

MINISTRY OF
**PACIFIC ISLAND
AFFAIRS**

Newsletter June/July 2009



**SAMOAN
LANGUAGE**
– talk of the towns



DR COLIN TUKUITONGA

Message from the Chief Executive

Some great ideas came from the day, which we hope to report on in the next newsletter.

We've been talking to key people and communities in Auckland as we work on our *Auckland Pacific Strategy*, identifying the most promising opportunities for the region's Pacific people. We have also hosted events in Wellington and Christchurch for local Pacific people to meet Minister te Heuheu.

We've tabled our *Statement of Intent* in Parliament which outlines our plan of attack for the next three years. In light of the recession, we have renegotiated our arrangements with the Pacific Business Trust, to expand its services to include pilot projects in work-based skills training and the NGO sector. We are also continuing to work with many other agencies to ensure Pacific voices are heard as New Zealand deals with the economic storm.

Dr Colin Tukuitonga
Chief Executive
Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs

We're halfway through the year already, and making solid progress in areas we think offer most value for Pacific people in New Zealand.

Fundamental, of course, is education and I'm pleased to say we are working with education agencies to set goals and targets for Pacific achievement. These will show up in the revised *Pasifika Education Plan*, due for publication later this year.

We're also taking a closer look at housing and home ownership. In May we convened a workshop for key players which will help us advise Government on how best to get Pacific people into good quality, affordable homes which suit our needs.

While some of our work looks at home ownership, appropriate rental housing is the focus for joint work with Housing New Zealand Corporation.



IMMIGRATION SCAM WARNING

In the wake of the June immigration scam, the Pacific community is warned that if the offer of a New Zealand passport or visa sounds too good to be true, then it should be treated as such.

The warning has gone out to the community to be on the lookout for such scams. This follows the appearance of a South Auckland man in the Manukau District Court (24th June 2009) on three counts of deception.

Pacific Island Affairs Minister Georgina te Heuheu has condemned the actions as exploitation of the vulnerable.

"It's deplorable that anyone would do this to some of the most vulnerable people in our country," she said.

"My Ministry has been active during the day ensuring that word goes out to the Pacific communities that any information about this scam should be given to the police."

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She said the Pacific communities in the Bay of Plenty, Hawkes Bay, Nelson and Marlborough regions should be vigilant of any such offers.

Mrs te Heuheu said Immigration New Zealand is the only legitimate body in this country which can issue visas and permanent residency.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

FRONT COVER : Samoan Language Week became the talk of the town. From left: David Schaaf, Heker Robertson and Thirza Moors use the Samoan language in their everyday working world.

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Excitement brewing for Canterbury children



Excitement is brewing for more 3000 primary school children, parents, teachers, and cultural tutors, as rehearsals for this year's 'Cultural Festival 2009' get underway.

Fifty-two Christchurch primary and intermediate schools' cultural groups will gather for their annual cultural festival. This year 12 Pacific culture groups are to perform. Te Puni Kōkiri is proud to be associated with this year's event, which has a proud history of 28 years.

Featured is a fresh line up of multicultural performances from

Christchurch schools, representing more than 10 cultures.

Celebrity emcees Matai Smith and Sheree Waitoa will co-host. Along with the cultural groups, guest performances are planned, plus a visual and wearable art exhibition and pageant, which adds another dimension to the programme.

"The Festival provides children with a unique opportunity to showcase their performance and cultural heritage," says Event Manager, Ali Nauman.

Such an event allows people to celebrate and promote cultural diversity. Children also get a sense of pride and excitement about their cultures in performing together live on stage.

For those in the audience, Cultural Festival 2009 is a great opportunity to experience an authentic, vibrant celebration of diverse cultures in Aotearoa, presented by the children of Christchurch city.

Concerts will be held in the Christchurch Town Hall during the week 24 - 28 August. There will also be Monday to Thursday night concerts and matinees on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.



Minister honours ethnic languages



THE MINISTER OF
PACIFIC ISLAND AFFAIRS
HON GEORGINA TE HEUHEU

The challenge of ensuring languages such as Samoan live on in New Zealand needs commitment and enthusiasm, said Pacific Island Affairs Minister, Georgina te Heuheu.

In a speech delivered during Samoan Language Week to young people from eight Wellington secondary schools, Mrs te Heuheu said the preservation and use of language begins in the home.

Schools, however, have an important role to affirm the acceptance of other languages in New Zealand society. Mrs te Heuheu said Samoan Language Week gave time to pause and reflect on just how important it is to be able to speak in your own ethnic language.

"While speaking in one's own mother-tongue helps preserve culture and enhance cultural identity, ultimately it can improve educational results, form the basis for economic development and contribute to our national character.

"I am aware of the fragility of Pacific languages here in New Zealand and the special attention they need to ensure their promotion and retention," she said.

