guide on how to integrate culture into practice in pursuit of best outcomes for children

Across Pacific groups are common relational threads based on principles. Guardianship is the encompassing principle of the framework – care and responsibility. The child's best interest is paramount.



Application of the framework

A video case-study was presented at the fono to demonstrate application of Tautua – the Samoan cultural framework for practice.

SECTOR DISCUSSIONS

NGOs and church leaders gathered together to share their insight and experience on the issues faced by vulnerable Pacific children and their families and find opportunities to do more together. The Community/NGO sector group was facilitated by Jean Mitaera (lead) and Iris Webster, while the Church Sector was facilitated by Dr James Prescott (lead) and Diane Fenika.

OPPORTUNITIES TO DO MORE TOGETHER

Groups explored the opportunities for working together and discussed the need for meaningful partnerships to create better solutions and outcomes for Pacific children and families.

MEANINGFUL PARTNERSHIP

- Community, NGO's and government need to work hand in hand (partnership). Government agencies / officials need to be more involved and engaged rather than 'flying in' for specific events. The way government consults with communities needs to radically change - "we cannot consult just to tick a box"
- Being proactive, going beyond lip service to:
 - Strengthen partnerships with church - to develop a common understanding
 - Strengthen partnerships with other groups / agencies / organisations
- Better collaboration pan-Pasifika
- Create a South Island Pacific Advisory Group to advise government agencies
- Create more job opportunities through better collaboration between government agencies and the private sector
- Greater information sharing/collaboration

HOLISTIC, CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE SERVICES AND SUPPORT

- Provide Whanau Ora education programmes to offer support with skills like budgeting, parenting, nutrition, addiction support
- Parenting assistance through things like peer groups, clinics, mainstream services, antenatal education
- Pacific health outcomes need to be at the forefront of organisational goals
- Development of a Pacific hub that delivers a variety of services
- Integrated response to violence for children, young people and their families
- Financial literacy - narrowing the gap - encourage Pacific leaders to support more people to attend



POLICY MAKERS AND SERVICE PROVIDERS NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXTS/ NEEDS OF PACIFIC PEOPLE

- Pacific people live and operate in multiple worlds (contexts)
- There needs to be greater recognition of the broader Pacific population
- A Pacific model of 'wellbeing' like the Whanau Ora model, which includes wrap around service for all, sanctioned by the government for young people, children and their families
- Incorporate culturally responsive methodologies in policy; create a model of operation through consultation with families and communities



A GREATER ROLE FOR EDUCATION

- Sharing knowledge and information on education and trades, supporting young people and families to upskill or get qualifications
- Creating innovative career pathways from a young age (not just factory work)
- Advocacy for systematic racism for young people in schools
- IT - inform our young people with technology



GREATER ROLE FOR FAMILIES

- Spend more family time to develop a greater sense of belonging, respect and love, and reduce stress
- Develop more open communication
- Establish long term plans for families and communities



COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND NETWORKING

- Using, learning and communicating with young people through technology such as social media
- Raise community awareness / education / build resilience (mainstream services to consult and seek cultural knowledge and guidance for their services)
- Raise awareness, talk openly at all levels and respond as families and communities
- Use social gatherings to introduce issues affecting children and young people
- Establish community networks to seek help e.g. abuse or families with no lunch and no shoes for school kids
- Raise community awareness through existing communication / advertising channels such as education, church and NGO networks and channels
- Educate families about social norms and how to be safe and contributing members of society. Pacific people need to build trust within their communities

INVOLVING AND EMPOWERING YOUTH

The need for a voice

- Create opportunities for young people and a youth voice

Build stronger connections between youth leaders and NGOs

- NGOs, youth leaders and church leaders to connect
- Find ways to upskill our youth to lead youth
- Youth leaders are role models that are more likely to be trusted by other youth

Growing youth leaders and youth engagement

Examples were provided where church youth groups are growing, with increased attendance at church services and community activities because of Facebook and technology to develop youth values and connection. Our children need role models that will make an impact.

Others discussed how young people should be encouraged to choose their own church identities. Many young people are forced to go to church out of habit and lose interest because they did not have a choice - they become disengaged.

Churches can have too many restrictions which may hold back youth. One group believed that church leaders need to provide more freedom for young ones to grow. Churches need to be more visible as influencers of the principles they teach such as alofa and fa'aaloalo.

THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH

The church has the opportunity and obligation to do more and earn the trust of parishioners. There was recognition that churches are an important setting to make connections with families / hub for connectedness.

- Churches as service providers - delivering services to their congregation such as budgeting and financial literacy, scholarship funds etc
- Spiritual support - supporting the spiritual growth of parishioners. Bringing people closer to God will solve many problems
- Youth programmes - providing spiritual and development programmes for vulnerable young people such as an outdoor camp to give them a break from their usual routine and inspire them by teaching biblical values
- Collaborative partnerships - providing support and mediation to NGOs and other agencies for Pacific people to access services and support as they know the language and culture

Some thought it was time to challenge their own behaviour as church leaders, as parents and individuals. The traditional ways may not be as relevant to younger people.

There was a call to "change the way we approach harvesting the fields and helping our Pacific people" and for church leaders to model the behaviour in their communities.



YOUTH CHAMPION



Ailina Kei



The Fono included a strong youth presence, including an aspiring social worker who was inspired by the passion for Pacific peoples' search for solutions to reduce family violence.

Ailina Kei feels blessed. Born in Tonga, growing up in Auckland and Australia before her family made Christchurch their home, she will never take for granted the loving supportive environment provided to her by her mother Mo'uifo'u and father Siaso, pastor of the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Aranui.

"I've grown up in a loving environment, where people were always encouraging," she says.

"I assumed that's how we were all raised, but I began to realise that I was one of the very lucky ones. I've come across young people who were and still are victims of abuse. I know of ones who committed suicide because of it."

Ailina describes herself as a shy and introverted young girl until around the age of 10. Due to her community-minded parents, she began helping at various events. Seeing her father on the pulpit inspiring others attracted Ailina to public speaking.

Being a participant in the University of Canterbury's Emerging Leadership Programme also encouraged her to seek a career as a social worker. The experience has taught her that for all her passion for public speaking, being able to listen is the key.

What she also discovered from listening is the need to enter the victim's environment rather than expecting them to come to you.

"Go to their homes and spend time with them. They're far more likely to open up," says Ailina.

"Some of the stories I've heard can be quite overwhelming, but I knew what I was getting into and it's only made me more determined. It's not about me going to battle for them, but battling with them, particularly for our youth, who are often the victims and are without a voice."

As a youth leader for her church, Ailina helps organise social events such as a dance or a quiz night.

But as close as she is to her faith, she believes it's about finding the most appropriate and helpful networks for the person concerned.

"I live in Hornby, which is on the opposite side of Christchurch to our church in Aranui," she says.

"Because of our involvement in the church, distance isn't an issue. But it is for many in our community, which we need to be aware of. There are other challenges as well, like being in an environment where they feel safe and know they are valued."

Being asked to address the Fono as a Pacific Youth Leader was an honour. In her speech, Ailina encouraged youth delegates to strive to reach their full potential, but acknowledged how difficult it was for young Pacific people to uphold the values and teachings of parents who came from the islands, while at the same time navigating a westernised society.

She says exposure to a western environment means Pacific youth may find it very difficult to come to terms with their cultural identity and the identity they adopt in their environment.

"We show an identity in front of our friends and we show another one in front of our families," she said.

"For many Pacific youth it is a typical understanding that you keep quiet, listen, and do as you're told by your elders - which can come into conflict with the values taught in schools and society about being open and free in what you say."

Ailina said that many NZ-born Pacific encounter this issue when it comes to decisions made about or around them.

However the problem is not just with Pacific youth but with elders and leaders too, in that too many leaders ask for feedback but only accept positive feedback.

"If you want the programme or the initiative to progress we need to accept negative feedback as well as good."

She commended delegates for taking the time to come to the Fono "to learn, to share, to absorb information to take back to your organisations, take back to your churches and youth groups".

Stories and the overall contribution from experienced providers throughout the two-day event strengthened her determination to follow in their footsteps.

"What we have in common is that we're all Pasefika, we're people of faith and we want to listen to their stories so we can help them do something about it. It's great to be able to be alongside so many who are like my parents - selfless and continuously putting others before themselves."

CHALLENGE WORKSHOP – GROWING YOUTH

More than 50% of Pacific people are under 25. In a challenge workshop, participants discussed how to grow the next generation of Pacific leaders and incorporate young voices. The challenges identified by youth are outlined in the issues section

YOUTH SESSION

A youth session facilitated by Josiah Tualamali'i, Viane Makalio, Zion and Luke Fitzmaurice focussed youth participants on identifying the challenges that hold them back, where they go for help, and how they would address the challenges youth face locally.



