

Ministry of

Pacific Island Affairs



A newsletter for Pacific communities

March/April 2007



Celebration of Pasifika in Aotearoa

www.minpac.govt.nz

CEO Editorial

The Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs is committed to fulfilling its vision of achieving social and economic prosperity for Pacific peoples in New Zealand.

This edition of our national newsletter is dedicated to our Pacific people and the celebration of their contribution to New Zealand as a nation in realising its full economic and social potential.

Pacific initiatives and achievements in Aotearoa have been very much collaborative, since the early 1950's when the first wave of Pacific migration hit the shores of Aotearoa.

The commencement of a new millennium has provided us an opportunity today to reflect upon Pacific peoples' New Zealand journey. We celebrate the many wonderful events and initiatives of Pacific peoples who have made great contributions to New Zealand. Success is a great motivator and Pacific peoples know this only too well.

We are pleased to share with you some of the events highlighted in this edition which illustrate the breadth of Pacific peoples' aspirations. As newer Pacific generations arise to take up the challenges of their forbears to succeed in life, we look forward to seeing these young people show the imagination and courage needed to transform New Zealand into the modern innovative country that it needs to be in the 21st Century.

In recent years the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs has been pleased to make its own modest contributions (some examples – Pacific Vision Strategy, Pacific Capacity Building programme and Ala Fou – Pacific youth leadership initiative) in helping build the capability of Pacific people to better enable them to participate fully in all levels of New Zealand society. This has been achieved principally through collaboration with many other Government agencies on our, and others', initiatives.

For the most part the work that the Ministry has done to help realise Pacific peoples' aspirations in Aotearoa has been quite invisible, as the focus is primarily upon exerting influence over government policy and services for Pacific peoples. This is because our role is essentially one of advocacy and support, helping other key government agencies to deliver services that are responsive to Pacific peoples' needs. We have been a willing but largely silent partner to many initiatives and events currently benefiting Pacific peoples.

I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to all Pacific communities, government officials, businesses and all others who have stepped up to build upon this legacy and dared to lead in their own right, to improve outcomes for Pacific peoples in New Zealand. The challenge to make the difference never leaves us.



Fuimaono Les McCarthy
Chief Executive

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Front cover: Hon. Luamanuvao Winnie Laban
with future Pacific leaders

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“Kia orana, Ni sa bula, Taloha ni, Fakaalofa lahi atu, Malo e lelei, Halo olaketa, Kam na mauri, la orana, Kia ora, Talofa lava and warm Pacific Greetings to you all.

This edition of the Ministry newsletter is an opportunity for our Pacific peoples to celebrate the significance of their contribution to New Zealand.

When I was given the task to be the Associate Minister of Pacific Island Affairs, I was very humbled and privileged to take on the role, to continue to serve and make a difference for our people in New Zealand.

A rich tapestry of achievements by our Pacific people continues to grow. Many events have exposed the true significance of Pacific people in New Zealand.

The programme of Pacific People’s arts and events that showcases the extraordinary achievements of our Pacific peoples grew out of the popularity of the annual Pasifika Festival celebration.

In past years, Pacific peoples have built up a range of initiatives supported by this Labour-led government. These initiatives are the building blocks for today – and for years to come. The fruit of this work is the now substantial Pacific flavour found in all parts of New Zealand.

As a Pacific woman, I know our people possess a natural flair, energy and talent. New Zealand can benefit significantly from this and will if we unlock our real potential.

Today, we celebrate our Pacific talent, energy and creativity in many different arenas. I am impressed and encouraged that

Pacific peoples are now leading the way in many new fields.

Lifting the participation and prosperity of our Pacific communities is critical to the future economic performance of all of New Zealand.

We will continue to work together and inspire our people and the wider New Zealand community to recognise and take advantage of opportunities in Pacific events.

The Labour-led government will continue to deliver the many initiatives that have already made significant improvements to the every-day lives of our Pacific people.

The challenge for us all is to establish a framework for a prosperous future for all Pacific New Zealanders. We can use our energy, identity and our success as people of the Pacific to find inspiration, hope, and to realise the true potential within ourselves.

Today we celebrate New Zealand as a Pacific nation, our relationship with our neighbours and our beautiful region, the Pacific.

la manuia.

Hon. Luamanuvao Winnie Laban



Hon. Luamanuvao Winnie Laban.



Celebrate Pasifika is a month long festival; a cross-regional initiative between the Auckland City, Manukau City and Waitakere City councils, which celebrates and reflects the innovation, adaptability and evolution of Pacific identity throughout Auckland.

Launched at the Auckland Museum, the festival incorporates more than 25 events throughout March, as an opportunity to showcase Pacific flavour, and celebrate the uniqueness of Pacific talents.

Ranging from Pacific Island theatre and short films to art exhibitions and workshops, it was the total package that leads the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs to contribute and sponsor two main events.

The tapestry of Pacific arts through Genetic Pasifika and Arts Arena activities was led by the Ministry, to explore the notion of creative talents yet to be recognised and developed throughout New Zealand.

Genetic Pasifika was a popular range of workshops and demonstrations featuring craftswomen from Niue, Tonga, Rotuma, Tahiti and the Cook Islands. The Arts Arena incorporated actors, visual artists, poets and musicians as role models to attract more Pacific people into their fields.

Festival director Michelle Khan says Celebrate Pasifika gives Pacific people the chance to broaden their knowledge of their cultures and to engage experience and celebrate the innovation, adaptability and evolution of Auckland’s Pacific communities.

Celebrate Pasifika is a regional programme of arts and events which aims to showcase the extraordinary achievements of Auckland’s Pacific peoples and provide opportunities for Aucklanders and visitors alike, to engage with Auckland’s Pacific cultures.



Fusi Mesui, Yolande Ah Chong, Jae'D Victor with Festival Director, Michelle Khan at the launch of Celebrate Pasifika.

Honouring Associate Professor Rex Ahdar

The 30th November 2006 was a proud day for all, including the Associate Minister of Pacific Island Affairs the Honourable Luamanuvao Winnie Laban, in celebrating the promotion of Associate Professor Rex Ahdar to full Professor of Law at the University of Otago, one of New Zealand's oldest universities.

This milestone event was lauded and acknowledged on the day to the Pacific community present, by many including the Honourable Minister, The Dean of the Law School Professor Mark Henaghan as well as the Deputy Vice Chancellor and Chair of the Pacific Peoples Reference Group, Professor Gareth Jones.