Minister meets Auckland's Fijian Community

By Yara Gaunavinaka, MPIA Advisor

"A vakavinavinaka Vakalevu vei kemuni kece an turaga, marama kei na gone ena viqaravi vakaturaga dou a valata. Keitou sa marautaka na vicoqomi, kei na veikidavaki keitou a sotava, ka niutaka ni na tawa yala i ie na weitou vitalanoa vata kei kemuni na taukei da tiko i niu siladi'.



Auckland's Fijian community made the most of the opportunity to meet with the Minister of Pacific Island Affairs in Auckland in June.

Auckland's Fijian community turned out in force in June at Mt Albert's Fickling Centre, to meet the Pacific Island Affairs Minister, Georgina te Heuheu and the Ministry's Chief Executive, Dr Colin Tukuitonga.

More than 200 people, including some who travelled from Wellington, gathered for this event, hosted by the Fiji Community Association of Auckland and supported by the Ministry.

The evening started with a traditional Fijian welcome which is usually conducted for the chiefs of Fiji, acknowledging the status of the VIPs.

Mrs te Heuheu listened to the problems facing the Fijian community, which mostly related to immigration issues as a consequence of New Zealand's foreign affairs position on Fiji.

She heard about issues regarding sanctions imposed on those with

links to the interim regime and the military in Fiji and how this is impacting on Fijians living in New Zealand. Other topics of discussion included education and youth development.

Mrs te Heuheu acknowledged the community's work in building the community centre which will feature an early childhood centre.

She was also pleased to see the community working towards engaging Fijian youth, teaching the language while instilling culture and tradition. Minister te Heuheu made special mention of the young men in the welcoming yaqona (kava) ceremony.

Many in the Fijian community were delighted to meet with the Minister. The evening, which concluded with a sumptuous Fijian meal, contributed to the enhancement and strengthening of relationships between the Ministry and the Fijian people.

Roger Kerr, Executive Director of the New Zealand Business Roundtable visited with MPIA staff, and was happy to share his views following that meeting.



ROGER KERR, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NEW ZEALAND BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE

Business Roundtable Interested in Pacific peoples

The Business Roundtable is keen to have more interaction with members of the Pacific community on policy issues that affect them.

We are an organisation of chief executives of a cross-section of New Zealand's major firms. We operate on the lines of a think tank, researching major public policy issues and advocating policies that are in the interests of the community at large, not specifically those of businesses.

We do not usurp the roles of organisations like chambers of commerce and the Pacific Business Trust which provide valuable services to businesses.

I enjoyed speaking to an impressively organised Trust event a while back, and was pleased to be invited to a recent brainstorming session at the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs.

We have done work on Maori issues but not specifically on Pacific affairs. However, leaving aside special factors such as the Treaty of Waitangi, we think policy settings affect different communities in broadly similar ways and that improvements to them benefit all.

So, for example, we favour greater parental choice and school autonomy in education, in the belief that regulation such as zoning and unequal government funding of public and private schools limits educational opportunities, including for Pacific communities.

Interestingly, research (from the 1990s Smithfield project) found that Maori and Pacific families made the greatest use of choice when zoning was removed. In the case of Pacific families, the proportion attending non-local schools more than doubled (from 18% to 38%).

Similarly, we think employment law should allow firms and employees maximum

freedom to determine the employment arrangements they prefer.

Restrictions such as hiring and firing laws and statutory minimum wages may seem well-intentioned, but in practice they tend to operate against the interests of the most disadvantaged job-seekers.

Pacific people are high achievers in a number of fields, such as sport and entertainment. Many work in Business Roundtable firms in industries such as banking and retail.

Opportunities for Pacific people span all industries. Primary industries, manufacturing, tourism and other services should all do well in a well-run economy. Pacific people should not see themselves only as factory or manual workers, even though these are honourable vocations.

Good generic skills matter right across the economy. Employers value them, as well as attributes like energy and initiative, because the nature of work changes and specific training can occur on the job.

We have no problem with affirmative action in favour of Maori or Pacific people in private firms (just as many employers have practised affirmative action in favour of women).

Laws which prevent an employer advertising for, say, a Pacific female junior are misguided.

The best way to explore opportunities for engagement in both private settings and on national policy is simply to ask for them. In my experience, New Zealanders in all walks of life are open and accessible.

Certainly the Business Roundtable would like to know more about policy issues affecting Pacific people and to help with them where we can.

Roger Kerr (rkerr@nbrt.org.nz) is based in Wellington.

Tasting pure Samoan language leaves a thirst for more

Kukuana Tupu, an advisor with the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs, participated in Samoan Language Week in Christchurch. Here's what he experienced.