WHERE YOUTH SEEK HELP WHEN FACED WITH CHALLENGES

The majority of participants said that they would seek help from family when faced with challenges – from brothers, sisters and parents.

Participants also said friends, church members, counselling at school and teachers, then Facebook and online services provide help.

Other responses noted were CYFs social workers, youth leaders and the Police.

A few young people felt they couldn't talk to their parents because they were not certain they would understand.



HOW PACIFIC YOUTH WOULD ADDRESS CHALLENGES LOCALLY

There was a strong belief amongst almost all youth that better communication at home would address many of the challenges they faced.

“If we had family council and sat on the mat to talanoa then we could overcome these challenges.”

Participants wanted to learn how to invest and save, to be able to manage finances and be financially literate.

Many of the youth also wanted their parents to stop pressuring their children.

Youth felt that they needed to be more open to peers, parents, church and themselves about what they can achieve and are capable of handling.

To overcome peer pressure and increase confidence and self-esteem, youth asked for help to build confidence and to make good decisions.

They also wanted guidance on how to ask for help and how to share their opinions and value themselves. Youth wanted to learn how to voice their concerns in a way that they would be heard – tactfully.

A lot of the youth believed that they should take ownership of their lives and future – “It's your life to live”.

They believed that Pacific youth needed to let people know of their goals, to make them aware of their potential and aspirations, to be in a better place to support them. Many said they needed to reach out more for help and support.

One innovative idea was to create an app and online services to help Pacific youth process and find solutions to their problems.

Overall, all the youth believed that they would be able to overcome many of their challenges if there was a safe space for them to talk about their issues and get help.

HOW GOVERNMENT, CHURCH, COMMUNITY AND FAMILY CAN SUPPORT PACIFIC YOUTH TO OVERCOME THESE CHALLENGES

GOVERNMENT AND EDUCATION:

- More funding, scholarships and youth courses for Pacific youth
- Consider up-skilling schools to be more culturally aware about Pacific youth and remove stereotypes so that Pacific students can reach their potential - "Pacific people want to become doctors not just factory workers!"
- Consider incorporating Pacific languages in schools
- Extra support for schools to support Pacific students excel academically
- Schools to teach budgeting and how to manage money

FAMILY:

- Parents supported to learn about parenting and new ways of raising families in New Zealand
- Better communication at home
- Have family devotionals
- More family time
- Seek help from outside to support family

CHURCH:

- Church leaders to be more helpful, understanding and open-minded, and less judgemental
- Churches to embrace youth and the New Zealand way of life, accept and support Pacific youth
- Many believed that the church could do a lot more to help counsel and guide youth through the many challenges they face growing up and help them grow spiritually without making them feel bad about themselves when they make mistakes

Overall, youth wanted the church, government, family and community to support them more by teaching, guiding, educating, encouraging and motivating them to overcome their challenges.



ADULT SESSION

A session for adults facilitated by Robert Muller focused on identifying challenges that prevent youth from succeeding, how as Pacific people these challenges could be addressed locally and how youth can be supported to overcome these barriers.



HOW PACIFIC ADULTS WOULD ADDRESS CHALLENGES LOCALLY

COMMUNICATION

- Encourage more communication, listening and acknowledging - goals
- Family discussions
- Language is important to learn and understand - open dialogue at family level
- Be the voice of truth - be empowered to believe in themselves
- Allow children to make their own decisions - freedom of expression
- Listen to our kids and what they want, acknowledge differences

PARENTAL SUPPORT

- Identify talents and motivate to achieve
- Instil spiritual values
- Broaden our understanding of success; there are multiple pathways to allow our kids to have choice
- Encourage our kids so that they are capable and deserve success
- Love our kids in a way that makes them independent
- Education starts at home - safety, education about Christianity
- Acquire the knowledge to understand the system (education fono)
- Family plan within the family - a family structure (already have a plan, it's in the Bible)
- Spend quality time with children, youth - pray with them, encourage them
- Make young people feel inclusive and valued in all parts of life
- Parents support at home - parents as first teachers, education, PAFT
- Change attitudes of parents to live a good balance around home
- Help youth to get part time work - develop work ethics
- Talk about sex - intimacy - role model appropriate behaviour
- It's okay to seek support and help
- Don't be afraid as parents to make mistakes
- Be the first to say sorry
- Allow youth to fail but support them when it happens
- Monitor social media be informed show and interest

