



**PASEFIKA PROUD**

Our Families, Our People, Our Responsibility



**WELLINGTON REGION FONO**

*Pacific Community Leaders*



**20-21 SEPTEMBER 2016**

**FONO REPORT**



# INTRODUCTION

Pacific leaders from churches and social and health services in the Wellington region gathered at the inaugural Wellington Pacific Community Leaders Fono in Porirua on 20-21 September 2016.

The Fono's purpose was to mobilise Pacific community leaders to work with Government 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 Pasefika Proud National Fono for Pacific Community Leaders held in Auckland on 20-21 June 2016.

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

Liz Tanielu, National Director, Pacific at the Ministry of Social Development, says the Fono aimed to ignite conversation at a regional level to respond to family violence.

"The aim is to co-design a holistic response for vulnerable Pacific children, young people and their families to achieve better outcomes. It's about enhancing Pacific community leadership in current Government initiatives," she says.

Murray Edridge, Deputy Chief Executive, Child, Youth & Family and Community Investment talked about involving community in decision making and the introduction of the new Ministry for Vulnerable Children Oranga Tamariki on 1 April 2017.

"You're part of the thinking as we determine what the future looks like," he said.

"Government is going to change the shape of things come 1 April 2017 and beyond. This will be about a four to five-year change process."

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 Wellington region, and explored opportunities for collaboration. An overview of Government's work programmes was provided as well as how cultural frameworks can be applied. Regional discussions centred on developing local action plans.

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

"I'm encouraged by the work that you want to spearhead and continue to lead out in the regions."



## HOW TO READ THIS REPORT

This report aims to summarise the key themes and community voices from the Fono.

### Keynote speakers

Points raised by keynote speakers Hon. Anne Tolley, Hon. Bill English and Fa'amatuainu Tino Pereira are highlighted in this section.

### Issues

A summary of issues identified that are faced by young Pacific children, young people and their families in the Wellington region, to frame the conversation for action.

### 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.

### Application of cultural frameworks

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

### Government work programmes

Information of some Government work programmes currently underway to strengthen families.

### Youth workshops

This section includes discussion with young people on growing the next generation of Pacific leaders.

### Working lunches

A selection of family violence initiatives and programmes being delivered.

### Local action plans

This section summarises the discussions at a regional level including action plans with input from young people.

# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

## Government Ministers outlined the significant work programme to support vulnerable children, young people and their families and families. In her keynote address Hon. Anne Tolley, Minister for Social Development, talked about the establishment of the Ministry for Vulnerable Children, Oranga Tamariki

The new Ministry will be formed from 1 April 2017 and is committed to working in partnership with Pacific communities to improve outcomes for vulnerable Pacific children and young people. The Minister also described the work programme to address family violence and sexual violence.

Hon. Bill English, Minister for Finance also spoke at the Fono dinner. There was a strong commitment to work with Pacific leaders, organisations and churches to ensure that vulnerable Pacific children, youth and their families receive the best possible care and support to achieve their potential.

### ANNE TOLLEY

*Minister of Social Development  
Acting Minister for Youth*



On the opening day of the Fono, Minister Anne Tolley spoke about the major overhaul of the nation's care and protection system, which "is failing the kids that it is there to help".

Speaking about the new Ministry for Vulnerable Children, Oranga Tamariki, she explained how it will respond to the needs of vulnerable children and young people in care or at risk of going into care. This includes the establishment of a youth advisory panel, who have experienced or are still in care, to help inform policy making.

"It's important to make sure that what we're doing is actually working and is changing the lives of young people," she said.

"The new Ministry will have five core services; prevention, intensive intervention, care support, transition support, and a youth justice system that is focused on reducing offending and reoffending."

This includes raising the youth justice age to include 17 year olds, who would otherwise be tried as adults. The new Ministry was also considering offering those who turn 18 and are still struggling with transition, support up to the age of 25.

The new Ministry will incorporate Child, Youth and Family, Community Investment and the Childrens Action Plan Directorate and Childrens Teams. It will ensure the new operating model is culturally competent and responsive, and will build and strengthen relationships with Pacific organisations.

"There is a wealth of expertise and experience in Pacific organisations that could be hugely beneficial if we can incorporate it into the new operating model."

Minister Tolley also spoke about piloting a new way to respond to family violence, which involves communities and neighbourhoods.

"If we're going to see real change, it's going to come from our communities and our neighbourhoods," she said.

"Staying silent is simply not an option. The aim is that community leaders are able to make it okay for their communities to speak out against violence.

"It should and will be a partnership between Pacific leaders, communities and Government, to work together to build an operational system. Government can't do it on its own and can't expect communities and churches to do it on their own ... which is why we need to work together."

### BILL ENGLISH

*Minister for Finance  
Deputy Prime Minister*



Hon Bill English addressed Pacific leaders, providing an open and entertaining speech during the Fono dinner.

The Pasefika Proud tag line of 'Our Families, Our People, Our Responsibility' was endorsed by Minister English, and he emphasised that what happens next depends upon the people of the Wellington region and their communities.

“We’re trying to turn the system upside down, where what happens is determined by you and your communities,” he said.

“We have to change what we do, so we can support that.”

He added that youth was an important part of what the government is trying to do. Minister English attended the session with youth leaders at the Fono.

“It’s about our young people, because when we do a social investment analysis, it tells us that we need to make sure every young person is on track, and I mean one-by-one. Because if things go wrong, they can go wrong for 30-40 years. They can sit on a cycle that’s hard to get out of.”

Minister English added the Government needs the community’s help to design the system in a way that is beneficial for them.

“What happens is, to a large extent, determined by what people in government think should happen,” he stated.

“And they’re the people with the steady jobs, the suits and the good pay.”

He advised delegates to tell him and the rest of government exactly what they need from them.

“Understand that what you say, people like me will take seriously. What you tell us about what you need will be heard and listened to.”

Mr English emphasised that what the community does is far more important than what government does.

“There’s no better way of measuring success than what happens in your communities and to your children.”

He admits that too often government has treated communities like they’re not capable - that they should be grateful for what government is doing.

“Well, you shouldn’t be grateful for what government does, because that’s Government’s job,” he adds.

“The reason why people pay tax is so that we can serve and support you when you need it, not when you don’t. And that’s the way it should work, so don’t be grateful, be demanding.”

Government, he believes, needs to think of Pacific people the same way that a good shop thinks about its customers.

“What is it they’re after? What’s going to help them feel better? Achieve more, be proud. Not think, ‘why don’t they turn up to our service’, even though it was never really designed for them anyway’. Or, ‘When are we going to start doing something valid?’

“That’s why what you do is going to matter more than what we do. We all know we have to do it, because if it’s not actually working for you and your families, or for Porirua East for example, then it’s not working.”

## FA’AMATUAINU TINO PEREIRA

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



Providing an independent perspective, Fa’amatuinu (Inu) Tino Pereira spoke about growing up in his village in Samoa, and about the giving and holistic nature of village life.

He explained how mothers and fathers brought practices and traditions with them to New Zealand when they ventured out in search of a better life for their children.

There was, however, another side. As the eldest of eight, Inu was ‘pre-ordained’ to carry the weight of family responsibility.

“As a child, that responsibility came early and with it a heavy dose of what is known in my community as discipline.

“I was whacked as a child and beaten as a teenager. There were days spent nursing broken bones, and fear became the basis of my parental relationship.”

His siblings fared no better and his mother was helpless to intervene or even to lessen the burden as she, too, was a victim. Part of a practice stemmed from parental arrogance and belief that it was in the long-term interest of the children to be beaten, to make them tough in future life. Inu insists, however, that it’s not about culture.