It was a real privilege to be part of Samoan Language Week 2009. For Kiwi-born Pacific and the young, it was an opportunity to educate and further appreciate the richness of Samoan culture and its tradition.

Samoans are amongst the most traditional in the Pacific, forever hanging on to age-old traditions which have stood the test of time. One such tradition is the ava ceremony, very sacred in the Samoan culture, often held to mark special occasions.

Celebrations in Samoan Language Week 2009 were used as one such occasion. The ava ceremony was jointly organised by MPIA's Christchurch staff and Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology (CPIT). Held at the campus marae, the ceremony was well attended with Samoan matai (chiefs), CPIT's officials, staff and students.

A famous biblical saying reads: 'o le fua e te lulu, e te toe selesese lava i ai' (you reap what you sow). In sowing the seeds of tradition and language amongst their young, Samoan families hope their children will reap an appreciation of Samoan traditions and preserve the language for generations to come.

This was evident on day two, when children from from local A'oga Amata (early childhood centres) and high schools showcased the Samoan culture in performances of dance, song and speech. Samoan speakers on the day included youth and matai elders. All mentioned the crucial role parents play in the home in preserving the language.

As much as it was a celebration of one language, it was also a celebration of Pacific culture as a whole.

Hope to do it all again next year, malo lava MPIA!

'Ma lo'u faaaloalo tele lava'.

SUCCESSFUL PACIFIC PEOPLES
TAGATA PASEFIKA 'UA FA'AMANUIAINA



FA'AILOGAINA O LE GAGANA SAMOA

*'E Pala le ma'a, Ae le pala le Gali':
Rocks do erode but not language!*



SAMOAN LANGUAGE WEEK 24-31 MAY 2009

The Importance of Bilingualism to Pacific People

By GALUMALEMANA ALFRED HUNKIN MNZM, MA

Talofa lava

When New Zealand instituted the Samoan Language week two years ago it was a watershed moment, not just for the 130,000 New Zealand Samoans, but for all Pasifika peoples and their unique and important languages.

Today Samoan is the third most commonly spoken language in New Zealand after English and Māori. The Samoan community is the fourth largest, ethnically, after NZ Europeans (2,381,000), Māori (565,000), and Chinese (147,000).

However, while we acknowledge and celebrate the Samoan Language Week (24 - 31 May) it is also appropriate to recognise the fragility of Pacific languages and their tenure here in Aotearoa New Zealand.

As our society slowly transforms towards pluralism, I become increasingly concerned that Pasifika languages are being pushed towards extinction. The rippling effect that this is having on the culture and identity of our youth today in Aotearoa New Zealand can only be described as disastrous.

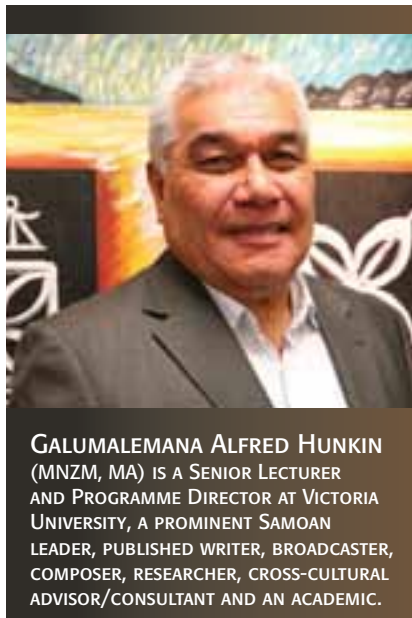
This is not a new phenomenon. As I pointed out in my joint 2001 study: *Pasifika languages and Pasifika identities: contemporary and future challenges: "over the last thirty or forty years there has been a downgrading of Pacific languages brought about in part, by their neglect and relegation and, in part, by uncertainty and misguided advice given to Pacific communities in New Zealand in the early 1970s and 1980s...It is also, in part, the consequence of a lack of concern, and interest, shown by the various Pacific communities, the education system in particular, and New Zealand society more generally".*

International and local research from the 1990s onwards clearly show the value that home languages or mother tongues have on the development of a more balanced individual who values his/her culture and identity – a platform on which a language such as English can be built to produce strong New Zealanders of Pacific backgrounds and bilingual strength.

On the face of it, it may appear acceptable that of all Pasifika peoples in New Zealand, Samoans and Tongans have a 60 percent language retention rate and are able to fluently hold conversations in their ethnic dialects. The reality however, is that the language uptake even for these groups is dwindling as generations of children are born in New Zealand and they readily tend to assimilate more easily into the mainstream.

The lines are also being blurred around the concept of a single Pacific identity as intermarriage and cohabitation among Pacific people as well as Maori adds to the cosmopolitan New Zealand melting pot. Some 34 percent of Pacific people at the 2006 census claimed to have multiple ethnic identities.