ROLE MODELS, LEADERSHIP

- Hands up, not hand out
- Providing an enabling environment
- Attitudes of fathers to be role models rather than one to be feared
- Father's programme that educates them to be better role models
- Leadership development
- Accountability and responsibility of leaders and community and families

CULTURE

- Old way vs new way
- Whakapapa - lineage - heritage
- Succession planning intergenerational learning and passing knowledge
- Language and cultural classes - understanding traditions



NETWORKING AND PARTNERSHIPS

- Develop better parents/teachers/students partnership
- Work with community organisations/agencies
- Develop mentoring programmes for our young people and adults and encourage peer support networks
- Setting up community workshops/meetings to create a safe place for our youth to discuss issues and for our adults to talk to our youth and put our egos aside
- Radio programmes for other agencies to speak about their roles
- Youth - hubs/interface bringing together as one stop services (funded by government) which are interfaith
- Financial support, develop financial literacy
- Resourcing solutions that are collaborative
- Change the funding model - one funding and reporting model - keep it simple
- Map current services within region - data - policy

OTHER IDEAS

- Strategic plan for the region on how to address issues and support families with representation from agencies, youth - action more of it not just talk, follow up on this fono - what has happened?
- Workplace advocacy to support parents working and home alone children/youth
- Workforce development
- Support and encourage youth through specific Pacific programmes
- Fund Pacific youth research
- Discuss and raise awareness of sexual grooming to prevent predators
- Arts - write own stories through art, writing, poetry, lyrics, music, theatre

WHAT WE NEED MORE OF

- More Pacific teachers and more Pacific (Board of Trustees) councils
- Positive roles models
- Supportive government that supports families - money, resources and training
- Cultural groups to support identity values and language
- Education programmes - register of culturally appropriate programmes - sexual health
- Buddy system - mentoring



REGIONAL / LOCAL DISCUSSIONS DEVELOPING A LOCAL ACTION PLAN

Pacific leaders from regional groups broken into Nelson / Marlborough (facilitated by Dr James Prescott), Christchurch / Canterbury (facilitated by Jean Mitaera) and Dunedin / Oamaru / Invercargill (facilitated by Robert Muller) came together to discuss the issues their vulnerable Pacific children, young people and families face, the services / support currently provided and what more groups can do together to respond to the needs of the Pacific families in their region. Below is an overview of some of the location-specific issues and the proposed actions / solutions identified by groups.

AWARENESS OF SUPPORT SERVICES

Groups were asked to name local services that they were aware of. There was general consensus that there is a combination Pacific and mainstream services available, however funding for NGO services are often determined by population numbers rather than community need, and that some areas of the South Island are under-resourced, especially when there are significant influxes due to Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) schemes.

Groups discussed formal services and programmes offered by local community organisations and government agencies,

as well as informal services and support offered by church, service providers and community volunteers. Some people in the room were unaware of each other's services, what they covered, who the targets of these were and how to access them.

There was a general view that there was no one place to find information about what was being provided in their area and there was consensus that there needs to be an accessible directory – where we can see what is being provided for whom.

CHRISTCHURCH / CANTERBURY

ISSUE: THE NEEDS OF PACIFIC YOUTH

- Transition to adulthood
- Communication issues between parents and young people
- Mixed messages (culture) around cultural practices that appropriately demonstrate using values of alofa and respect
- Lack of leadership programmes and support for young people
- High expectations of parents and the different cultural approaches to parenting
- Parents do not have the time to engage with their young people

WHAT ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES TO DO MORE TOGETHER?

Target and do more for young people

- Networking opportunity for young people
- Involve our young people in their way
- Do something different and target young parents 'youth' and tailored services 'invest in young people'

Develop leaders

- Funding for an emerging leaders programme
- Pacific leadership development
- Youth leadership programmes
- Establish community and family connections through leadership and mentoring (community led and owned)



ISSUE: CULTURAL IDENTITY (THE OLD AND NEW)

- Identity and multi-ethnicity
- Culture (do as I say and not as I do)
- Disconnection for all young people, children being excluded from Pacific culture groups because they have fair hair and blue eyes
- Loss/erosion/lack of cultural values, knowledge, understanding

ISSUE: SERVICE ISSUES

- The need for responsive services
- Funding levels
- Knowledge of services

WHAT ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES TO DO MORE TOGETHER?