“It’s an abusive practice, unacceptable behaviour and an exercise of power over the less powerful. In Aotearoa today too many of our children and women are suffering.”

Inu challenged those in attendance to band together to deliver the forces of change in order to eliminate violence from homes.

“Our gathering should be more than just a signifier of our work. We should act,” he implored.

“Leadership resides in each and every one of us here today. Let humanity speak through us, because it’s our families, our communities, our responsibility.”

## FONO FEEDBACK



### *Langi Paasi, Tongan Leadership Council, NiuHUB Pasifika, Whitireia NZ*

*“Being from the Lower Hutt, I appreciate the chance to connect with other Pacific people doing good work within our own region. Our Tongan community is very small in Wellington, especially compared to those in places like Auckland. But that didn’t matter as we came together as one under Pasefika Proud to work on strategies to combat violence that work in our communities. Having the churches and NGOs together gave us a feeling of strength and a greater knowledge and understanding of how to deal with family violence.”*

# 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 Wellington region. This helped frame the conversation for action and how Pacific leaders can work together to develop solutions. Issues that were identified are explained below.

## GENERATIONAL GAPS, IDENTITY AND PARENTAL SUPPORT

The disconnect between island-born parents and NZ-born parents and their children was identified as an issue. There was a perception that it all comes down to the family - if this is not strong, then young people will try and find support elsewhere (e.g. in gangs). It was agreed that there needs to be stronger communication and relationship support for all the family.

Concern was raised that funding for PAFT was discontinued with nothing to replace it. Parents, especially those who work many jobs need as much support as possible. A lack of parenting support services for young parents was identified as an issue for teen parents/ pregnancies.

Closing generational gaps strengthen cultural and spiritual identity, and connection to culture. Groups agreed that we have to find ways to create positive ways of belonging.



## POVERTY

Whether this is through unemployment or not having enough income (a living wage) poverty was identified as a significant issue for Pacific families. This has flow on impacts on not being able to meet basic needs for children (health, housing, food and education etc). Poverty can be linked to welfare dependency and/or poverty of opportunity. The issue of unexpected costs such as family remittances is an issue for families, and is tied in with improving their financial literacy/capability.

## SYSTEMIC ISSUES

There was general discussion around the current emphasis on social investment but this runs across most of the issues that were identified.

Discussion around systemic gaps that exist included:

- Lack of cultural input in mainstream services (especially in light of the discussion around the application of cultural frameworks); and
- Continuing silos that exist around the public sector has major impact on how services are being delivered on the ground
- Increasing our Pacific workforce, and a need to strengthen the responsiveness of mainstream services. There needs to be stronger connection with the Nga Vaka framework
- Increasing investment in collaboration/connection and to address the challenges of developing capability and staff within the environment of short-term contracts. One participant stated that it's difficult to develop capability and staff if you don't know whether your contract is carrying on. This puts pressure on provider resources without achieving the desired outcome of a more capable/better equipped workforce.
- There was acknowledgement that unless the root causes for violence were identified and addressed, services are only ever dealing with symptoms and these will inevitably re-surface.

## LEARNING FROM WHAT WE KNOW

There was a call to build on and learn from existing services/research to inform practice. Often there are programmes that are running and for some time even with evaluations, but then they're disestablished, without necessarily having the learnings translated into practice.

There is a need to build on what is working e.g. Man Up, Home-grown heroes, and to learn from what others have done before in terms of collaboration (e.g. Pacific Provider Development Fund).



## UNDER-REPORTING OF FAMILY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

There was surprise at the reported low levels of family violence compared to others in the Wellington region. It was also felt that there was under reporting in sexual abuse against children (9% of total children, nationally with sexual abuse findings). A youth worker stated almost all who were sexually abused were abused by family members. He stated that youth were far more likely to confide in their friends and peers rather than family.

## AWARENESS OF OTHER SERVICES

Overall, participants felt the need to ensure that the unique needs of their region, local flavour and context was taken into account – there was caution against a one size fits all approach.

Participants generally felt there was a lack of knowledge about local services and identified the need for an environmental scan of these, including basic information like who these target, how they can be accessed and how effective they are.



## PROVIDER TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Transparency of relationships between providers and funders was identified as an issue. Participants called for accountability and confronting under-performance within Pacific organisations, and noted that the subsequent loss of credibility under-performance creates with their communities needs to be addressed.

## OVERCROWDING IN HOMES

Overcrowding in houses created much discussion. While participants agreed this was an issue, it was acknowledged that most Pacific families grew up in homes with lots of family present and this was seen as the norm. However, there was general agreement that Pacific people lived in old, poorly maintained and poorly insulated state and rental homes in the Wellington region, which is why rates of rheumatic fever are high.



## FAITH-SPECIFIC ISSUES

Church leaders also identified specific issues for families within the Church setting:

### Access

There is not enough access for young people to Church leaders. Family and Church elders do not meet enough with young people to provide guidance. It was raised that there are not enough helpful and trusting relationships outside of family for young people to turn to. Some parents were unwilling to seek help from the Church or other services and that some families lack the spiritual knowledge to grow families based on Christian principles of faith, hope, love and charity.

It was noted that not all Pacific families are Church goers or affiliated with a Church, and are therefore even more disconnected with their local community, making them more removed from informal support services. Participants recognised that these families also need support regardless of whether they go to Church or not.

### Lack of practical advice

Some participants noted that there is not enough practical advice given by Church leaders to families about spiritual and cultural values within the family.

### Relationship with Government

A point was raised that in the past Government has not always recognised the informal services provided by Churches such as spiritual marriage counselling. It was agreed that Church is an underutilised resource to support Pacific families.

### Church can be part of the problem

Some participants raised concern that the Church sometimes plays a huge role in silencing family violence. It was noted that some Pacific Churches do not denounce family violence enough and in some cases use scripture to justify family violence.



## ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY YOUTH

Youth leaders identified some key issues specific to Pacific youth.

### Low self-esteem, self-worth and confidence

Low self-esteem, lack of confidence and self-worth was a debilitating and prevalent issue that young Pacific people face. There was widespread feeling of being judged by others and fear of not fitting in or public opinion. While many said that this was commonly linked to identity issues where young people were confused about who they were and their cultural make-up, there was also a strong connection to the conflicting values of culture and modern society – and how to find the balance. Participants felt they were misunderstood and having to fight the stigma of Pacific Islanders being viewed in negative light as second-class citizens.

### Peer pressure and negative influences

Peer pressure/negative influences were identified in the form of drug and alcohol abuse, gang activity, smoking and engaging in anti-social activity and behaviour. Lack of positive role models for young Pacific people to relate to was also identified.

### Pressure to succeed and achieve

The pressure from family, friends and school to succeed and achieve was raised as an issue for youth specifically. Most stated that the unrealistic expectations and high standards set for them caused a lot of stress and conflict for young people, where the expectations of Pacific families to do well is high. This issue can lead to depression, lack of self-confidence and feeling of worthlessness when youth fall short of expectations.

Some participants noted that there was little or no support for Pacific youth in schools to succeed academically. There were challenges with the amount of school work, difficulties with subjects (i.e. Math) and a lack of time to be heard about their needs. Some youth commented on the demands placed on their time trying to balance study time, completing assessments, extra-curricular activities, Church and home commitments.

### Sex and relationships

Youth participants discussed a lack of knowledge about sex and how to have positive relationships as teens and pre-teens. They noted that young people can get caught up in relationships without knowing how to deal with the pressures of sex and boundaries at a young age. Breakdowns in relationships can sometimes lead to suicide and depression and a lack of knowledge about sex can sometimes lead to teen pregnancies.

## ISSUES FOR PACIFIC YOUTH

### Disconnected/disengaged youth

Throughout sessions participants reiterated the need to find positive ways to capture disconnected and disengaged Pacific youth. In education there are students falling through cracks, and low qualifications lead to low paying jobs.