Professor Ahdar is married to Lidwina Tupuola and his father, Leota John Ahdar (from Fugalei in Samoa) lives in Christchurch where he is Treasurer of St Paul's Trinity Pacific Church. Professor Ahdar was born in Dunedin in 1961, grew up in Christchurch and is an alumni of the University of Canterbury, where he attained his Masters in Law. He also holds a PhD, which he attained at the University of Otago.

Professor Ahdar has an impressive list of honours, including a Fulbright Senior Research Scholarship from 1991 and membership in the Editorial Board of the Australian Business Law Review and New Zealand Business Law Quarterly. In addition to this, he has spent research time in Law faculties at the University of California at Berkeley, University of Queensland, University of Edinburgh and Emory Law School.

The University of Otago has made a long term commitment to Pacific academic achievement, which is evidenced by the illustrious list of past Pacific alumni that have literally gone on to change the world. Names that include former Prime Ministers Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, Sir Tom Davis and legal minds like Judge A'e'au Semi Epati, and yet another to join those ranks is Professor Rex Ahdar.



Celebrate the promotion of Professor Rex Ahdar from left to right - Professor Mark Henaghan (Dean Law Faculty), Asuao Saisoa'a (Samoan Advisory Council Dunedin), Professor Gareth Jones (Deputy Vice Chancellor), Hon. Lumanuvao Winnie Laban (Associate Minister for Pacific Island Affairs), Lidwina Ahdar, Professor Rex Ahdar, Maria Kerslake (NUS Dean of Arts), Mauvalaivao U.Sasagi, Tasi Lemalu. Front row from left to right - Masuisui JR Pereira (MPIA Regional Advisor), Tofilau Nina Kirifi-Alai (Manager University Otago Pacific Is Centre), Peter Retimanu (MPIA Christchurch Regional Manager), and Tagiilima Feleti (Ministry of Education Dunedin).

Adam Brodie new Manager Finance for the Ministry

Chief Executive Officer, Fuimaono Les McCarthy recently announced the appointment of Adam Brodie to Manager Finance for the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs.

Adam was originally seconded to the Ministry for several months in late 2003, in the same role, whilst serving at the Department of Corrections. He then left the Ministry to pursue career challenges with the Ministry of Education and the States Services Commission.

Adam's returning to the Ministry has been a joyful experience and said "it's amazing to be back and to see that the culture hasn't changed for the Ministry".

Wayne Tietjens, who was previously Manager Finance, is now with the Ministry of Social Development and Adam has had no problem in catching-up with the work and fitting back into the Ministry environment.

Adam is based in the Ministry's national office in Wellington and is well supported by his two beautiful daughters and lovely wife Josephine.



Adam Brodie

Pasifika Festival 15 years stronger

Every year, the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs has a presence at the Pasifika Festival, one of the South Pacific's largest Pacific islands community events.

Pasifika Festival takes place in March at the Western Springs Park and stadium in Auckland and showcases a celebration of art, culture and lifestyle of Pacific peoples in New Zealand and in the South Pacific.

This year marks the fifteenth anniversary of the Pasifika Festival, which continues to bring excitement and pride to Pacific people in Aotearoa.

The size and scope of this festival has grown every year. The event itself has embodied many of the strengths of Pacific peoples, who are contributing to New Zealand's economy in different ways, such as music and art, with creativity, enthusiasm and pride.

This was reflected by the amazing line up of performers, including local favourites Jamoa Jam and Spacifix, the Pacific's own opera tenor Ben Makisi, Pacific dance troupe Tahitian Gabilou and Pacific Expressions, along with a vast range of stalls and food.

Pasifika Festival Director, Ole Maiava says he was thrilled by the entertainment, the sponsors, funding bodies and supporters and stressed that this is a most valuable opportunity for Pacific artists and business entrepreneurs to get out and make known their talents to the rest of New Zealand.

Pasifika is the ultimate total cultural experience, but for the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs it is another opportunity to get information out to the community and Pacific peoples, about our roles and responsibilities says Angie Enoka, Senior Communications Advisor.

"The objective of organising a Ministry stall, is to engage with our Pacific people. It is most important for our Ministry to have a presence and make people aware of what the Ministry is campaigning about".

"We are continuing to push our Pacific Prosperity theme. It will be an ongoing activity for us to help Pacific peoples to focus on the future of New Zealand's economy and where Pacific peoples can fit in. Pacific Prosperity is a mind-set changing campaign and we need to push the mind-set change at every opportunity available to us".

More than 200,000 people attended the festival, where everyone enjoyed firsthand experiences of the art and cultural expression of the Pacific Islands nations in Aotearoa.



Prime Minister Rt Hon. Helen Clark with Cabinet Ministers and MP's at Pasifika Festival 2007.



Ruta Lealamanua explains the roles and responsibilities of the Ministry on the day.



Ministry team attending Pasifika festival.

University of Otago Pacific Centre Opens

The opening of the new University of Otago Pacific Islands Centre in Dunedin was cause for much celebration by the Pacific community and students alike. This milestone was one of the many the university has committed to delivering to enhance Pacific academic achievement for the long term.

The Master of Ceremonies for the day's celebrations was the Manager of the new centre Nina Kirifi-Alai, who now has two staff working with her to bring to fruition Otago's aspiration of world class Pacific academics nurtured in an environment which is going to maximise each student's potential.

During the day's presentations, it was shown that the University of Otago spends more per student than any other university in New Zealand.

In the blessing of the new building, each room was named after a past Pacific alumnus; The Sir Tom Davis Common Room, the Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara Seminar Room and the Judge Epati Courtyard.

Past alumni whose example the university hopes the undergraduate and post graduate students will come to emulate in the future.



From left to right - Mr John Patrick (Chief Operating Officer of University of Otago), Professor Squires, Chancellor Lindsay Brown, Pete Hodgson (Labour MP), Guinivere Alai (Design Student), Prabal Mishra (Pacific Islands Students Officer), Vice Chancellor Professor David Skegg and Rev. Greg Hughson.

Special Tribute to late Bishop Fi'a Gatoloai and Tafa Max To'o

The Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs would like to pay special tribute to the late Aiolupotea Bishop Fi'a Gatoloai of Auckland and Tafalelua'ialii Max Otele To'o of Wellington. Both were current sitting members of the Samoan Community Reference Group (CRG) when they passed away.

Fuimaono Les McCarthy would like to convey a message of sincere condolences to both families and relatives.

Bishop Fi'a Gatoloai had served 2 terms as a CRG member in the Justice and Social services sector in Auckland and Leulua'ialii Tafa Max To'o served 3 years in the Wellington Samoan CRG.