Work more with the churches

- Direct communications workshops with churches
- Champions to further the cause

Build collaborations and better networks

- Build relationships with relevant organisations
- NGOs need to work on marketing and promotional strategies to get info to the right people
- More networking
- South Island Regional Advisory Committee
- Partnerships with families, church and pacific communities
- Agencies need to work with each other and take a holistic approach to understand target group
- More huis/networking with CEOs
- Utilise the assets we already have
- To work with other organisations and people instead of the same people/organisations
- One stop shop with collaborative partnerships work close with families
- Pacific hub/village that includes Pacific professionals, volunteers, trades, church goers for engagement, rapport, trust and are non-judgemental and have cultural knowledge

Use technology

- Funding and technology expertise required for management and procurement of services
- Open doors and build platforms

Enhancing existing services

- Openness and respect for each other to change the way we work – e.g. inclusion of youth cultural advice and agencies Churches open to agencies.
- Engagement with principles of Alofa, Fa'aaloalo (mutual respect), Va Fealoa'i
- Integrate family values to everything inside and out
- Improve awareness of services – improve link to Pacific communities
- Increase improve cultural awareness for services
- Expertise – participation of young people, lived experience and understand reality
- Information sharing and filling the gaps – those that find it hard to come to church, non-church goers
- Staging change through a spectrum (family, church, community)

Develop more services

- Youth business enterprise investment
- A Youth Service run by Youth who are good listeners, understand and know the background
- Homework centre
- Homes based services
- Orientation for new migrants – immigration process – intra-govt agreement, education
- Parenting success programmes
- Support for young parents
- Better support for those that work with youth in Church – youth leaders, youth pastors – to be better equipped
- Support for women in domestic violence
- Education for Church youth workers to have the skills to deal with young people issues
- Skills update service like in Auckland – free upskill courses and employment skills
- Free workshops to teach work skills
- Help for new immigrants
- Preventative work to keep young children occupied to keep them out of social services



INVERCARGILL / OAMARU / DUNEDIN

ISSUE: WORKING WITH GOVERNMENT

WHAT ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES TO DO MORE TOGETHER?

- Government to collaborate to disseminate information so that grass roots people get access to their information in an un-fragmented way
- National Register of Pacific community contacts, groups, providers



ISSUE: YOUTH SERVICES

The design of youth services was also discussed in depth, and the need to cater for creative and cultural interests of youth. Questions were raised around the relevance of offerings for youth, and it was generally agreed that in the region, a lot of youth programmes are put together by adults, thinking that they understand what youth need.

An example from Dunedin was provided where a youth programme is being run that involves art and creative expression through music. This has provided insight into youth, hearing their stories through rap projects as a creative outlet for youth and is an example of designing a programme that appeals to and engages youth.

Other examples of youth needs not being met included sexual health issues, Pacific specific services with a dedicated youth worker, youth representation within local providers and providing a safe environment for our youth to feel comfortable such as for discussing trauma, abuse or taboo issues.

WHAT ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES TO DO MORE TOGETHER?

- Make a case for a youth / PI Worker – funding to run programmes for Pasifika youth by Pasifika youth
- Make a case for a mental health educator and Social Worker working together

INVERCARGILL

ISSUE: LACK OF HEALTH AWARENESS

In Invercargill there is a general lack of practical knowledge with island-born families in housing and home hygiene, causing a high level of unnecessary / late presenting hospitalisations in Southland. For example the MRSA bug education / awareness is a significant issue and the proliferation of catching bugs and other illnesses such as scabies.

These issues often stem from poor living conditions and a lack of knowledge about having a hygienic and safe living environment, when families are often in rented, poor quality housing with dusty carpet, damp conditions and overcrowded homes. We need to address how to resource the education of families in their homes a respectful way, with the aid of tools such as visuals.

WHAT ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES TO DO MORE TOGETHER?

Make a case for a DHB MoU with Pacific Island Advisory Cultural Trust (PIACT) under the same framework / model as the existing Pacific Nurse based at PIACT but funded by Southland DHB for:

- A health promoter
 - Teaching good home hygiene
 - Teaching good nutrition
 - Reduce unnecessary hospitalisations





ISSUE: LACK OF COLLABORATION / ENGAGEMENT

WHAT ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES TO DO MORE TOGETHER?