There was consensus that programmes for youth start too late, and there was a call to engage youth earlier and focus on engagement, rather than addressing behaviours. There is a lack of youth-friendly public spaces.

### Bullying

Bullying including cyber/tech bullying was identified as an issue for Pacific youth. The proliferation of social media means youth are often open to a wider public scrutiny where rumours can be proliferated easily beyond school boundaries. Participants noted that bullying can lead to suicide and depression in young people.



## OTHER ISSUES

- Discussions were had around the most effective ways to address sexual abuse issues – using family relationships may not be ideal, or realistic in these cases. Potential crossover support was identified as an issue for victims who may receive support in relation to family violence (MSD) and sexual abuse (ACC).
- There was general discussion around drug and alcohol addiction issues.
- Collating appropriate material for Pacific people including ethnic-specific material is another issue. Many felt material is too generic, with no relevance to Pacific people or using illustrations/imagery that doesn't connect with Pacific in any way.
- The lack of a Pacific safe house/refuge was highlighted as a specific issue for the Wellington region. While there are informal arrangements for women and children such as Churches providing support, there is no Pacific women's refuge in the region. Participants called for a fully funded and culturally appropriate safe house for Pacific women linked to the Nga Vaka framework.
- Mental health issues such as suicide and depression were also identified as issues for Pacific families.





# SECTOR DISCUSSIONS

NGOs and Church Leaders gathered together to share insight and experience on the issues faced by vulnerable Pacific children and their families. They discussed the support services currently provided and how to find opportunities to do more together. The Community/NGO sector group was facilitated by Jean Mitaera (lead), Samson Samasoni and Robert Muller, while the Church Sector was facilitated by Pastor Taefu Heker Robertson.



## AWARENESS OF SUPPORT SERVICES

There was general consensus that there are a lot of services, but most 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.

Groups discussed formal services and programmes offered by local community organisations and government agencies, as well as informal services and support offered by Church and service providers. Churches were able to identify several services and programmes tailored for individuals and families that often included spiritual elements to services.

Many participants were surprised by the number of services and programmes available within their own communities especially within the Churches across various denominations.

There was a general view that many people did not know who and what was being provided in their area. There was consensus that there needs to be an accessible directory – where we can see what is being provided for whom. In order to identify gaps in services, a Pacific-specific environmental scan of services is needed, that assesses the breadth of service delivery from 'cradle to grave'.

There was also consensus that funding for NGO services are often short term or non-sustainable and usually come to an end when contracts finish (or the allocated sessions are completed).

On the other hand, informal services offered by the Church are often free of charge and on-going, often making them more sustainable.

## FONO FEEDBACK



*Emily Hartson-Maea, Folau Alofa Charitable Trust and St David's Presbyterian Church*

*"It was pleasing to see such a diverse group of people from different disciplines and sectors come together to discuss solutions, as we know what our Pacific needs are. We are spiritual people and the Fono recognise the troubles we have initiating anything without acknowledging God. Attempts to do so are short-sighted. I was also concerned when I attended a Pacific youth session dealing with sexual violence, which didn't contain the Pacific tones that were needed. The challenge for us as parents is to provide the information for our children. If we don't, they'll get it from somewhere else which we won't agree with. But the overall theme of Our Families, Our People, Our Responsibilities, shone through."*

## OPPORTUNITIES TO DO MORE TOGETHER

Groups explored the opportunities for working together and discussed the need for inter-generational and inter-denominational collaboration within the community with a shared vision for Pacific children, young people and their families and our communities. The long term hope is to partner for better solutions and better outcomes.

### LIFTING THE CAPABILITY OF AGENCIES AND PROVIDERS TO DELIVER CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE POLICIES, SERVICES, PROGRAMMES AND SUPPORT

- Development of tools (whether frameworks, guides etc) to support the engagement and development of 'By Pacific for Pacific' delivery
- Development and investment in training programmes to lift capacity and capability of agencies to respond appropriately
- Development of more resources (DVDs, online tools, evidence)
- Increase in Pacific-led research and environmental scan

### STRONGER CONNECTIONS/ COLLABORATION

- Government to form real partnerships with NGO's and Churches
- Stronger collaboration between Public health and CYF - could this be the new role for the Ministry for Vulnerable Children?
- Collaborating on women led/designed services and initiatives that empower Pacific Women
- Developing a combination of services already available/offered by Churches & NGOs combined with new ideas for more responsive services

### CHURCHES AS SERVICE PROVIDERS

A stronger voice from Pacific Church communities is needed to let government recognise and accept Churches can be part of the solution to help address social issues and uplift Pacific families

- Churches should work to develop faith-based models to work with families and enter into government contracts to deliver services to those in the care of the Church, and form trust-based relationships
- Churches to form partnerships with NGO's with shared values to equip/train Pacific people to deliver services to families and share their resources
- Churches should work to be recognised and supported as providers of services to families
- Share and learn from other Churches/Providers to form partnerships

### VOICE OF YOUTH

Young people need to look to the Church and youth leaders as role models

- Youth programmes led by youth for youth, for example youth advocates to work with vulnerable Pacific children and to encourage access to support services in the community

### FORUMS/FONO

A more user-friendly and efficient way to find forums to collaborate and connect and share information, whether online or in person

- Collective Leaders Forum
- Online directory/shared landing page
- Pacific services/support expo
- Churches/NGOs to work collaboratively and develop a leaders' forum for stronger networking. Meeting regularly in a format such as this Fono could facilitate sharing of resources and services. E.g. Wellington Regional Pasefika Services - PIC
- More Fono to share knowledge and expertise, and more youth-focused Fono



### FRAMEWORK FOR PACIFIC CHURCH LEADERS

- A relevant framework should be developed for Ministers/Pastors to use to help reduce family violence and support vulnerable children and strengthen Pacific families
- Faith-based approaches and training
- Family-based' approaches to foster leadership within families (programme and services)
- Learning/applying successful models used by other organisations and Churches as a starting point for communities to achieve results

# 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

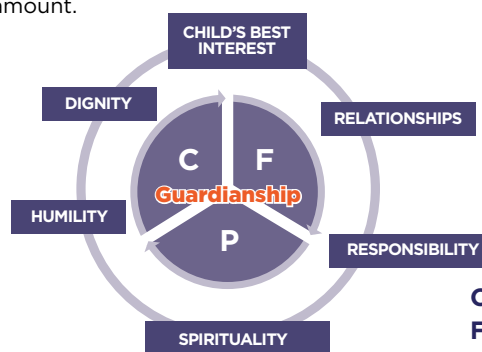
There are eight cultural practice frameworks, providing practical guidelines of basic considerations and 'to dos' when planning and conducting engagement:

- 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.

# GOVERNMENT WORKSHOPS

Workshops were held at the Fono to seek participant input into some of the initiatives from Government agencies.

## THE INVESTING IN CHILDREN PROGRAMME

The Government has a significant Investing in Children (IIC) work programme to support vulnerable children and families, with the new Ministry for Vulnerable Children, Oranga Tamariki being formed on 1 April 2017. The Government is committed to working in partnership with Pacific communities to improve outcomes for vulnerable Pacific children and young people.

The new Ministry will have five core services: prevention, intensive intervention, care support, youth justice and transition support. There will be a whole of sector, child-centred approach to working with vulnerable children and young people.