Both members will be sadly missed by the staff of the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs, Community Reference Group members and their communities in both Auckland and Wellington.

Vahefonua Tonga 'o Aotearoa Training and Education Expo 2007

Pacific students returning to school for 2007 received a mountain of encouragement from the Auckland Tongan Methodist Community as the inaugural Vahefonua Tonga 'o Aotearoa Training and Education Expo was staged at the Lotofale'ia Methodist Church in Mangere, late January.

48 community and education organisations from the Auckland region held stalls and displayed their careers information for students and young people considering their future. Exhibitors included the New Zealand Army, Auckland University, Careers Services, NZBCITO (New Zealand Building and Construction Industry Training Organisation) and the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs.

Ministry staff members were on hand to support the work of the Tertiary Education Commission's Modern Apprenticeships Scheme and the NACEW – National Advisory Council on the Employment of Women's promotion of entrepreneurial opportunities.

The Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs has adopted a focus on economic prosperity for Pacific communities. This focus encompasses leadership development as well as entrepreneurial culture and involvement in creative and innovative industry.

Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs Northern Regional Manager Dean Westerlund says "this is an example of a community coming together to focus on positive, foundation building activities that will make a positive impact on their future. A focus on education, combined with a well thought out career plan is vital to the success of today's Pacific youth as they seek to contribute positively to the New Zealand economy."

The audience heard from keynote speaker Lesieli Tongati'o from the Ministry of Education's Pule Ma'ata Pasifika unit, as well as community and church leaders from across the Auckland region.

Cultural performances from Tongan Methodist Youth Groups, as well as local brass bands provided entertainment for the day and helped to strengthen the link between culture and education, as nearly all of the performers were in the age group that would be thinking about their career options.

Organisers have called the 2007 event a success and are now planning for an even bigger expo in 2008.



From left Kathleen Fetoka, Maria Meredith and Mata George from the University of Auckland promoting courses and programmes on the day.



Auckland Methodist Tongan Youth Group performance as their contribution to the expo.

Tulano Toloa presents at Victoria University

Tulano Toloa, a Tokelauan student, began his education at Matauala School in Atafu, Tokelau and now thrives at Victoria University, where he is working towards a BA Honours programme.

Tulano came to New Zealand to attend Wesley College and developed into a business major, which he studied and graduated with at Wellington Polytechnic. He later pursued a major in Political Studies, which he attained from Victoria University.

Today, Tulano has moved on to a higher stepping stone, tackling the Honours degree, which he hopes to develop into the Masters programme. Part of his course requirements involves supervised work placement. He uses this opportunity to link his initial ideas to the work of the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs.

Tulano succeeded in taking up the challenge and was well-timed with the work of the Ministry on Pacific Economic Action Plan. At that time, Dr. Teresia Teaiwa, tutor and lecturer in the Pacific Studies programme, was on the lookout for agencies to support work placement.

Tulano's predominant focus upon Pacific peoples in New Zealand was ideal and a relationship was consolidated between the Pacific Studies programme and the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs. As a result, Tulano put in 10 hours per week for 15-20 weeks with the Ministry and inputted a lot of commitment and hard work. His diligent effort to complete two milestones allocated as part of his learning experience was fulfilled with the highest accomplishment within the time period of his service.

He summed-up all of his work with a seminar presentation, attended by Victoria University Pacific Studies staff led by Dr. Tagaloatele Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop and the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs Wellington staff, which spelled out the importance of Tulano's work experience and his placement in the Ministry.

Dr Tagaloatele, Director of the Pacific Studies programme says that such assessment is crucial in terms of relationship sustainability with external organisations, and that the inclusion of the internship programme as part of their course curriculum is always an excellent start.

"The recommendations given by key organisations are brilliant in terms of forging stronger alliances and working collaboration for the future, especially in areas that have a strong Pacific focus", added Dr. Tagaloa.

Director of Policy and Communications, Su'a Leituposa Kevin Thomsen supports the opportunity of exploring more options for internship programmes, especially in areas that are of interest to Pacific peoples in New Zealand.

According to Tulano, it was a fulfilling and rewarding experience and for the Ministry, it was a milestone that targeted how far to reach out in terms of relationship building and ongoing relationships.

Tulano uses this experience to build into his future research goals and the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs would like to wish him all the best for his studies.



From left to right: Vanessa Schuster (Policy Analyst), Trevor Guttenbeil (Policy Analyst), Tulano Toloa (Internship student), Teresia Teaiwa (Senior Lecturer Pacific Studies), Dr Tagaloa Peggy Fairburn-Dunlop (Director Pacific Studies), Heker Robertson (Chief Advisor) and Katie Fala (Policy Analyst).

New translated versions of 'Renting and you – a guide to the law about renting' brochure available in Samoan and Tongan

The Department of Building and Housing has produced a 'Renting and you – a guide to the law about renting' brochure in the Samoan and Tongan languages.

Renting and you is a comprehensive guide to the legal rights and responsibilities of landlords and tenants. The translated versions of the brochure will help Pacific Island tenants and landlords who do not speak English as their first language, to understand the rental laws.

All versions of the *Renting and you* brochure are available on the Department's website: www.dbh.govt.nz/pub-tenancy-overview, by calling 0800 TENANCY (0800 83 62 62), or by visiting one of their offices in Auckland, Manukau, Hamilton, Wellington or Christchurch.



Pacific people are a significant part of the New Zealand rental housing market. In 2001, 62 percent of the Pacific population was living in rental housing – a rise from 56 percent in 1996 and 51 percent in 1991.

Providing tenancy information and education in Pacific languages aims to help Pacific people in the rental market be well informed and make good decisions. This will help them to enjoy stable and secure renting, and help to prevent disputes.

For tenancy information and advice about a specific rental problem, call 0800 TENANCY (0800 83 62 62). Interpreters are available for all Pacific Island languages, through the Language Line service.

The Department of Building and Housing would like to acknowledge and thank the Communications team from the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs for their work in peer reviewing these versions of the brochure.

Minimum wage increase from April 2007

As announced by Labour Minister Hon. Ruth Dyson, workers earning the minimum wage will receive a 9.8% pay rise as of April 2007.

According to Minister Dyson's press release, the minimum wage, which applies to people 18 years and over, will increase from \$10.25 to \$11.25 an hour (\$450 for a 40 hour week) from 1 April 2007 – the largest increase since the Labour-led government came into office in 1999.