Professor Stephen May from the University of Waikato recently identified other negative trends: that there is declining Pasifika language skills among New Zealand-born Pasifika (particularly Niue, Cooks Islands and Tokelau). There is internalised negative



perceptions of Pasifika languages in comparison to English. English is the primary method for communication while Pasifika languages are now seen as important only for cultural and identification purposes.

Over the last half century, the degradation of the status of Pasifika languages has led to a devaluation of Pacific bilingualism and; that in turn has led to generations of youth not only losing their ability to be conversant in their language of birthright, but it has also led to insecurity in expressing themselves confidently in English.

I recognise that New Zealand needs an increasing number of the people involved in trade, business and the export sector to become fluent in other languages as we continue to grow our number of trading partners, but that should not mean we turn away from our traditional partners in our Pacific backyard or their languages.

We should in fact assist in building a stronger Pacific linguistically and culturally by taking care of their languages within New Zealand, which is itself a key member of

the Pacific region and the Pacific Forum of Nations. Māori, the indigenous language of Aotearoa New Zealand is closely related to most Pacific languages spoken in New Zealand and enjoys a formal place as an official language of Aotearoa New Zealand. This is a huge milestone and can assist New Zealand in developing similar policies for domains, resources etc for its Pacific languages.

To that end the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs has identified the benefits of deliberately pursuing the maintenance and retention of Pasifika languages in a wider context beyond culture.

Through Pasifika bilingualism there are socioeconomic gains to be made for individuals, communities and society; social and educational advantages for students if the languages are supported and encouraged in schools; and an all-round increase in bilingualism or multilingualism in the public as a whole.

Having recognised those benefits, the Ministry is now developing a longer term Pacific Languages Strategy (PLS) to counter what has been a very heavy and pervasive shift to English by many Pasifika parents over the decades.

The PLS is now essential because academic studies show that over the last 50 years monolingual English instruction has not improved educational achievements for Pasifika students in mainstream schools. In fact, Pasifika students have been shown to be disproportionately entrenched at the bottom of international English literacy surveys.

If we are to address this problem then there has to be a strong, conscious effort to change the way Pasifika students are being taught. There has to be more than a half-hearted thought towards including Pasifika languages in the school curriculum – regardless of cost – because the benefits of bilingualism will become increasingly evident as the large numbers of Pacific youth become more and more an integral part of our future workforce.

Which is why adopting the Samoan Language Week is a positive step for Pasifika languages.

By promoting and celebrating the Samoan language we are raising its awareness to not just to New Zealand Samoans but to all New Zealanders. It is also an opportunity to discuss our concerns for other Pasifika languages and to encourage bilingualism for Pasifika children.

la manuia.

Fakapaiaga O Te Fegaiga

(The Blessing of the New Testament in the Tokelauan Language)



TOKELAUAN BIBLE TRANSLATION REVERSES 160 YEARS OF HISTORY

BY STEPHEN PATTEMORE PHD, BIBLE TRANSLATION CONSULTANT



Pahina Choir

Photos by Denise Landau

The blessing of the Ko Te Fegaiga Fou (Tokelauan New Testament) in May was a significant milestone in many ways.

Held at the Pahina O Tokelau Church in Porirua, the blessing service marked the outcome of 13 years work by the Tokelau Society for the Translation of the Bible but it also reverses 160 years of history.

The Tokelauan New Testament is significant in another way. This is the first time since the original publication of the New Testament in Maori in 1837, that a first translation of the NT has been published in Aotearoa New Zealand.

But it marks a growing trend. Already the translation of the NT into Pukapukan (a language from the Northern Cook Islands) is well on its way to completion, and other Cook Island languages are in line for their own translations.

Aotearoa is now the home of the majority of Tokelauans, Cook Islanders, and Niueans, but also of a substantial proportion of the people of Samoa, Tonga and other larger communities. And it will increasingly become the locus of both first translation and revision of the Bible in many Polynesian languages.

Fou I Te Gagana Tokelau

◀ Opposite:
Formal Blessing.



▶ Following the blessing service, a grand feast was enjoyed by all. From left: Dr. Stephen Pattemore, Rev. Tui Sopoaga (Pahina O Tokelau Church's Minister) and Alikī Faipule Foua Toloa, Ulu o Tokelau (Titular Head of Tokelau).

History

Christianity first came to the Tokelau atolls from Samoa, and since the mid 19th century, Samoan has been the language of the church, of worship, of the Scriptures. Gradually over the past 20-30 years more and more of the liturgy and worship of the church has taken place in Tokelauan. The Scriptures themselves, however, have continued to rely on the Samoan versions.

Tokelauans are grateful for the role Samoan has played in their history. But nothing replaces Tokelauan as the language of their hearts and of their deepest aspirations. So it is vitally important that the transforming message of God's love should be available in the Tokelauan language.