### THE TRANSFORMATION TO A NEW SYSTEM IS A FOUR-YEAR WORK PROGRAMME

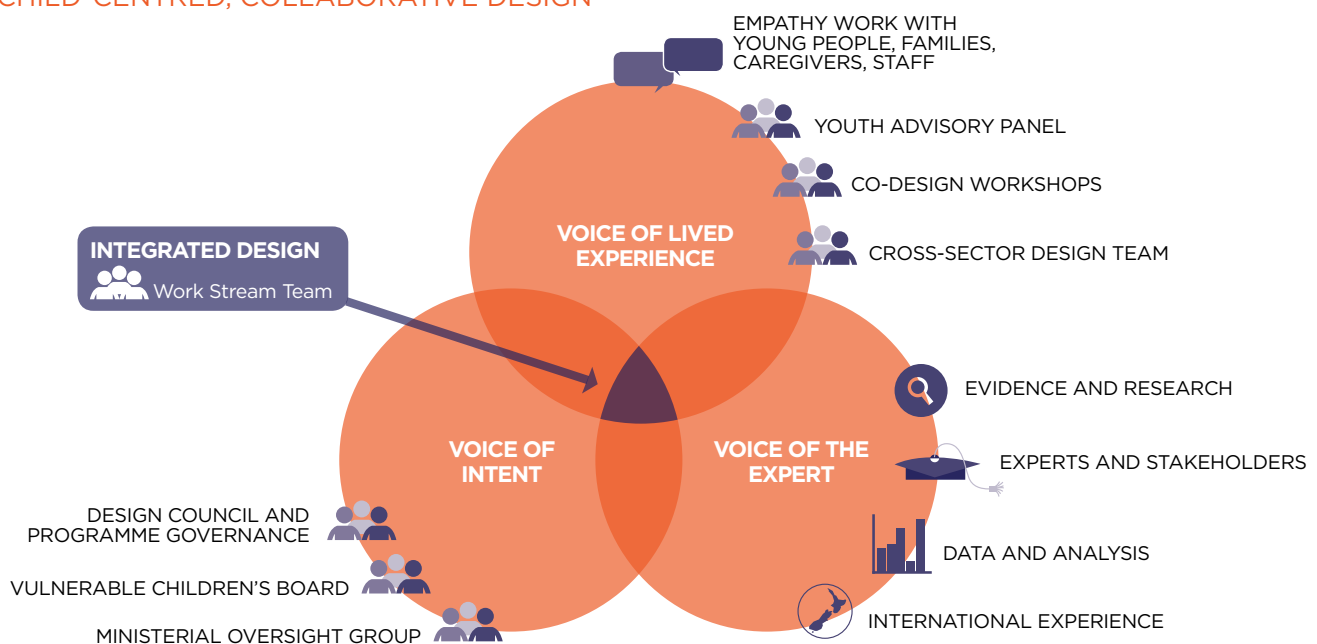
The area of focus for the first year includes:

- Blueprint for the end-to-end design of five core services
- Blueprint for system and agency practice frameworks
- Delivery of transition support services
- Early enhancement initiatives in year one

A key element of service design will be identifying the shifts needed in the wider operating model to give effect to the future experience we are seeking for children, young people, and their whānau.

A collaborative approach will be undertaken to the design and delivery of the five core service areas, which places children and young people in the centre.

### CHILD-CENTRED, COLLABORATIVE DESIGN



### THE DESIGN METHODOLOGY WILL BE BASED ON THREE KEY 'VOICES'

- Voice of lived experience: The voice of those who interact with the services, including children and young people, their families and whānau, caregivers, victims, communities and professionals
- Voice of intent: The principles, objectives of the whole system, the Expert Panel's report, Governance group oversight etc
- Voice of the expert: Includes evidence, knowledge, data and insights

### THERE WERE TWO WORKSHOPS AT THE FONO ON THE IIC WORK PROGRAMME

These workshop insights will provide input into the work going forward.

The first workshop explored how services can be designed and delivered that meet the needs of Pacific children and their families with particular emphasis on strengthening children's cultural identity.

The second workshop explored what Pacific families may need to stay connected to their children in care and help them transition well into young adulthood.



## THE MINISTERIAL WORK PROGRAMME TO ADDRESS FAMILY VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

A Ministerial Group co-chaired by the Ministers of Justice and Social Development oversees the all-of-government work programme set up to respond better to family violence and sexual violence.

The work programme aims to build a more integrated coordinated approach to stop violence occurring and re-occurring. Core government agencies involved are the Ministries of Justice, Social Development, Health and Education, NZ Police, ACC and Department of Corrections.

### THERE ARE SEVERAL KEY INITIATIVES AIMED AT IMPROVING RESPONSES TO FAMILY VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE INCLUDING:

- Improving victim safety
- Primary prevention
- Identifying, assessing and managing risks
- Development of workforce competencies
- Better support and management of perpetrators
- Preventing sexual violence and developing services

### THERE HAS BEEN SOME PROGRESS TO DATE:

The Integrated Safety Response pilot was launched on 1 July to improve safety of victims and reduce risk of future violence. Budget 2016 committed \$46 million over 4 years to better support victims and prevent sexual violence.

A draft Risk Assessment and Management Framework has been consulted on.

Family violence laws are being reviewed to ensure they are effective for keeping victims safe and holding perpetrators to account.

### THERE WERE TWO WORKSHOPS HELD AT THE FONÓ:

The first workshop on primary prevention sought input on a draft framework for primary prevention as well as ideas for priorities for primary prevention.

The second workshop was on the development of a core competency framework for the family violence and sexual violence workforce.

The draft framework identifies the core competencies that members of the family and the sexual violence workforce need to have, to effectively deliver services, and to better collaborate and co-ordinate with each other.

An update on these two initiatives will be provided to Ministers in November.



## BUILDING FINANCIAL CAPABILITY

The Ministry of Social Development is working on ways to build the financial capability of New Zealanders experiencing hardship. We are working with partners like the Commission for Financial Capability and taking a major shift in how we fund and support budget services.

Receiving ongoing input from community leaders, people who use the services and providers is an important way of ensuring services are designed that work for New Zealanders and their family and whanau. The goal of this work is to achieve a cultural shift so that it is easy to talk about money and everyone has a financial plan and is prepared for the unexpected.



# PORIRUA PROUD



## Life was a struggle for the Taura family when they first arrived in Porirua from the Cook Islands. But their faith and some smart motherly advice turned things around.

Youth leader Brienela Taura finds it a hard to comprehend the challenges her father Terence faced arriving in Porirua from the Cook Islands almost a quarter of a century ago.

“He came here with a young family and the responsibility of setting up a church in Porirua,” says the 23-year-old, who traces her links to the islands of Pukapuka, Atiu and Mauke.

“Dad arrived when he was 21, the same age as I am now. Besides his family, he had so many people depending on him. I just can’t comprehend how he managed to cope.”

The family struggled to survive with the few resources they had, and Brienela admits that at times they were desperate. But cope he did, thanks to his faith and sheer determination to fulfil the duties bestowed upon him. Recalling a story of her father having to beg and borrow raises a tear.

“Dad tells the story of having to beg a local shop owner for nappies and a bottle of milk when my brother and I were little. It wasn’t a stable environment in terms of income and I recall my Dad being hard and disciplined. It was only later that I came to understand the pressure he was under at the time,” Brienela recalls.

“He was working nightshifts to bring money for the family while working hard with few resources to build up the church.”

Their plight turned for the better when Brienela’s mother Kitona made a suggestion.

“Being the good wife my mother is, she noticed at church that my dad was so tired,” she recalls.

“Mum told him that his energy levels on the sermon didn’t match the passion he truly had for the church. So she offered to go into fulltime work and study on the side while my father could concentrate on the mission he was sent here for. That was when we, as a family, started to turn things around.”

As the Taura family’s plight began to improve, so did Porirua’s.

Brienela recalls the amount of violence on the streets when she was a child.