This is consistent with government's goal for the adult minimum wage to reach \$12 an hour by the end of 2008, if economic conditions persist. The youth minimum rate, for workers aged 16 and 17 years, will also increase from \$8.20 an hour to \$9.00 an hour, to stay at 80% of the adult minimum wage.

This increase allows lower paid workers to share the benefit of economic growth.

"It would certainly help most people to join the workforce and provide protection for some of New Zealand's most vulnerable workers," Minister Dyson said.

The Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs is consulted every year about the minimum wage review. Late last year, the Department of Labour requested the use of the Ministry Community Reference Group (CRG's) to provide feedback on the minimum wage.

"The feedback from CRGs on the minimum wage review in conjunction with other submissions, formed the basis for government's decision to increase the minimum wage rate from \$10.25 - \$11.25 as announced", said Reno Paotonu, Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs Senior Policy Analyst for the Labour Market portfolio.

"An increase in wages will benefit workers in all sectors", added Mr Paotonu.

The Minister of Labour is responsible for reviewing and monitoring minimum wage rates annually for adults, youth and trainees, seeking submissions from a wide range of organisations, including employers, unions, and Pacific, Maori and women's groups.

For more information on minimum wage review contact the Department of Labour at: www.ers.dol.govt.nz or free phone 0800 20 90 20.

Nominations service launched for Disabled People

A nominations service for disabled people has been launched by the Minister for Disability Issues, Hon. Ruth Dyson.

This service aims to increase the numbers of appropriately skilled disabled people appointed to government boards and committees. In other words, this service gives the opportunity to disabled people, to explore and demonstrate what they are capable of, as either leaders or decision-makers across many sectors.

The Office for Disability Issues established this service for disabled people in 2005. The service's database is custom-built to store information about disabled people and nomination requests from government agencies. To help facilitate this process, this database will provide ministers, Government agencies and departments and non-government organisations, with suitable candidates who have the skills, experience, attributes and expertise, to effectively represent disabled people's interests in the boardroom.

Convenor of the Nominations Service, Judy Small was acknowledged on the day together with Peter Hughes, Chief Executive of the Ministry of Social Development, and Business New Zealand Chief Executive Phil O'Reilly, for taking time out to support this important service that allows the voices of disabled people to be heard at a high level where they can influence decisions.

Hon. Ruth Dyson cited in her speech, a need for further change. Employers are now discovering a rich, previously hidden resource of talent and abilities in disabled people and many are employed as solicitors and barristers, managers, retail workers, service providers and technical product designers.

Many are owners of their own businesses, added Minister Dyson. This was evident by the presence of successful Auckland entrepreneur John Burton, who told his story about his own impairment and how it has not hindered his business endeavours.

As the Office for Disability moves to increase the representation of disabled people, so does the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs, to up the level of Pacific representation at the boardroom table of Crown companies and other Government bodies.

The Ministry's nominations database was established around the same purpose and in response to Pacific peoples' desire for suitable representatives, to present and advocate a Pacific perspective inside public sector bodies whose decisions have a significant impact upon Pacific communities.

The Chief Executive of the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs, Fuimaono Les McCarthy, says the nominations database helps the Ministry to assist organisations that recognise the need for a Pacific perspective, and individuals in the community who have the necessary skills and experience, and the drive to apply them on decision-making Boards.

The Ministry is currently seeking nominations of individuals with a variety of skills and experience to be registered in its nominations database.

If you are interested in registering a nomination with the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs Nominations Database, contact Angie Enoka by phone (04) 471 8245 or email: angie.enoka@minpac.govt.nz to request a Registration Form and the Nominations Database Details Form.



Minister for Disability Issues Hon. Ruth Dyson.

Making it easier to work and raise a family

Under the Working for Families package, thousands of New Zealand families are benefiting from financial assistance. Almost all families earning up to \$70,000, and some earning more, now qualify for tax credits.

Working for Families Tax Credits provide financial help for families with children aged 18 or under. Working for Families Tax Credits includes several different types of payments and families may qualify for one or more depending on their circumstances.

From 1 April 2007, the family tax credit rates increase by \$10 per child per week. This means more money for both beneficiary and working families.

Help with childcare and accommodation costs:

Income limits for childcare and accommodation subsidies have increased, so more families qualify and families can earn more before their payments start to reduce.

- *Childcare Subsidy* – for up to 50 hours a week of childcare for children under five.
- *OSCAR (Out of School Care and Recreation) Subsidy* – can help with the costs of before and after school care for up to 20 hours a week for children aged five to 13, and 50 hours care during school holidays.
- *Accommodation Supplement* – helps with rent, board or mortgage costs, for people with or without children.

The Working for Families package is delivered jointly by Inland Revenue and Work and Income.

For more information:

- Visit www.workingforfamilies.govt.nz which has calculators to work out eligibility.
- Working for Families Tax Credits: 0800 227 773
Mon – Fri 8am – 8pm, Sat 9am – 1pm.
- Accommodation & Childcare: 0800 774 004
Mon – Fri 7am – 8pm, Sat 8am – 1pm.



Effective Interventions Justice Pacific Reference Group

Senior staff members from the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs are working with their counterparts from the Ministry of Justice, The New Zealand Police, The Department for Corrections and Child Youth and Family, as well as Pacific community leaders, to seek ways of reducing disproportionate numbers of Pacific peoples in the criminal justice system.

Chief Advisor Heker Robertson and Policy Analyst Jon Siakimotu are members of the Justice Pacific Reference Group, supporting the work of the Effective Interventions strategy. The group will provide advice, leadership and support to the Pacific work undertaken in the Effective Interventions strategy.

The group has chaired meetings with Pacific communities nationwide to seek feedback on issues around the criminal justice sector.

Chief Advisor Heker Robertson says "the work we are doing goes to show that agencies can work in partnerships not only with other agencies but also with our Pacific communities, to find solutions to some difficult issues."

More information can be found by logging onto: www.justice.govt.nz/effective_interventions

Police Act Review

Pacific communities around New Zealand are being encouraged to have their say over proposed changes to the Police Act 1958.

Since the passing of the original act nearly 50 years ago it has been amended 25 times to keep in line with the changing face of New Zealand. A series of issues documents have been released covering topics like:

- Conduct and Integrity;
- Community Engagement;
- Relationships and boundaries; and
- Police powers and offences.

Chief advisor Heker Robertson says "this is an opportune time for our Pacific people, to have a say about a crucial government service that affects every one of us."