The dedicated work of Ioane Teao, Loimata lupati and their colleagues in the translation team stands in a fine tradition of Bible translators, and is a cause of great celebration among the Tokelauan community. Of course the work is not finished.

The Old Testament is now in draft form and the coming years will see a huge effort by the community to put this through detailed checking and review so the entire Bible may be published in Tokelauan.

This is the work of the global Tokelauan community – both in New Zealand, those living in countries where Tokelauans have migrated, and back in the Tokelau Islands themselves.



▲ The translation team, from left: Ioane Teao, Matafele Pereira, Dr. Iuta Tinielu, and Loimata lupati, all from Porirua.

Blessing Feast ▼



QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS

The Ministry congratulates the following recipients of Queen's Birthday Honours announced on 01 June 2009.



MEMBER, NEW ZEALAND ORDER OF MERIT - M.N.Z.M.

Che Kuo Eruera Ness (Che Fu)

AUCKLAND – FOR SERVICES TO MUSIC

Le'autoiuli'ilagi Taotua Malaeta Fa'asapisapi SAUVAO

WELLINGTON – FOR SERVICES TO THE SAMOAN COMMUNITY AND THE COMMUNITY

QUEEN'S SERVICE MEDAL - Q.S.M.

Au'Birthly (Pefi) KINGI

AUCKLAND – FOR SERVICES TO THE PACIFIC ISLAND COMMUNITY

Mrs Mele'Ilaisipa ROBSON

BLenheim – FOR SERVICE TO THE PACIFIC ISLAND COMMUNITY AND THE COMMUNITY.

FIRST PACIFIC SOCIAL WORKERS FONÓ – A GREAT STEP

Feedback from the first national Fono of the ANZASW Pasifika Social Workers Interest Group (PSWIG), Wellington in April, clearly shows the energy and enthusiasm generated by this successful event.

Reanter Kouvaka – SAFE Therapist

Comments include:

"It was awesome and a big step towards a united front".

"How good it is to meet with other Pasifika practitioners from different fields".

"What a great step made for Pacific social workers to gather and address issues for our own profession and for the communities we service in both the government and NGO sectors".

Organisers Sally Dalhousie, Niusulu Hellesoe and Matilda Hohenberger (all Auckland-based) worked with Taglaloatele Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop, Director of Va'aomanu Pasifika at Wellington's Victoria University, to host the event which brought together 24 social and community workers.

Another definite sign of the momentum created by the Fono was the fact that a vibrant six-page newsletter about the event was completed and circulated less than

two days later to a wider, and growing, network. As noted in the newsletter, the Fono certainly lived up to the theme of shining the light on Pacific innovations.

From the framework of the Niue concept of fakaalofa ('to love', 'to greet' or 'to gift'), Vaoiesi Passels outlined her experience as a Niuean social work lecturer in a western tertiary institution for social work education. Vaoiesi discussed the notion of cultural reciprocity and the ways that she works as an 'invisible bridge' between the ethnic community and the institution. This then prompted a lively exchange of questions and practical observations about the common experience of being offered gifts when delivering 'paid services'.

Jayne Schwalger of Pasifika Academic Support in the Faculty of Education, University of Auckland, shared some stories of Pasifika student academic

success set within a context where Pasifika models of learning and appropriate social work frameworks are used. Her research relates closely to the work she carries out every day in assisting Pasifika students to carefully and sensitively unpack their requests, questions, issues, experiences, psycho-social needs and cultural perceptions in order to reduce barriers to their academic learning.

Reanter Kouvaka presented a cultural model of working with sex offenders that has developed from Reanter's work in the Amanaki Pasifika programme provided

through the SAFE Network. Reanter acknowledges that a lack of understanding by professionals of language and the various Pasifika cultural protocols has been a barrier to treatment. She developed this model as one way to overcome such barriers. The 'kava kumete model' uses a kava bowl metaphor to strengthen treatment and to provide a shared cultural connection.

It was encouraging that the office of the Minister of Pacific Island Affairs, Hon Georgina te Heuheu, expressed an interest in learning more about the outcomes of the Fono, which was also attended by a representative from the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs.

Story credit: "From the May 2009 issue of ANZASW NoticeBoard – the newsletter of the Aotearoa New Zealand Association of Social Workers.

For further information about ANZASW see www.anzasw.org.nz".



Christchurch's talanoa offers listening space to Minister and community

More than 70 people from Christchurch Pacific communities braved a southerly stormy night in May to meet in person, the Minister of Pacific Island Affairs.

This opportunity to welcome and meet the Hon Georgina te Heuheu was organised by the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs' Christchurch office staff.