“There was a local gang in Porirua. We went to the same school as a lot of the members’ kids. Although we got on ok, there were a lot of fights and plenty of trouble.”

Concentrated community intervention helped turn the situation around. Brienela is proud to be from Porirua and keen to contribute what she can to make her home-town violence-free.

*“I know how lucky I am being brought up with two loving parents. My Dad grew up fatherless, his mother could barely manage and his stepfather was incredibly abusive”*

**- Brienela Taura**

Her experience doing a BA in Pacific Studies at Victoria University has also inspired her to work in the Pacific community after graduating.

“I’m fortunate to have Dr Teresia Teaiwa (Director of Pacific Studies) who has opened my eyes and deepened my passion for the Pacific, especially for social work,” she says.

“I know how lucky I am being brought up with two loving parents. My Dad grew up fatherless, his mother could barely manage and his stepfather was incredibly abusive to my Nana, my Dad and his younger brother and sister,” she says.

“But when I see him now, I’m so proud. And that’s why I want to serve the community the best I can, just as he does now.”

# GROWING THE NEXT GENERATION OF PACIFIC LEADERS

50% of Pacific People are under 25. In a challenge workshop, groups were brought together to discuss and provide feedback about how we can grow the next generation of Pacific leaders.

## YOUTH

The aims of this session were to provide a safe place for youth leaders to provide feedback about the issues they and their peer groups face, what services and support is available to them that they are aware of; and what support they need from Government, Church and community.

### *WHAT SUPPORT IS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE?*

Youth participants listed the top 10 support/services available to them, which included:

1. School guidance and learning counsellors/Teachers
2. Family and friends
3. Community youth programmes
4. Church programmes
5. Government funded youth programmes
6. Cultural clubs
7. Hang-outs and club houses
8. Community and Church leaders/mentors
9. Hobbies and sports clubs
10. Homework clubs

### *WHAT SUPPORT IS NEEDED FOR YOUTH?*

Overall, youth participants called for a lot more support to teach them life skills and how to cope with the problems and issues they face. Responses are summarised below.

#### POSITIVE ROLE MODELS

Youth leaders called for more people to support them who can relate to and speak to them on their level without judging them. They need more exposure to positive role modelling and learning from elders in Church, schools and communities through story-telling and sharing of life lessons. Young people need guest speakers who they can relate to who are successful and positive role models. They need more people who care.

#### CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE SUPPORT SERVICES

Students need culturally responsive support services and development programmes. There was a call to cater for boys and girls separately in safe spaces so that youth can share their experiences and learn in the comfort of their gender/peers.

#### MORE OPPORTUNITIES AND SAFE SPACES FOR YOUTH VOICE AND DEVELOPMENT

Government, Church, schools and community need to create more safe spaces for youth to be heard. There needs to be more forums such as Fono for youth to contribute to, up-skill and grow their knowledge about the support available to them to address the issues they may be facing.

#### BETTER COMMUNICATION AND POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN FAMILIES

Strengthening families with more open communication such as including children in family decision making and discussion is needed. Youth want better relationships with families and friends and want to be heard.

#### MORE LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH LEADING YOUTH

Participants strongly advocated for more youth leaders and youth in leadership positions to provide pastoral care for other young people.

#### ACCESS TO COMMUNITY CENTRES AND PACIFIC YOUTH PROGRAMMES

Youth asked for more access to community centres and to more youth-targeted programmes such as VIBE and Elevate.

#### EMPLOYMENT PATHWAYS

Participants called for more help from Government to help youth find good paying jobs when leaving school - better employment with better wages and learning pathways.

#### FINANCIAL LITERACY

Pacific children and families need to grow their knowledge of entrepreneurship and financial capability, with calls to teach these skills in schools to Pacific youth.

#### AFFORDABLE SUITABLE HOMES

Youth participants identified the need for their families to have access to affordable and suitable homes for safe and healthy households.





## ADULTS

Challenge questions for the adult break-out included identification of the issues that young Pacific people face today; to identify what services and support is available to them that they are aware of and how they can work together to address some of the issues identified, facilitated by Robert Muller and Pastor Andrew Perez.

### *WHAT SUPPORT IS CURRENTLY PROVIDED TO YOUTH?*

Groups of adults participating in the Challenge Workshop were able to list and provide descriptions for a range of youth services provided in the region. Services named target a range of age groups including Parents as First Teachers (PAFT) for 0-3 year olds and Vibe for 10-24 year olds, and included public and privately funded programmes such as EVOLVE, ZEAL, Family Start and Vibe.

Despite many services being named, groups were mostly unclear about what these services were and how they were connected to the community.

In terms of identifying Church-based services, some groups noted a lack of understanding of who can provide what. There were Church ministries that provided support services for specific groups such as family services, youth services, but they usually operate in isolation without community or government involvement.

### *WHAT OPPORTUNITIES WERE THERE TO DO MORE TOGETHER?*

There was consensus that there were a lot of opportunities to collaborate to support Pacific young people of our communities. Some of the main ideas were:

#### COLLABORATION

Community participants can get together to support young Pacific people and share resources such as research, increasing collaboration between services through improved communication.

#### DEVELOP PARTNERSHIPS

Partnering within key community organisations to provide joint initiatives and share a client base, while having expertise and cultural diversity to deliver Pacific-responsive initiatives. For example organisations could share the running and promotion of events such as a youth fono.

#### WORK MORE CLOSELY WITH SCHOOLS

There was a call from a participant who is a teacher, for better needs assessment of Pacific youth within schools and tailoring services to the needs of Pacific students. There was acknowledgement of the many services available in the community for Pacific youth but this is not communicated to the Pacific teachers who work face to face with Pacific youth, acting as mediators and facilitators of services.

#### INCENTIVISE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO FUND AND WORK WITH COMMUNITY PROVIDERS/CHURCHES

There was a call that holistic changes should include holistic funding. Participants felt the siloed way in which Government has been working in their efforts to engage Pacific communities and address the issues they face. Participants highlighted the need for funding agencies to work more collaboratively and cohesively across sectors and community to remove silos.

There needs to be an environmental scan of Pacific research as well as an increase in capacity building and capability for community to deliver the services needed by Pacific families. Government would then be incentivised to provide more funding for initiatives.

#### REGIONAL FONONO TO SHARE KNOWLEDGE

Some groups emphasised the enormity of the information and knowledge shared by participants at the Fono and realised the lack of shared information. There were calls for future Fono to create further opportunities for collaboration and sharing of knowledge.





# UNITED IN PROTECTING WOMEN OF THE WORLD



Fa'aolataga Leasi

**Presenting at the United Nations in New York Conference on The Prevention of Violence Against Women in 2013 was an honour in itself for Porirua's Fa'aolataga Leasi. What made it more rewarding was coming away from it knowing it wasn't 'just another talkfest'.**

In 2011 the United Nations stated that ending violence against women was a top priority, as it launched UN Women.

The UN stated that, "It is time for action when up to 70% of women in some countries face physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime; when one in three girls in developing countries is likely to be married as a child bride; when some 140 million girls and women have suffered female genital mutilation; when millions of women and girls are trafficked in modern-day slavery; and when women's bodies are a battleground and rape is used as a tactic of war – it is time for action."

Representing the Presbyterian Church in New Zealand, Fa'aolataga describes it as an experience that would be hard to surpass.

"Presenting to women from all over the world, not just from New Zealand and our region, but from Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Europe and America, was amazing."

What also surprised her was the perspective it provided comparing the levels of violence against women within her own community to those around the world.

"In New Zealand, we know Pacific people are over-represented in violence statistics compared to the overall population," she says.

"But the stories I heard about women suffering in all these other countries made me realise how fortunate we are."