To obtain copies of the issues papers log on to: www.policeact.govt.nz

Or contact:

Lou Alofa, Inspector, Police National Headquarters
New Zealand Police, PO Box 3017, Wellington.
Email: Lou.alofa@police.govt.nz

New appointment for Fepulea'i Margie Apa

Fepulea'i Margie Apa has been appointed to the role of Director Change and Development for the Ministry of Health.



Fepulea'i Margie Apa.

Fepulea'i joins the Ministry of Health from Counties Manukau District Health Board, where she was the General Manager, Pacific Health, for the past three years.

She has had a very successful career in a variety of roles within the wider state sector and central government, including:

- advisor roles on machinery of government and state sector development issues at the State Services Commission
- change management in personal health services at the Health Funding Authority
- public policy development in accident insurance legislation and at the Department of Labour
- funder of services at both Capital and Coast and Counties Manukau District Health Boards.

Margie's role at the Ministry is to implement the recommendations from the December 2006 'Review of the Current State of the Ministry of Health'. She was also this year received a *matai* title from her village of Saleaula in Samoa.

Launch of the Auckland Regional Settlement Strategy

A 10-point strategy to help new migrants settle in the Auckland region was launched in late January.



Hon. David Cunliffe with members of the Pacific community at the launch of the Auckland Regional Settlement Strategy.

The Auckland Regional Settlement Strategy focuses upon improving outcomes for the region's new migrants. This strategy was developed under the umbrella of the Auckland Sustainable Cities Programme, to support social wellbeing, quality of life and cultural identities.

Government representatives talked to migrants from across the Pacific and the world to get their views on the difficulties they faced, as well as what they thought they needed to contribute more positively to the wider society.

The Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs has been heavily involved with the work to bring the Auckland Regional Settlement Strategy to fruition. As a result of the work of Ministry staff and Community Reference Group members, special attention has been paid to supporting Pacific migrants as part of the plan.

The Auckland Regional Settlement Strategy aims to improve settlement outcomes for Pacific people by:

- Providing Pacific Migrants with accurate information and realistic information about life in New Zealand, so that they can make informed decisions about immigrating and adequately prepare themselves in advance;
- Ensuring there is accessible initial settlement information and advice available to support Pacific migrants to access services available to all New Zealanders; and
- Supporting Pacific migrants in settlement and becoming independent, so that pressure upon host communities will be reduced.

Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs Manager Auckland Dean Westerlund says "this plan aims to bring with it a large number of positive outcomes for new Pacific migrants. Central to the idea of making a fresh start in a new country is finding valuable employment, as well as safe and secure housing. By making the way clear to give our Pacific people the information they need to achieve their goals in New Zealand, the Auckland Regional Settlement Strategy gives strong support to people making that fresh start".

Auckland is a primary point of entry to New Zealand and a key place of settlement for migrants. Obtaining appropriate employment is an important way through which they contribute to the region's economic growth. Additionally, these new Aucklanders bring new ways of thinking, new knowledge and links to global markets.

The Auckland Regional Settlement Strategy has been a partnership between the Department of Labour, the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs, other government departments and the councils of the Auckland Region.

For more information log onto: www.immigration.govt.nz/settlement

Protocol Agreement with the Ministry of Health

The Chief Executive of the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs, Fuimaono Les McCarthy and Stephen McKernan, Director General of the Ministry of Health both agreed to renew and signed the existing protocol agreement between the two agencies in December 2006.

The protocol agreement is a key instrument in forming strategic partnerships across the state sector, by means of working together to improve effectiveness in health standards for Pacific people.

"Protocol agreements are an invaluable part of forming a close working relationship with agencies that have an important role to play in improving outcomes for our Pacific peoples," says Chief Executive, Fuimaono Les McCarthy.

Stephen McKernan congratulated the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs for their on-going relationship and commitment to ensuring Pacific peoples' health in New Zealand are met.

"Once we know the issues, we can be more effective and the Ministry of Health will facilitate this process for the benefit of Pacific peoples."

Also, the agreement helps to ensure different agencies are more responsive to Pacific peoples needs.

The agreement reflects working relationship for both agencies, to help keep Pacific communities better informed about the services and exactly what Pacific peoples are entitled to. It also consolidates the exchange of research and strategic information between the two agencies. Part of this discussion involves an agreement for a secondment arrangement for the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs policy staff to join the Ministry of Health for 6 months. This request has not been confirmed but it's an opportunity to explore as part of this working collaboration.

"This is by working together in terms of policy development to better meet the needs of our people", says Fuimaono.

The protocol agreement with the Ministry of Health will be reviewed on an annual basis.



Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs Chief Executive, Fuimaono Les McCarthy and the Ministry of Health Director General, Stephen McKernan signed and reviewed the protocol agreement.

Photo courtesy: Ministry of Health

CRG's training comes to an end

After the Pacific communities in the Auckland, Hamilton, Hawke's Bay, Wellington and Christchurch regions had given a vote of confidence for their representatives serving on the Community Reference Groups, training and development was next to be targeted.

The Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs led the training and development for the Community Reference Group (CRG) members, started July 2006, to ensure that they are equipped with the right tools and resources to action their work.

Each specified region underwent training, to enhance their elected members skills and knowledge in key areas relating to the roles and responsibilities of the Ministry.

The Auckland regional office kicked-off their training for Auckland CRG members in July last year, followed by the Hamilton region in August. The Christchurch regional office was next, completing their training in October, leaving only the Wellington and the Hawke's Bay regions yet to complete their training.

Last month, the Wellington CRG's received their first in-house training, which was a success. The training of the Hawke's Bay region is hoped to be completed by April 2007.

The Community Reference Groups play a critical role in ensuring services for Pacific peoples in each region are being delivered by Government agencies involved. They meet regularly with the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs to discuss some of the programmes and initiatives involving each region.

They have worked diligently in the past with the Ministry and other Government agencies, to ensure the aspirations of Pacific peoples are realised in many parts of the country.

The CRG's were originally set up by the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs in 2001, as an integral part of the capacity building initiative of Government, aimed at reducing disparities between Pacific peoples and the rest of New Zealanders.

From then on, the concept has been adopted and the cycle continues, seeking members to elect and re-elect every two years.

Children's Day a success for all New Zealanders

As part of the Government contribution to our children, the Ministry of Social Development, through Child, Youth and Family (CYF) plays a significant role in the ongoing success of Children's Day.

Changing the set date for Children's Day from the second week of October, to the first Sunday in March did not have a negative impact upon the celebration. Hundreds and thousands of children and their parents participated in, and enjoyed themselves at this year's biggest ever celebration.