Church leaders to consider what already exists, take stock and move forward from there together.

Collaboration to identify gaps in what the community needs but can't access.

Create more opportunities to engage.

- Fono group to debrief then revisit and prioritise action moving forward
- Ministerial group / church leaders: organise a meeting of all Ministers to meet early 2017
- SWOT Analysis: PIACT staff do a SWOT analysis then go to Ministerial Group with where the gaps are.
- Ministers can feedback to PIACT on what their role is and how they can support it such as mobilising a volunteer network and partnering with material resource from Government

Regularly meet / forum between Church Leaders and PIACT Team from then on, and involve Government such as a Police representative.

OAMARU

ISSUE: LACK OF INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

There is a lack of institutional support that affects Oamaru. The town is growing rapidly however official Census / government figures show a Pacific population of approximately 500 but there are actually around 2000 people. The majority are seasonal workers and this creates unique challenges to the area as people have limited entitlements from Government and we are funded by head count and settling in to New Zealand is a major issue locally.

Oamaru doesn't have a Pacific / subsidised health clinic so families have to go to mainstream which then costs the family more money. Oamaru's Pacific families pay more for access to health than other Pacific people in other areas because of this funding system.



ISSUE: MIGRATION / SETTLEMENT ISSUES

Settled families have problems / challenges managing expectations of the church, family in the islands and local commitments on limited incomes, but still host seasonal families through the PACT programme. This escalates the issues with settled families having to support other families on top of their own and creates other issues such as education support as parents are working long hours and don't have time for their kids.

WHAT ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES TO DO MORE TOGETHER?

Collaboration between groups in Oamaru to discuss how we help new migrants.

- Look at existing programmes that provide Pacific migrants with housing, health etc
- Consider how to work with government agencies

ISSUE: FRAGMENTED COMMUNITY

Collaboration in Oamaru is another issue. There have been several attempts in Oamaru to get communities to work together that have failed in the past, and the group noted that the Oamaru Pacific community is very fragmented and so are its services. The question was raised for how they can set a foundation for all Pasifika people, and there were calls for a mutual understanding of what is happening.

WHAT ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES TO DO MORE TOGETHER?

Think smarter at how we set a foundation for all Pacific groups and establish mutual understanding to stop fragmentation in community.

DUNEDIN

ISSUE: LACK OF YOUTH SERVICES

- Safe-space for youth
- Pacific Trust Otago (PTO) lost funding for a youth programme that used to run

WHAT ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES TO DO MORE TOGETHER?

Make a case to fund a youth space with a sustainability plan and government to work in partnership with community for outcomes



NELSON / MARLBOROUGH

ISSUE: CULTURALLY TAILORED SERVICES / FUNDING BY NEED RATHER THAN POPULATION SIZE

There are access challenges for Pacific people in the region. Despite the relatively small population group in the area our people share the same challenges that other areas do but the services are not designed for Pacific people here.

There is no targeted or specific Pacific resource as part of the MoH / DHB. It is under the General Manager Maori Health portfolio with 1.5 FTE staff - Pacific needs are lost in the aggregation across multiple ethnicities. Looking into the future we need a stronger Pacific representation and resource for our region.

We acknowledge our populations are small compared with other regions but our needs are there and RSE schemes mean the populations can double in the RSE season.

WHAT ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES TO DO MORE TOGETHER?

We need to change the language - let's not look at the population size, let's look at the size of the issue such as obesity, Type 2 diabetes, smoking, oral health etc.

We need to approach government to give us the opportunity to access that help that everyone else is getting in main centres and don't just use the excuse that we can't have it because we don't have the numbers. We don't want to be rejected on our funding applications based on the same old excuse of population numbers.



ISSUE: FRAGMENTED FUNDING / SHORT LIFE-SPAN / LACK OF LONG-TERM CONTRACTS / RELIANCE ON VOLUNTEER NETWORK

The size and geographic spread of our region has highlighted the importance of working in partnership with others.

The need to access non-Pacific providers relies on an interface that draws on the limited resources that are currently voluntary (such as interpreting on the weekends). When we don't have culturally tailored services because of our size, the burden falls back on our community.

Pacific are trying to work in partnership with mainstream but we're expected to do it voluntarily. This arrangement is unsustainable and there is major community burnout while people are also working fulltime jobs.