Born and raised on the island of Savaii in Samoa, Fa'aolataga attended Samoa College and earned a scholarship that enabled her to attend Nga Tapuwae College in Mangere.

She had a calling to pursue academic studies, first gaining a Diploma in Pasifika ECE and furthering it with a Masters from Massey University.

Her qualifications relate to her passion to overcome the obstacles to improve the literacy levels of Pacific children, which she says are needed now more than ever.

Married to Rev Perema Leasi from the Presbyterian Church in Driver Crescent, Porirua, Fa'aolataga says, as a couple, they are as committed as ever to do what they can to reduce family violence within their community.

"We choose not to sweep family violence or violence against girls and women under the carpet and pretend it doesn't exist," she says.

"We have resources to work with and we try to make the most of them."

## FONO FEEDBACK



*Reverend Sitiveni Tuinasau, Kingdom Ambassador International Fellowship Church*

*"Our culture has traditionally been that what the parents say, goes. But today parents have to be aware of the changes happening to our society, where our children are exposed to a lot more. It's important for adults to keep learning and listening. In Fiji we like to sit around and have some dialogue, but often the things that need to be said are ignored and swept under the carpet. I've been in New Zealand for eight years now and got my residency in 2014. As a relative newcomer from the islands, I'm amazed at how much help there is available by the New Zealand government, NGOs and our churches."*

# WORKING LUNCHES

## PACIFIC FAMILY VIOLENCE TRAINING PROGRAMME

**Presenter:** Gayle Lafaiali'i, Alliance Community Initiatives Trust



Progress on revising and finalising the ethnic-specific Pacific Family Violence Training Programmes (PFVTP) was presented. The programmes are designed to build the capability of Pacific practitioners and influencers to provide culturally appropriate responses to vulnerable Pacific children and their families where there is family violence.

The Nga Vaka o Kaiga Tapu: A Pacific Conceptual Framework to address family Violence in New Zealand (Nga Vaka) which was launched in May 2012 has been used as the foundation along with family violence best practice to develop the PFVTP.

A framework for key competencies and learning objectives for workers and influencers across the family violence system has been developed. 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 says.

The initial training for Samoan practitioners and influencers has been trialled. 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 programme is a community-driven solution, very hands-on and practical for those working at the coal face," she says.

"Learnings from this pilot will inform the development of the other ethnic-specific programmes. Bringing together cultural best practice as well as understanding what works in preventing violence will support those who work with Pacific families to provide a more effective response."

## PASEFIKA PROUD MEDIA

**Presenter:** Yolande Ah Chong, Pacific Media Network



We need to engage with our people and our communities in mediums that connect with them to promote healthy and respectful relationships. Some examples on Pasefika Proud Marketing and Media were presented. Pasefika Proud messages need to be crafted in a cultural context to help reinforce values around family, honour and respectful relationships. We have to provide compelling, challenging, but ultimately positive messages to promote Pasefika Proud.

Yolande Ah-Chong, Pacific Media Network (PMN)'s culture and community representative 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.

PMN has previously 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.”

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.

“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.”

## THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH IN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

**Presenters:** Reverend Nove Vailaau of EFKS Porirua and Pastor Andrew Perez of Epicentre Lower Hutt



### CHURCHES UNITE

Pastor Andrew Perez of Epicentre Lower Hutt provided an overview of the Churches Unite initiative.

#### THE PURPOSE IS TO:

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

The Churches Unite initiative is an innovative collective of 9 Pacific non-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 in the Church and wider community as well. 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.

### FAITH IN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Exploring the role of faith in violence prevention, Reverend Nove Vailaau of EFKS Porirua drew on international faith-based movements to end family violence, and supporting literature and scripture condemning violence.

The World Council of Churches has declared that “all forms of violence are an offence against God, humanity and the earth”. He also drew on personal experiences providing pastoral care and counselling and provided examples of how faith leaders can deliver family violence prevention messages to their congregations.

#### THERE ARE FOUR KEY THEMES FOR CHURCH ACTION IN VIOLENCE PREVENTION:

As the Body of Christ, Churches must eliminate all forms of violence and promote a culture of peace and non-violence

- Make denominational statements against family and sexual violence
- Carry out theological and biblical research on family and sexual violence
- Challenge Biblical interpretations that support family and sexual violence
- Identify and eliminate the root causes of violence

#### Churches should honour and respect the dignity of women

- Redefine and reposition the place of women in families, Church and society toward equality of men and women
- Promote equality of men and women in Church structures
- “Headship” in marriage is the “oneness” of the husband and wife

#### Church leaders should be ready to confront

- Acknowledge the existence of family violence within our communities
- Understand family violence from the physical, psychological, emotional, and spiritual perspectives

#### Key roles Church can play in violence prevention:

- Church leaders to proactively lead the way rather than denying responsibility
- Develop family violence materials towards prevention
- Create preaching, teaching, training and counselling services to change people's attitude and behaviour about family and sexual violence. Facilitate workshops /seminars in Churches to share positive and honourable ways to sustain human relationships of love and kindness

# SCHOOL BASED SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION

**Presenter:** Robert Muller, The Village Collective



Mates & Dates is a healthy relationships programme for secondary school students developed by ACC. It's designed to help prevent sexual and dating violence by teaching young people relationship skills and behaviours to carry with them throughout their lives. It's about all kinds of relationships, including friends and family.

## MATES & DATES IS:

- Multi-year across all years 9-13
- Developmentally and age appropriate
- Intended to build strengths-based skills year on year
- Five sessions over five weeks (best practice dosage) including a mix of interactive activities – not lectures, taught by specialist facilitators, trained by ACC, with teachers present

Over 60 schools across New Zealand are expected to be involved with the programme over the 2016 academic year. The Village Collective delivers 'Mates and Dates' in Auckland.

The programme focuses on equipping young people with the tools to prevent sexual violence, based on three key learnings of understanding what a healthy relationship looks like – as well as what it doesn't look like, saying no and understanding consent, and asking for help or stepping in to provide help when they see something that is not right.

## OUR YOUNG PEOPLE NEED TO BE EQUIPPED TO:

- Understand what a healthy relationship looks like – as well as what it doesn't look like
- Say NO – understand consent
- Ask for help or step in and provide help when they see something that is not right

## WHAT'S GOING ON FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE?

Young people's understanding of relationships and sex start early. Insights were shared on common questions asked at various stages of a young person's life, to demonstrate what is commonly happening within stages of their development.

### Years 4-6 (primary)

Common question asked > How can I be honest without hurting someone's feelings?

- Sense of 'self' in relation to their peers and family members
- Fascination in human anatomy (babies)

### Years 7-8 (intermediate)

Common question asked > Why do friend's back-stab each other and stay friends?

- Skills to help them navigate relationships e.g. communication
- How to relate to others from diverse backgrounds
- Sex-education by Porn

### Years 9-11 (High school)

Common question asked > How long should you go out with someone before having sex for the first time?

- Interested in the emotional and mental aspects related to sex – not the physical act

### 16+ (Alter-ed)

Common question asked > How many times can someone get the ECP (emergency contraceptive pill)?

- Focus on preventing unintended pregnancy or STIs

## WHAT ELSE NEEDS TO BE CONSIDERED?

- The role of families
- Starting younger
- How communities can be engaged in this work
- Ensuring content recognises the cultural context that our young people live in

## PACIFIC DATA

**Presenter:** Radha Balakrishnan, MSD

An interactive session on what data is available on Pacific Peoples in New Zealand as well as some of the issues surrounding the data sources (especially ethnicity data) was discussed with participants.

### Some of the key issues covered included:

- Definitions are important – we have to clear about what is being counted
- Differences between administrative data and survey data - we need to know who is being counted
- Comparisons can be tricky - are we comparing like with like, do we take population rates into account
- Regional variations are important for Pacific peoples
- In general the way in which ethnicity data is collected means we will have to be cautious about the data. Ethnic-specific data is limited.