Dignitaries included Her Excellency Susan Satyan, Patron of Children's Day and wife of the Governor-General, attending celebrations at the Wellington Zoo, which also marked the zoo's 100th birthday celebration, and the Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Helen Clark, who spoke on the final day of this event, and also at the Toddler's Day Out and Great Parenting Fair in Waitakere.

The world-renowned children's author Joy Cowley, one of Children's Day's ambassadors, attended the Otago literacy event involving 15 schools, to promote caregivers and their children by reading together. A lot of talented and famous New Zealanders also used the opportunity to give time to children and take part in fun activities.

The many months of television advertisements, print and radio announcements using the Hector's dolphin as the key theme for an indigenous animal has paid off, with the aim to remind New Zealanders of the significance of the Children's Day key theme of giving time to children. As a result, many have hosted low cost fun family events, ranging from smaller beach or picnic based celebrations and a pool party in Kaitiaki, to the Great Scavenger Hunt in Invercargill. More than 700 events took place around the country, declaring this event is most certainly in the hearts and minds of all New Zealanders.

"We encourage all Pacific Island peoples in New Zealand to celebrate Children's Day. If our children are our future then let us remind ourselves that that future can only be prosperous and vibrant if we allow our children to make it so. They need kindness, smiles, encouragement, praise and mentoring so that they can be self-confident, innovative and caring. The design of the future is in our hands" says Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs Chief Executive Officer, Fuimaono Les McCarthy.



Associate Minister of Pacific Island Affairs, Hon. Luamanuvao Winnie Laban with Porirua family during Teddy Bear Picnic and Fishing Carnival as part of Children's Day celebration.



The Children's Day Team at the Wellington Zoo Celebration. From Right to Left: Esther (National Children's Day Project Manager), Tania Communications Advisor), Mirth (the voice of the Children's Day answer phone), Jason (causal assistant) and sitting down Ross (causal assistant).

According to Esther Wallace, National Project Manager for the event, "the website was overloaded with people trying to access information on the 700 plus events posted online. The 0800 phone service fielded hundreds of calls and many of them were from excited children calling just to say thank you for having a Children's Day! The hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of resources were successfully distributed far and wide around New Zealand".

Children's Day was on fire this year and the vision was well served; to see children celebrated, nurtured and treasured by all New Zealanders.

The works of the National Steering Group made up of both government and non-government organisations including Barnardos New Zealand, Save the Children New Zealand, Presbyterian Support Central, Wellington Rotary Club, Families Commission, Office of the Children's Commissioner, Ministry of Education, NZ Police (Youth Education Service), Te Puni Kokiri, Ministry of Social Development (including Family and Community Services and Child, Youth and Family) and our Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs, have flourished with the hope that New Zealanders will celebrate and make children feel extra special on Children's Day.

This time next year, children all over New Zealand will be telling their friends stories about all the fun they had on Children's Day. Now is the time to start planning 2008 events. It is hoped that Children's Day will continue to grow and increase the number of organisers, participants and activities in years to come...

If you need advice on sponsorship, or organising an event for 2008, call 0800 10 33 22 or for further information about Children's Day, or visit the website www.childrenday.org.nz, which provides information and ideas on how to go about celebrating Children's Day.

Ministry works closely with Cook Island communities

In March the Ministry and Cook Island peoples came together to celebrate the commencement of their efforts, under the Ministry's Mind Your Language programme, to preserve the Cook Island language.

Cook Islands Maori (Maori Kuki 'Airani, or Rarotongan) is one of three Pacific languages that are at risk in New Zealand. The 2001 Census showed that the number of NZ-born Pacific people who could hold an everyday conversation in their mother tongue was only 6 percent of all Cook Islanders, 12 percent of all Niueans and 30 percent of all Tokelauans. Statistics NZ data indicated a decreasing trend over the last few years and has highlighted the possibility that without revitalization, these languages are at risk of becoming extinct.

In response to these trends the Ministry has developed the Mind Your Language programme (MYL) to try to preserve these languages. One major principle of MYL is in consulting with the respective communities and getting their support, ideas and talents to bear on how best to keep their languages alive. The other major principle is providing resources for language speakers to share their abilities with their non-language speaking family and friends.

The first language tackled by the Ministry was the Niuean language and collaboration with the Niuean community resulted in the successful Vagahau Niue programme (2005) which is geared towards enabling new speakers to achieve an elementary level of Niuean conversational ability. The resources consist of reading, audio, radio and website language aids.

The Ministry and Cook Island groups are now focusing on doing the same for the Cook Island language.

On 19 March 2007 the Ministry signed a landmark agreement with the Cook Island provider group, Pa Metua, and its supporter, the Manukau City Council, for work to commence on developing language resources for assisting in the preservation of the Cook Island language. Chief Executive of the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs, Fuimaono Les McCarthy and the Mayor of Manukau, Sir Barry Curtis, both signed the agreement, together with the members of Pa Metua including Mama Tupou Manapori (Auckland), Papa Teata Makirere (Auckland), Mama Nga Makirere (Auckland), Mama Tuua Herman (Auckland), Papa Adamu Kairua (Auckland), Papa Tere Tarapu (Auckland), Papa Te Aukura David Isaia (Wellington), Papa Teremoana Taura (Wellington), Mama Tapaeru Tereora (Wellington), and Mama Teremoana Yala (Wellington). The ceremony was honoured by the presence of Pa Ariki, Paramount Cook Island chief.

Many of those who spoke at the ceremony expressed their happiness that this opportunity to preserve their language had become a reality and all spoke of the need for Cook Island peoples to work closely together to preserve their language.

Funding for this venture derives from the \$600,000 appropriation last year to the Ministry for the Mind Your Language programme.

The Ministry is nearing completion of similar arrangements with the Tokelauan communities.



Signing of the purchase agreement between the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs, the Manukau City Council and Pa Ariki.



Malo e lelei – Warm Pacific Greetings

There is no doubt that Auckland is the Pacific capital of New Zealand. The latest census put the national total of Pacific people at 265,947 with more than 60% or 177,936 residing in Auckland. Those of us fortunate enough to call Auckland home, are well aware of the many local events and landmarks that portray our Pacific heritage, like the up-and-coming Pasefika Festival, ASB Secondary Schools Festival and other community showcase activities.

I wish to congratulate all those who contributed to the Auckland Regional Settlement Strategy, which was launched early this year. The Community Reference Group and a core group of key government agencies crafted the Pacific Chapter, which sits inside the strategy and is focused upon the particular hurdles that new Pacific migrants face here in New Zealand.