The focus of the evening was to allow time for the community to share their thoughts and aspirations with Mrs te Heuheu, as their minister of the Crown.

Having the opportunity to have a talanoa (open forum for discussion) session with Mrs te Heuheu was well received by

the Pacific community. Key topics centered on practical tools and entitlements which could assist families and communities during the sluggish economic climate, housing, employment issues and educational opportunities.

Comments from those attending, included these statements:

"The opportunity to be able to listen to the Minister and have a free and frank question and answer session",

"Loved it, privilege to hear the Minister speak first hand",

"The bringing together of our Pacific communities to listen to the aspirations and expectations of our Minister of Pacific Island Affairs. To get a true feeling of honesty and heart",

"The openness of the Ministry team and the willingness to respond positively to the question. Appreciate the approachable attitude",

"Meeting Hon. Georgina te Heuheu ... and Dr Colin Tukuitonga Good for informing Pacific peoples with current issues",

"Well done and informative".

SERVICE UNION BRINGS CONCERNS TO TABLE



Serving up the information. Representatives from the SFWU's Komiti Pasifika had an open dialogue with MPIA leaders. Seated from left: Lalopua Sanele, National Convenor; Mele Peaua, Regional Organising Komiti Member; Mohenoa Peaua, Councillor; Luafataali'i Litea Ah Hoi, Deputy Mayor Porirua City Council; Dr Colin Tukuitonga, MPIA Chief Executive. Standing from left: Debbie McLeod, MPIA Policy Director; Magila Annandale, MPIA Communications Director; Tuifaasisina Meaole Keil, Organiser SFWU Central Regional Office and John Ryall, National Secretary SFWU.

The often unseen and unheard workforce, cleaners and food workers, brought their concerns to the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs in June.

More than 23,000 workers are members of the Service and Food Workers' Union (Nga Ringa Tota) and the Union's Pasifika Committee felt it would be good to air their worries to Government's Pacific agency.

Service workers are usually paid nearer to the minimum wage rather than a 'living wage', and their terms of work and conditions are often poor.

Tuifa'asisina Mea'ole Keil, an Organiser in the Union's Clean Start campaign, presented information at a roundtable discussion.

"We felt the Ministry needed to hear what's affecting Pacific workers, so when the Government asks for the Ministry's input, our views will be useful in formulating those responses."

Mr Keil said that an important piece of legislation for Pacific workers was Part 6 A of the Employment Relations Act 2000.

This deals with job security for thousands of cleaners, food service workers, laundry workers and some hospital workers by giving them the right to transfer their employment conditions when restructuring occurs.

"Workers campaigned hard for this legislation but are concerned that in tough economic times this may be dumped. This piece of legislation prevents workers' terms and conditions being driven down towards the bottom.

"Our fears are that service workers will be expected to do more work for less pay. Families whose livelihoods depend upon such incomes will see parents being forced to be away from home, working longer hours.

"Without job security, lending institutions would not see our people as good candidates for mortgages if they want to own their own homes."

This Union's Clean Start campaign has already won better pay rates within hospitals and schools. This is giving cleaners, kitchen workers, canteen workers, orderlies, and caretakers a living wage and fairer workloads.

Mr Keil explained the recession has seen efforts by some employers to reduce working terms and conditions, including contractors that have contracts to service Government facilities and Government-tenanted workplaces.

"We hope the Ministry can advise other Government departments to carefully consider other aspects, such as value and quality, when awarding contracts, not just cost."

More holistic decisions would benefit the country in the long run and alleviate some social problems, which indirectly require more tax payers' money to address.

"The meeting was worthwhile. The Ministry representatives were well aware of the problems we raised, therefore the discussion focussed on possible solutions. It wasn't just a talk fest," Mr Keil said.

Kiwi Pacific home ownership discussed



The Kiwi dream of owning your own home was the topic of the day at a Ministry-hosted workshop in Wellington in May.

Pacific people are less likely to own their homes than other New Zealanders, and more likely to live in houses which don't suit the typical multi-generational and large Pacific family, says Jon Siakimotu, Policy Analyst at the Ministry.

The workshop, held on 25 May, pulled together academics, officials, researchers, and Pacific community members to look at potential barriers and think about ways in which they can be overcome.

The next step is to evaluate options and decide which offer the most promise.

Background papers prepared for the workshop are available on-line at: <http://www.mpia.govt.nz/resources/pdfs/news-publications/Exploring%20Housing%20Options%20for%20Pacific%20families.pdf>

ARE YOU ENTITLED TO WORKING FOR FAMILIES?

You may recently have had a child or your income has changed. Maybe it's time to check out what you could get.



Let's take a look at Sione and Kiri.