### An overview of the key demographic data was also provided:

- The majority of Pacific peoples in New Zealand are under 25
- 9% of Pacific peoples identified with more than one Pacific ethnicity
- 32% of Pacific peoples identified with ethnicities outside the Pacific group
- Most Pacific peoples live in Auckland

Some key family violence statistics were also discussed.

### For more information:

[www.issuu.com/pasefikaproud/docs/pacific-peoples-in-new-zealand](http://www.issuu.com/pasefikaproud/docs/pacific-peoples-in-new-zealand)

## DEVELOPMENT OF PACIFICA'S 'AKAMOEAU FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION TOOL KIT

**Presenter:** Dr Aliitasi Su'a-Tavila, President, Whitireia Branch PACIFICA



PACIFICA is looking to develop a national approach for its branches/regions to raise awareness of and advocate for Pacific women and children impacted by family violence. The 'Akamoeau Toolkit will include culturally relevant strategies for violence prevention and identify key people or organisations that can provide support to Pacific women and their families.

The first stage of this work is to identify knowledge and experiences of respectful relationships, and to identify key individuals and services in their regions. The next stage is

to build on these discussions through PACIFICA's regional conferences finalising the toolkit at the next national conference in 2017. 6 concurrent workshops were held for Youth, Cook Islands Maori, English speaking, Samoa, Tokelau and Tonga.

The insights from the workshops were outlined:

### HOW ARE RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS REBUILT WHEN INTERRUPTED?

- Focus on the person not the issue/incident
- Allow personal space and time for reflection and forgiveness. What is the learning?
- Review family culture and have the courage to change
- Keep in contact/connected, talk/talanoa and share your burdens
- Say thank you and I'm sorry!
- Get help, even outside of ourselves
- Find safety and guidance e.g. fatupaepae (Tokelau)
- Is vā-feāloaki being upheld? (Tokelau)

### HOW CAN WE SUPPORT OUR WOMEN AND CHILDREN?

- Establish safety first then call on help
- Use existing helping services and support eg from community services, from people who are trained and skilled or known for their helping practice. We have to encourage their use.
- Commend families to look within themselves and be the places that their members feel safe
- Focus on prevention and recovery
- Use family, friends, elders and Pacific networks for support and advice

### DEFINING RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

- Thoughtful, respectful communication where families are allowed to disagree/ make mistakes
- Safe places to learn
- Practice modesty and restraint, express humility, forgiveness, patience and harmony
- Allow individual development and value unity
- Uphold vā fealoaloa'i (Samoan)
- Uphold the fatupaepae, inati and takapau system for safety and boundaries for all members of the kāiga (Tokelau)
- Practice faith through the nurturing of children
- Have the joy of the fatele (Tokelau)
- Families are secure in their identity and can express themselves in cultural, social, political, economic and religious environments
- Support inter-dependence and partnership

# DEVELOPING LOCAL ACTION PLANS

Pacific community leaders came together in three regional groups for Porirua, Hutt Valley including the Wairarapa and Wellington Central on the second day of the Fono, to talanoa and develop an action plan to respond to the needs of Pacific children and families in their region. Groups were facilitated by Jean Mitaera (Porirua), Taima Fagaloa/Tofa Suafole-Gush (Hutt Valley) and Samson Samasoni (Wellington Central).

## OVERVIEW OF SOME OF THE PROPOSED ACTIONS/SOLUTIONS

### PORIRUA

#### ISSUE

Disconnected/disengaged youth

- Identity
- Truancy
- Absent parents
- Gang involvement
- Drug issues
- Investment in youth is too late

#### SOLUTIONS

- Create a youth hub venue in Porirua, for young people to share experience of what they need. Gather information needed for business case. This might not be starting something new, but might start doing something a new way.
- Work with gang leaders to open up the lines of dialogue and work together (Police contribution)
- Change the focus of services to engagement rather than behaviours
- FV screening in Early Childhood Centres

#### WHO

Partnership between Government agencies, schools, Police and providers



#### ISSUE

Lack of youth participation in solutions

#### SOLUTIONS

Promote a Youth Leaders network

- Coordinated on social media forum
- Meeting once a month, establish networking, hold an event, invite youth connections and bring awareness needing assistance
- Tap into church and work/education networks

#### WHO

Youth leaders, Schools and Providers



#### ISSUE

Workforce development

#### SOLUTIONS

- Service providers have to commit to the cultural framework at a management level
- There needs to be Govt commitment to investing in workforce training and development

#### WHO

- MSD and other government agencies that invest in workforce development
- Providers

## ISSUE

Lack of collaboration

## SOLUTIONS

- Look at how volunteer networks are utilised in other areas
- Identify opportunities within own personal networks
- Mobilise volunteer networks within church community (e.g. church congregation has nurses, educators, women's groups etc)
- Develop practical information networks within church on housing, education, employment utilising volunteers

## WHO

Everyone



## ISSUE

Lack of family time

## SOLUTIONS

Start at an individual level with our own family

- Spend time with our family, look at reflection of discussions in context of own family, finding family time
- Goal setting, reflection time, talanoa, lotu
- Self-care – mindful of our own needs to function – nutrition, devotion, rest, etc
- Cultural identity – We understand identity is a huge issue for young people – what are the cultural touchstones for building identity and sense of self. OUTCOME = Stronger relationships in the homes and refreshed professionals

## WHO

- Everyone
- Churches can model this with their families



# HUTT VALLEY

## ISSUE

Systematic issues:

- Lack of cultural input in mainstream
- Working in silos

Family environment

- communication
- relationships
- financial capability

PAFT – nothing to replace it

## SOLUTIONS

- Increase Pacific workforce
- Greater connection with Nga Vaka in practice
- Develop more sustainable policies and funding models
- Increase parenting help/support
- Reinforce of positive parenting

## WHO

- Agency collaboration
- Churches
- Schools



**ISSUE**

Mainstream Youth Services lack responsiveness

**SOLUTIONS**

- Increase Pacific youth worker workforce
- Greater connection with Nga Vaka in practice



**ISSUE**

Lack of culturally appropriate safe houses - there is no Pacific Women's refuge, and young people are impacted

**SOLUTIONS**

Fully funded culturally appropriate safe houses



**ISSUE**

Service for disabilities

**SOLUTIONS**

Fully funded one stop shop for Pacific people with disabilities

**WHO**

Can this be a role for Health Promotion Agency (HPA)?