Also, I would like to express my condolences to the family of Fi'a Gatoloa'i, a member of our CRG and also an active member of the North Shore Pasefika Forum, who worked tirelessly for the local Pacific community and with the Youth of the church.

Malo aupito.

M D Westerlund. *Manager Auckland – Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs*

Ministry meets with Pacific Youth Delegation

The Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs hosted a one day meeting in February with the Pacific youth delegation from Tonga, Fiji and the Solomons Islands.

The Ministry of Youth Development led the programme and invited these youth leaders from the Ship for World Youth exchange programme to participate in a one day workshop that discusses Pacific issues and key themes that reflect their international exchange mission.

"We are so lucky to be part of this programme", said Joe Fuata, a youth officer from Fiji. "The Selection Committee for the Ship for World Youth has gone through a large number of applications from Tonga and other Pacific islands and has chosen a delegation of young leaders to be part of this program. Such experience is worth exploring", said Amelia Hafu Halapua, a youth leader from Tonga.

The programme aims to broaden the participants' international perspectives and to discuss possible issues on youth progress, as well as the exchanging of information, customs and cultures. It is a learning experience for the eleven youth leaders from each island, fostering the spirit of international cooperation and communication.

According to Letitia Masaea, a youth leader from the Solomon Islands, the Youth World Ship is an amazing experience for international travel and has been to ports in Japan, Brisbane, Sydney, Wellington and Vanuatu. It's the chance of a lifetime to travel receive training, become skilled and discover new things.

During their brief stop in Wellington, these youth leaders were invited to the Ministry and given the task of delving into three key areas: –

- the key to youth development needs in the Pacific,
- the key to youth development needs in each of the three islands represented, and
- their opinion as youth participants about countries like New Zealand responding to the Pacific youth development needs as deliberated.

The Ministries of Youth Development and Pacific Island Affairs treated this as an opportunity for direct dialogue with the 33 young leaders engaged from the islands.



Pacific Youth Leaders with staff of the Ministries of Youth Development and Pacific Island Affairs.

Merger strengthens Pacific broadcasting

When the Minister of Broadcasting Hon. Steve Maharey and the Minister of Pacific Island Affairs, Hon. Phil Goff announced the merger of Radio 531PI, a radio station run by Auckland's Pacific community, and the Pacific radio network NiuFM, it brought a lot of controversial issues out into the open. However, the merger decision has combined two strong forces that will strengthen broadcasting for Pacific communities inside New Zealand.

"By joining forces they can operate in a way that plays upon their individual strengths and reflects and reinforces in the best of Pacific culture, news and stories", said Hon. Steve Maharey.

Hon. Phil Goff says the two stations will continue to provide New Zealanders with access to Pacific cultures and will continue to make a positive contribution to New Zealand's identity as a Pacific nation.

According to the Prime Minister, the merger officially marks a new beginning for two important broadcasters to the Pacific communities. "It is a significant milestone for the Pacific community, for public broadcasting and for Pacific radio in Auckland and around New Zealand. It reflects an exciting time of growing confidence and pride by Pacific people in their cultures, and a determination by Pacific communities to support, enjoy and share that culture with all New Zealanders".

The two stations are now combined under the umbrella of the National Pacific Radio Trust, the government-appointed charitable trust responsible for NiuFM since it was established in 2002.

Chairman of the National Pacific Radio Trust, Satiu Simativa Perese, says "the merging of the two services is an historic event that will enable the Trust to enhance radio services and programmes to our Pasifika communities, particularly in the Auckland region".

According to the Chief Executive of the Trust, Sina Moore, NiuFM serves a younger demographic, and a 85,000 plus network audience around New Zealand, whereas Radio 531PI's overall programming is aimed at an older audience (35+) and is Auckland focused."

The merger was well supported by the two Ministers and their decision still stands, to enable the two stations to pool resources, avoid duplication of programming and enhance the service they both provide to Pacific communities. "The stations have common objectives and play a valuable role in promoting and maintaining Pacific languages and culture in New Zealand," Steve Maharey said.

Phil Goff said he hoped both stations would continue to be an important source of information, discussion and debate for New Zealand's Pacific communities.

Pacific Radio News will now be delivered on NiuFM and Radio 531PI every hour from 6am to 6pm by the news team which specialises in news from a Pacific perspective, regionally and internationally.

The merger was officially opened by the Prime Minister, Rt. Hon Helen Clark on 1 March 2007 at 48 Browns Street in Ponsonby.



Photo courtesy of Pacific Media Network: Some of staff in NPRT reception area at 48 Brown Street, Ponsonby, Auckland. From L - R Standing: Jeff Ka (Breakfast Host Radio 531pi), Gladys Shingles (Newsreader for Pacific Radio News), Christina Afu (Receptionist), Tom Etuata (Programme Director Radio 531pi), Sina Moore (CEO for NPRT, NiuFM & Radio 531pi), Lito Vilisoni (News Editor Pacific Radio News), Jae'D Victor (Marketing & Promotions Manager) Front: Lavoni Matoto (Lang Prog Coordinator & Tongan Producer - Radio 531pi), MaryJane McKibbin - Schwenke (Midmorning Host Radio 531pi).



Talofa Iava – Warm Pacific Greetings

The census results released at the start of this quarter confirmed for most of us what we already knew. It shows that there is a burgeoning Pacific population in all areas around the South Island, and whilst in the North Island. Pacific celebrations happen at a higher frequency, when initiatives come to fruition in the South, they are cherished because they are nearly always a first for the region.

The tertiary institutions have been extremely active, with the University of Otago opening up their new Pacific Centre on campus. This is a wonderful commitment from the University and is going to be integral to Pacific academic achievement, not only for the region but for achievement nationally, with the centre supporting students from the Medical School and the Dental faculty. The Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology held the first meeting of its Pacific Advisory Group, highlighting the importance, for our Pacific communities, of increasing Pacific numbers participating in Industry Training Organisations.

The Pacifica Women's Conference celebrated its 30th anniversary in Christchurch at the end of February. The longevity of this group reflects the wonderful contribution it has made over the years to Pacific progress nationally. Well known Pacific women attended the conference, including Patty Eleitino Walker, who started the Pacifica Women's organisation and travelled from the Cook Islands to celebrate the milestone, the Honorable Luamanuvao Winnie Laban, and Pauline Winter, to name just a few.