Sione and Kiri both worked full time. But recently Sione had his hours cut to 20 a week as his company restructures to get through a difficult patch. They have four children under 13 and pay \$350.00 a week in rent. Their combined annual income was \$81,000 before tax before Sione's hours were cut. Their combined annual income is now \$57,000.



Working for Families is a package designed to help make it easier for you to work and raise a family.

HELP WITH FAMILY COSTS

Working for Families Tax Credits are paid to families with children aged 18 years or under to help with the cost of raising a family.

HELP WITH CHILDCARE COSTS

You may qualify for help with your childcare costs .

HELP WITH HOUSING COSTS

The Accommodation Supplement from Work and Income can help with the costs of your rent, board, mortgage and other essential housing costs.

CONTACT WORK AND INCOME

Accommodation and Childcare 0800 774 004
 Speak to us in Samoan on 0800 663 003
 Speak to us in Tongan on 0800 669 009

CONTACT INLAND REVENUE

Working for Families Tax Credits 0800 227 773

If you feel more comfortable talking in your own language ask Work and Income or Inland Revenue about Language line

WORKING FOR FAMILIES	BEFORE HOURS CUT (PER WEEK)	WHAT THEY GET NOW (PER WEEK)
Family tax credit	\$94	\$186
In-work tax credit	\$75	\$75
Accommodation Supplement	\$0	\$33
OSCAR Subsidy	\$217	\$217
Total assistance	\$386	\$511

Note: These figures are estimates only, and amounts may differ slightly. Figures are based on rates from 1 April 2009.



From left: The award was presented by Tim Searle, National Manager, NZ Safety, Naomi Saluni (DoL), Gillian Tuala (DoL), Jerome Mika (EPMU), Helen Taimarangi (MPIA), Hans Key (DoL), and Robert Magasiva (Pacific Chamber of Commerce).

WORKER HEALTH AND SAFETY'S BIG ACHIEVEMENT

Puataunofu Manukau Project an award winner

The project won a prestigious award at the Safeguard – New Zealand Workplace Health and Safety Awards for 2009, receiving the Judges' commendation award for Best Initiative to Encourage Engagement in Health and Safety.

The award recognizes that, after engineering and management systems, a key element is the creation of a strong organizational culture which engages both employees and management in seeking improvements in health and safety performance.

The Puataunofu project team was led by the Department of Labour, and included the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs, Accident Compensation Corporation, Manukau City Council, Council of Trade Unions Komiti Pasefika, and the Engineering Printing and Manufacturing Union.

Initiatives in this area could include employee participation programmes, communications methods, training techniques, and engaging subcontractors.

Former Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs staff member, Toni Pole, was a founding member of the group. Before his sudden passing last year, Toni provided support to all the Puataunofu Manukau project team members and was instrumental in the project's early development and planning. Current staff member Fuimaono Tuiasau continues in the same manner.

Raising awareness of health and safety issues for Pacific workers and their employers was one of the main aims of the work. People looked at ways to reduce workplace injuries and advise Pacific workforces on best practices and standards. Developing a holistic approach to marketing and communications for the Puataunofu Manukau Plan was also an important component.

The win recognised innovations, such as the delivery of health and safety workshops at workplaces within manufacturing industries based in Manukau. Well known industries such as APN Print, Hellers Tasty, Big Tuff Pallets, Amcor Kiwi Packaging and Sanitarium Foods, employ significant numbers of Pacific people. Other work included development and promotion of a resource kit, and The Passport to Safety project was taken to schools in South Auckland.

The Puataunofu Manukau Project Team included representatives from key stakeholder groups. All members offered commitment, skills, knowledge, Pacific values, experience and networks within Auckland Pacific communities, to work together to gain the best possible outcomes.

Department of Labour's Chief Executive Office, Christopher Blake, made special mention of the Ministry and the team's unique approach through effective collaboration.

The project showed the value of sharing knowledge and resources in raising awareness of health and safety issues for Pacific workers. This is important because Pacific workers are significant contribution to New Zealand's workforce, he said.

MINISTRY TO HOST TOP US RESEARCHER

A top United States researcher is to be hosted by the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs next year, after being offered a prestigious international fellowship.

Ms Arnell Hinkle has been awarded one of five Ian Axford (NZ) Fellowships in Public Policy for 2010.

She is currently the Executive Director of Community Adolescent Nutrition and Fitness (CANFIT) from Berkley, California.

Arnell's project is named, Policy Implementation for Health Equity: Examining Healthy Eating – Healthy Action in Maori and Pacific Communities.

She will begin her seven-month tenure in February 2010 based at the Ministry. She will also be working with Te Puni Kokiri.



Ian Axford Fellowships are for outstanding mid-career US professionals to research, travel and gain practical experience in public policy in New Zealand.