WHAT ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES TO DO MORE TOGETHER?

- Government to understand this challenge and put some money into our region to address the needs that are here
- Our community is small enough that we can pilot projects / initiatives and utilise learnings and apply them across community
- We need to find a way to have more people to do the jobs in paid work and can't rely on our volunteer network

ISSUE: MIGRATION POPULATION / RSE INFLUXES

Employment opportunities are decreasing and housing issues are getting bigger in larger NZ centres like Christchurch and Auckland. This presents a challenge to our region, as our primary industries are attracting more Pacific people to relocate here for work and better opportunities. We need to prepare ourselves for this migration, as already highlighted by the Recognised Seasonal Employer scheme demands on our services.

WHAT ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES TO DO MORE TOGETHER?

- Find a sustainable way to be able to deliver the services in our regions to ensure we have the support in place when migrants arrive



ISSUE: NO PACIFIC WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION

- There is a very small Pacific workforce, with only two Pacific nurses in Nelson
- There are access issues for training etc because of location due to distance from main centres

WHAT ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES TO DO MORE TOGETHER?

- Find a way to access local training / development opportunities for Pacific workforce (e.g. Le Va training)

ISSUE: FAITH-BASED PROGRAMMES / ACCESS FOR NON-FAITH COMMUNITY

- Some families identify with Pacific culture but not religion - faith-based services don't always engage, especially with young people
- Some young people aren't granted parental permission to have lessons on certain issues for religious reasons, such as sexual health education

WHAT ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES TO DO MORE TOGETHER?

- Church leaders to consider these access issues and try to engage in other ways rather than faith first, such as coaches of sports teams etc
- With faith-based community, church leaders can encourage education to congregations on issues relevant to them
- Leaders to look to our communities for guidance and partner with them. Look at a positive training model that our community can utilise to support the families that we're working with

ISSUE: FRAGMENTED FAMILIES / LACK OF POSITIVE MALE ROLE MODELS / PARENTING PROGRAMMES

WHAT OPPORTUNITIES ARE THERE TO DO MORE TOGETHER?

- Build on what's already there and form a fathers group / strengthen that group to come together to ensure our children know how to stay safe
- Men that are already natural leaders in the community to take lead roles in recruiting other young men into the network
- Consider a targeted series of Fono around fathering
- Put some parenting programmes in place

ISSUE: AVAILABILITY OF HEALTH RESOURCES / BREAKDOWNS WITH CHILDREN IN CARE

While the health system is busy fighting each other on who will fund what services, sometimes our children in care are breaking up the families of their caregivers. The caregivers' children may be leaving home while their parents / caregivers are trying to look after vulnerable children.

This stems from caregivers not really understanding / having empathy for what is happening with children in care. Our families need to understand what the child they're caring for is going through. Having access to extended family of the child in care could make a difference.

YOUTH FONO FEEDBACK

"It was great to see Pacific leaders and learn from them to use culture as solutions."

"It was reassuring to see that adults at the Fono care more about Pacific youth."

"It was great seeing and being with youth and seeing them speak up and being confident with what they had to say."

"We need to have our safe youth space without adults, so that we can speak freely. Adults are strategic - too much talk that doesn't go anywhere."

"We need to have our youth space - when adults joined in some of the youth discussions, the momentum died."

"We need action plans to take back, build confidence and bridge the gap for youth - look at connecting and sharing what we've learnt at the Fono. We can be the champions to bridge the gaps for youth in the South Island."

"We all agreed that there needs to be a South Island Pacific Youth Forum next year and have inspiring youth speakers and role models, with short discussions and incorporation of active sessions. We can work with individual youth group networks for input and help put it together. A youth forum should include a fiafia night and include music and arts. Invite MOE and MOH to speak to us about their expectations e.g. Le Va invited Sonny Bill Williams and Krypt to talk to us at a youth fono."

"We need to invite various adults to see us in action and tell MSD what we want. We will get the word out via Facebook and won't limit who we bring. It won't be too focused on one thing like education and sports - we can extend invitations to Parris and dance talents, catering for all talents of youth of all backgrounds."



WORKING LUNCHES

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Presenter: Deb Struthers, Ministry of Health



Health is a critical determinant on the well-being of Pacific children and families. Some improvements in health have been made but the Ministry wants to accelerate these improvements further.