On the 22nd March the Christchurch Community Reference Group was given a preview of the new Pacific Display when Te Papa revisited them one year after their first consultation with them. There is no doubt in the minds of any of our CRG members that the display that will be opened in October this year is going to be a wonderful chronology of Pacific contribution to New Zealand and all of us are looking forward to taking our families to witness first hand this celebration of Pacifica and comprehensive collection of iconic Pacific images.

Christchurch SPACifically PACific celebrated its seventh successful year on the 26th March and showcased the very best of Pacifica youth in our southern high schools today. The standard in public speaking and the level of interest in career choices around sciences was phenomenally high and guest speakers like Dr Palatasa Havea of the Fonterra Group proved to be the perfect exemplar for these eager students. It has blossomed from the three day event in 2000 to a week long celebration showcasing the best of up-and-coming Pacific high school talent and academic achievers who will be our future leaders.

la manuia.

Peter Retimanu. *Manager Christchurch – Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs*

Speaking Samoan Television Program launched in Canterbury on CTV

A window of opportunity for the Samoan community has now opened and is thriving in the Canterbury region. The Samoa Canterbury TV programme called 'Toe Faaolaola' was officially launched in November last year at the Siulepa Methodist Hall.



Tiumalumutua Maifea Fetu, director Samoa programme for Canterbury TV.

The new initiative screens every Sunday morning, from 7am to 8am on Canterbury TV (CTV), a regional television station.

The effort was applauded by Christchurch Mayor, Garry Moore and the Associate Minister of Pacific Island Affairs, Hon. Luamanuvao Winnie Laban.

According to Tiumalumutua Maifea Fetu, Director of the Samoan programme, it is the first time for a Pacific ethnic specific programme to be included in the local station. He says it is a joy for the Samoan Canterbury community.

The programme is broadcasted mainly in the Samoan language and devoted to more spiritual messages.

The leaders of the Samoan community and local Pacific Island departments in the Canterbury region, including Church Ministers and Pacific community leaders attended the celebration.

sPACIFICally Pacific Christchurch 2007

Pacific students from schools across Christchurch came together in the last week of March this year, to celebrate their identity and talents in the Christchurch Secondary Schools Pasifika festival.

The week-long event included speech competitions and cultural performance demonstrations, as well as opportunities to mix and mingle at events for local schools' Pacific leaders.

Friday March 30 saw the culmination of the week's activities, with the sPACIFICally Pacific expo held at the Hotel Grand Chancellor in the centre of Christchurch. Here, local Pacific students met with tertiary providers and agencies, including the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs and Pacific Business Trust, to discuss future career paths and business opportunities.

The expo was split into two half day sessions, one for junior and one for senior secondary school students. Leadership and career planning were the themes for both sets of students at the expo.

The Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs asked students to follow the navigational spirit of their forefathers and tell us what their career and business dreams and aspirations were.

Christchurch manager Peter Retimanu spoke to both audiences about the experiences of early Pacific settlers in New Zealand, utilising a DVD presentation to illustrate the stories of nearly every Pacific family who settled in New Zealand.

Community Advisor Melissa Stanley inspired senior female Pacific students at an afternoon plenary session, where the focus was on attaining a high quality education, being sensible with money and strengthening ones own sense of cultural identity.

She says "We're living in a multi-cultural society where it is important people know who you are. When you go to work you dress according to corporate standards, and when you go to church you wear the correct attire. It is actually very easy for us to adapt to both worlds as we live in them every day."

Christchurch manager Peter Retimanu summed-up by saying "sPACIFICally PACIFIC is a valuable event for our young Pacific people as it reminds them we all see the world through our Pacific lens and it also reminds them that they each have something special to contribute which, eventually, will make our communities very proud."



Students reading the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs national newsletter dedicated to youth leadership.

Ministry congratulates Tagata Pasifika upon their 20th Anniversary

Tagata Pasifika is an English language programme produced in New Zealand, which screens on TVNZ's TV ONE and on Maori Television. This programme is made to specifically fill the niche market of New Zealand's Pacific Island population.

Tagata Pasifika features current events from both inside New Zealand and throughout the Pacific, providing a valuable link between Pacific nations as well as connecting the increasing Pacific population within New Zealand.

On the 5th April 2007, Tagata Pasifika celebrated 20 Years on Air with a special hour-long programme commemorating 20 years of island life in New Zealand and reflecting back on the highlights of the last two decades.

Tagata Pasifika has evolved over the years to reflect the changing demographics of NZ Pacific society, aiming at stirring interest, featuring coverage of Pacific Island cultural events, involving many personalities and covering a wide range of subjects both inside New Zealand and on location in the islands.

Tagata Pasifika came into existence when the programme took over from the daily 5 minute "See Here" on the 7 April 1987 on TV2. Susana Hukui, Maligi Evile and Iulia Leilua were presenters in the first episode. Since the early 90's, the show producer, Tavaleo'o Stephen Stehlin took over and has led the team to date. "We are fortunate to have such a long running programme which has become a New Zealand institution owned by the Pacific communities" says Stephen.

Today, the Pacific identity of Pacific peoples in New Zealand features in this long running programme, hosted by Robbie Magasiva and Beatrice Faumuina every Sunday at 8am and every Thursday at 11pm on TV One.

Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs Chief Executive, Fuimaono Les McCarthy congratulates Tavaleo'o Stephen Stehlin and the previous and current staff of Tagata Pasifika, for their special efforts in making things Pasifika part of the mainstream of New Zealand society. "Few organisations can match Tagata Pasifika's record for opening mainstream New Zealanders to the realisation of just how much Pacific peoples contribute to our cherished country", said Fuimaono McCarthy.

Every week, Tagata Pasifika reflects the life and times of Pasifika peoples who have made Aotearoa their home.

The Ministry – Out and about



Dean Westerlund, Peti Tevi, Tofilau Kerupi Tavita, Theresa Fabricius at the launch of the Auckland Regional Settlement Strategy.



James Laursen, Justina Leaupepe-Higgs, Kaliti Kolinisau at the Wellington Samoan CRG Election.



Trevor Guttenbeil and Sefa Tu'inukuafe with the Tongan Pacific Youth delegation.



Smiling faces of Diane Fenika and Melissa Stanley of the Ministry's Christchurch Regional Office.



Congratulations to Heker Robertson, Chief Adviser for the Ministry and Epirosa Schmidt-Uili on their beautiful day.



Kilifi Heimuli and Savea Al Harrington Lavea at the Vahefonua Tongan Education Expo.



The team from the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs.



Ministry team at Pasifika Festival 07.