**ISSUE**

Disconnected/disengaged youth

**SOLUTIONS**

Target audience = families

Groups:

- Project based events and activities i.e. cultural performances
- Faith based groups
- Mentoring: Iwi/Marae based, Hutt Activity Centre, Churches

Parent/Caregivers/Men = community based and focussed

- Man Up
- Male Safe
- Young adults
- Self esteem
- Cultural aspect
- Ethnic based

Sports/Activities/Community events

**WHO**

- Hutt City Council
- NGO's
- Government agencies and other funders

**WELLINGTON CENTRAL**

**ISSUE**

Family financial stresses which result in violence

**ACTIONS**

Discover the reason for financial difficulties (remittances, gambling, alcohol)

**SOLUTIONS/OUTCOMES**

Link up with an accredited budgeting services organisation





## ISSUE

Disengaged youth

## ACTIONS

Events-based projects, particularly around sport, which attract stronger public attendance/support

## SOLUTIONS/OUTCOMES

Youth more likely to open up around their peers and access appropriate services through event organisers



## ISSUE

Lack of Pacific representation in shaping of key resources/materials

## ACTIONS

Increase responsiveness and regularly engage with key organisations

## SOLUTIONS/OUTCOMES

Increasing engagement with key agencies/funders to generate more overall awareness of Pacific issues



## ISSUE

Lack of engagement between community groups

## ACTIONS

Strengthen relationships between providers and their communities/families by:

- Developing a 'one stop shop' service hub
- Develop a directory of providers (Portal/Web)
- Regular forum for Wellington Central to share Resources/Data and needs to involve Mainstream Agencies



## ISSUE

Suspected high levels of un-reported incidents of violence

## ACTIONS

Service providers, Churches, NGOs build trust with families by:

- Developing Family Day event including information workshops and creating a talanoa space (within 6 months)
- Developing a Sports Day event as a follow up from Family Day, attended by all service providers and Pacific communities



## ISSUE

Suspected high levels of unreported sexual abuse of Pacific children and youth

## ACTIONS

Awareness raising/improved communication campaign to encourage reporting abuse by:

- Educating parents and children to increase communication within families e.g. workshops for youth and families
- Building relationships and trust
- Increasing local community/agency support
- Encouraging use of sexual health clinics
- Using media to raise awareness of sexual violence

## SOLUTIONS/OUTCOMES

- Reduction of sexual abuse findings of Pacific children and youth from 9% to 7% by September 2018
- Increase the reporting rate of sexual abuse



## ISSUE

High prevalence of Pacific adults diagnosed with a mood and/or anxiety disorder

## ACTIONS

- Increase Pacific responsiveness and representation in sectors that may not have enough influence to share/design resources/frameworks/materials
- Stocktake existing schemes – what are the statistics for these services
- Community engagement focussed on specific action
- Education/promotion
- Define mental health
- Identify establish connect with stakeholders in this area
- Design criteria of Pacific for advisory group representatives.
- Business case including analysis to support/evaluate programmes/models

## ISSUE

High hospital admission of Pacific children

## ACTIONS

Develop a preventative approach for improving Pacific children's health

- Stocktake existing schemes – what are the statistics/results for these services?
- Identify key social determinants that impact this action plan e.g. over-crowding of homes
- Develop practical tips that overcome barriers to overcrowding in homes.
- Engage with community with education and health promotion focus
- Create a virtual platform to promote tips and have conversations about how to reduce overcrowding
- Collaborate to develop links between medical/health sector and families
- Support families by connecting them with appropriate providers/services

## NEXT STEPS



## PORIRUA

The Porirua group focused on 7 day, 7 week and 7 month action plans.

### 7 days

- Take actions personally and where one can influence others. This is important irrespective of age, gender, education, employment and ethnicity. Everyone is accountable.

### 7 weeks

- Disseminate existing links to information and resources (highlighting information/resources for youth)
- Demonstrate collaboration - Govt agencies, Pacific groups and organisations (eg: consultations/announcements/initiatives/co-hosting)
- Establish a Pacific Youth Komiti

### 7 months

- Establish a Pacific Hub for the Wellington region
- Develop a Pacific collaboration framework for govt and community
- Convene a regional Pacific Youth Day/Forum
- Convene regional workshops on Nga Vaka

## HUTT VALLEY

There was a feeling that all groups from the Hutt were not represented right now. The groups is looking for a really robust, inclusive process in Hutt Valley- the group start to agree on asking for a specific forum in Hutt valley utilising everyone.

This group wanted to be supported to come up with and develop solutions. There was a strong desire to work collaboratively across sectors.

A follow-up Fono was held to implement the cultural frameworks in the Hutt Valley and consolidate points into an action plan.

## WELLINGTON CENTRAL

The Wellington group were interested in pursuing an initial two-year evidence-based, outcomes-focused strategy that would involve greater collaboration and coordination amongst central Wellington Pacific NGO, social service and faith-based providers.

The group felt that any action plan that was developed for the Wellington city needed to have ambitious, challenging but realistic targets to work towards in reducing family violence.

Timeframes needed to be achievable but also challenging with 6 month plan/targets as well as longer term objectives. The group also realised that there needs to be robust and accurate data to inform their strategic and tactical approaches.

A sub-group of key Wellington leaders have met for a follow up meeting to progress the development of this action plan.

# CONTINUING THE MOMENTUM – NEXT STEPS



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

This is the second Fono we have hosted and I have been overwhelmed by the commitment of our Pacific Community Leaders who have come together to play an active role in how we collectively strengthen our responses to our vulnerable Pacific children, young people and their families.

The Minister for Social Development, Hon Anne Tolley and Minister for Finance Hon Bill English have re-affirmed Government's commitment to work with Pacific community leaders to develop a whole of system response that meets the needs of Pacific communities.

We are at a critical "tipping point" to mobilise our communities to realize 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.

The Investing in Children work programme has a dedicated Pacific work programme that ensures the new operating model is culturally competent and responsive to our Pacific children and young people. This includes:

- An integrated Pacific cultural framework (including Nga Vaka Kāiga Tapu and Va'aifetu) that underpins all policies, practices and services for vulnerable Pacific children, young people and their families;
- Engaging with Pacific community leaders and organisations at national, regional and local levels who have partnered with the new agency in the Commissioning strategy, Sourcing Plan and Direct Purchasing Framework;
- Co-designing services and practices which are focussed on effective responses for vulnerable Pacific children, young people and their families and communities; and

- A culturally capable workforce (including influencers) that is able to provide an effective, child-centred, response to the needs of vulnerable Pacific children, young people and their families.

I am heartened by the leadership shown by Pacific Community leaders within the Hutt Valley and Wellington Central who have taken on the challenge to further develop local plans to address key issues for Pacific families within their region.

The information gathered at these Fono will be shared with government officials to inform their respective work programmes to better respond to the needs of our Pacific children, young people and their families.

We are committed to engaging with Pacific Community Leaders within other regions through more Fono. Our next Fono is in the South Island in November. We also want to hear from our young Pacific people. We intend to hold a Youth Fono in the New Year.

Strong, safe, vibrant and prosperous families are our asset base for our future. We hope this information will continue to shape conversations amongst our Pacific communities about leading sustainable change for our families. The momentum for positive transformation has started.

At the end of the day it is 'Our Families, Our People, Our Responsibility'

**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. Anne Tolley  
 Hon. Bill English  
 Murray Edridge  
 Fa'amatua'inu Tino Pereira

## PANEL PRESENTERS

Tofilau Kerupi Tavita  
 (facilitator)  
 Jean Mitaera  
 Joanne Setefano  
 Onny Gajadhar



## WORKING LUNCH PRESENTERS

Gayle Lafaiali'i  
 Yolande Ah Chong  
 Robert Muller  
 Reverend Nove Vailaau  
 Pastor Andrew Perez  
 Dr Aliitasi Su'a-Tavila  
 Radha Balakrishnan



## WORKSHOP LEAD FACILITATORS

Dr James Prescott  
 Jean Mitaera  
 Fagaloa Taima Fagaloa  
 Samson Samasoni  
 Pastor Taefu Heker Robertson  
 Tofa Suafole Gush  
 Fa'afoi Seiuli  
 Jenny Taotua  
 Pastor Andrew Perez  
 Robert Muller



## EVENT ENTERTAINMENT & MANAGEMENT

Ma'a Brian Sagala - Master of Ceremonies  
 Taita College  
 Cook Islands Christian Church in NZ Youth  
 Pastor Teremoana Taura  
 Central Pacific Collective  
 PACIFICA Whitireia branch  
 Brienela Taura  
 Patrima Taura

## EVENT HOSTS

Pastors Ken and Tai Roach and their amazing team, Elim Church, Porirua

## EVENT REPORTING, PHOTOGRAPHY & DESIGN

Oceania Media  
 Bright Sunday







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