At this workshop the Ministry of Health shared up to date information about its strategies and services. Community leaders came together to share the barriers and enablers to health services in their community.

In a question and answer session, participants expressed concern about the Pacific Provider Development Funding (PPDF) and communication from the Ministry.

Government representatives committed to relaying this feedback to their Ministry and providing a future opportunity for further discussion on the concerns raised.

Together, we can look into innovative ways of improving the health of Pacific children and families.

PRIMARY PREVENTION PASEFIKA PROUD

Presenters: Radha Balakrishnan, Ministry of Social Development and Robert Muller, Village Collective



The Ministerial Group on Family Violence and Sexual Violence work programme has a number of key projects that address issues across family violence and sexual violence issues – primary prevention is one of the work streams.

At this working lunch, participants discussed some of the primary prevention initiatives targeting Pacific people and in particular, programmes that can target parents and their relationships with young people.

The focus of the discussions centred on the need for greater investment in supporting healthy relationships between young people and to support parents build stronger relationships and communication with teenagers.

ORANGA TAMARIKI A STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP APPROACH

Presenter: Arran Jones, Workstream Lead, Investing In Children Programme, Ministry of Social Development



The Minister for Social Development has established the Investing in Children (IIC) programme to implement Cabinet's programme of work to provide services for vulnerable children and young people in New Zealand.

As part of this the Minister has announced the creation of a new Ministry called The Ministry for Vulnerable Children, Oranga Tamariki, which will be in place from 1 April 2017. The creation of the new Ministry signals a 'whole of sector', child-centred approach to working with vulnerable children and young people.

No one agency or organisation alone can meet the needs of a vulnerable child. Strategic Partnering is a key building block of the new Ministry. It will use a partnership approach to identify the needs of vulnerable children and young people and develop responsive delivery approaches to meet these needs.

This working lunch provided an opportunity to engage on the development of principles that will guide the new Ministry on how it goes about partnering with providers, communities and other government agencies.

TIME FOR DIRECT ACTION



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

The South Island Regional Fono's strong youth presence proved our young Pacific people are willing and ready to be a part of the solution to improving outcomes for our most vulnerable children, young people and their families.

From the opening day, South Island youth leaders turned up to converse, collaborate and engage, not just with our Church and community leaders, but also with each other and our government in order to find practical solutions.

We are at a critical "tipping point" to mobilise our communities to realise our vision of strong, vibrant and prosperous Pacific families. We have an opportunity to work in partnership with our Providers and our Church leaders to develop the relevant tools and resources to enable them to lead the change.

Church leaders and service providers at this Fono shared their knowledge, expertise and connected with others who work with vulnerable families across the South Island – an opportunity that is not often afforded. There was goodwill, energy and a 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 the best outcomes for families and determine what gaps are still to be filled.

We want to use this Fono as a springboard to spark conversations and put our discussions into practice, to collectively address violence and abuse within our Pacific families.

We have the opportunity to not only equip our churches and NGOs, but our youth as well.

Our youth have put the call out for their own National Fono and we will make that happen in 2017.

I have signalled my and the Ministry's commitments to follow through on key actions which were identified at each Fono. This includes a regional and national directory that will be updated and ready for use by everyone across the board by March 2017.

Why a directory? Because we have heard the call that you need to know what services are provided, and we want them to be accessible to all who need them.

We hope this Fono will continue to shape conversations amongst our Pacific communities about leading sustainable change for our families. The momentum for positive transformation has started.

Because it's Our families, Our people, and Our responsibility, to reflect, connect and, above all, to act.

LIZ TANIELU

*General Manager Pacific, Investing In Children
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. We want to thank the Ministry of Health and the Canterbury DHB for their financial contribution to the Fono. We want to acknowledge the support provided by the Ministry for Pacific Peoples. Special acknowledgement goes to our many presenters, facilitators, entertainment and MC, that made the event such a success.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Hon. Peseta Sam Lotu-l'iga
Gráinne Moss
Fa'amatuainu Tino Pereira
Rev Fitifiti Luatua
Ailine Kei



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Jean Mitaera
Dr Yvonne Crichton-Hill
Pauline Winter
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WORKING LUNCH PRESENTERS

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FONO CO-SPONSORS

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EVENT ENTERTAINMENT & MANAGEMENT

Ma'a Brian Sagala - Master of Ceremonies
Christchurch Tongan Youth Group Performers
Cook Island Youth Group
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