The Fellowships are sponsored by a large number of New Zealand government agencies, and administered by Fulbright NZ on behalf of the Ian Axford Fellowships Board, which is chaired by Rt Hon Jim Bolger. More information can be found on www.fulbright.org.nz

This is the first time the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs has hosted an Ian Axford Fellow.

Make a Difference

Family violence

Family violence affects all of us in one way or another and is a major social problem. It impacts all cultures, classes and backgrounds. Violence threatens the safety and wellbeing of many families and changes the way people from troubled families participate in society.

The costs to society are severe, with ongoing personal costs for individuals directly affected and many more indirect costs passed on to our communities.

The Taskforce for Action on Violence within Families started four years ago. Its work is to lead interagency action to prevent family violence, and the abuse and neglect of children and older persons.

Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs Director of Communications and Relationships, Magila Annandale, is a member of the taskforce.

Pacific Advisory Group

A Pacific Advisory Group (PAG) advises the Taskforce on the development and implementation of policies and services aimed at reducing violence in Pacific families and communities. PAG developed a Pacific Programme of Action (POA) to provide practical frameworks to address family violence. The POA sets out the vision, direction and specific actions to drive and support this work.

'It's not OK' campaign

The It's not OK campaign, formally known as The Campaign for Action on Family Violence, calls on everyone to help put an end to family violence.

Aiming to connect with all – it reaches into workplaces, streets, neighbourhoods, pubs and clubs, supermarkets and sports grounds.

A key approach is working with communities to change attitudes and behaviours towards violence within families.

Launched in September 2007 with TV ads, featuring Rev Lapana Faletolu, it clearly set the tone with a simple but effective message: family violence is not OK – but it is OK to ask for help.

Subsequent ads featured four men talking about their own stories of personal change. Brian Gardner, George Ashby and Vic Tamati, discussed how they stopped being violent towards their families. Alfred Ngaro, told how he influenced a friend to 'man up' and find a better way. Their stories are available on: www.areyouok.org.nz

Resources

Free resources are available on the website. These include posters, booklets, and information about local events.

There is a free information phone line, 0800 456 450, which puts callers in touch with services within their own areas.

New poster

The campaign team and Malia Hamani, Toa Pacific worked together to produce a new poster launched for Elder Abuse Day in June. The poster's design honours and treasures our Pacific elders and family involved in their care.

Book of Stories

A book of stories from eight New Zealand women and men whose lives have been affected by family violence, has been another result of the campaign.

The stories illustrate the devastating effects of family violence, but also give hope that lives can be healed and violence's hold can be broken. Wellington tertiary design students provided the illustrative work. An exhibition of their artwork is touring libraries, aiming to raise awareness of the impacts of family violence on children. Read the stories on: www.realstories.org.nz



ce? Yes, We Can!



in team promotions. The Pulse franchise includes 38,000 netball playing girls and young women, plus a strong supporter base of families and schools.

Community Action Fund

A key element of the campaign is the Community Action Fund (CAF) which supports innovative community projects across the country. This funding enables groups to develop their own projects to stop family violence in their communities.

The Fund's first rounds granted money to 97 projects. Projects have increased the number of whole-community, Maori, Pacific and migrant and refugee projects. Find out more about CAF and projects on: www.areyouok.org.nz

More people taking action

The latest survey on the campaign's effectiveness showed 95 % of people questioned knew about the campaign - up from 89 % in April 2008. Even more encouraging, 22 % said they had taken some action after seeing the campaign ads.

Reported action was significantly higher for Pacific peoples. Overall 55 % of Pacific males and 58% of Pacific females surveyed reported taking some action.

Spreading the message

The 'It's not OK' theme is spreading fast.

The campaign provides practical information, advice and support, showing that change is possible. Since the campaign's launch in 2007, communities have responded well, and groups and individuals are eager to participate.

Sports

Sporting groups continue to show strong interest.

The Breakers Basketball team extended its involvement. Resources were developed to use as part of the team's work with the community and schools. Players also include key messaging as part of their regular radio slots on the Radio Network.

The campaign is also partnering with Women's Refuge in supporting the Wellington based Pulse netball team. The team promotes campaign messages as part of their work in schools and communities, as well as during games and

More than 68 % surveyed in September said they had spoken to family or friends about family violence. Nearly 60 % now felt they could help in influencing someone to change their behaviour.

The Warehouse DC Dads

More than 50 dads from The Warehouse Distribution Centre in South Auckland teamed up to talk about what it means to be a dad.

Being a dad is great, but it can be hard work! There's no rule book or training manual. These men shared stories, ideas, tips and photos about what it means for them to be a dad and to help others be the best fathers they can be. Copies of the booklet and posters celebrating dads, or for more information email skipinfo@msd.govt.nz A similar initiative is underway for mums.

Contact us

Those wanting more information about the campaign or would like to get involved please contact the project team by email at: info@areyouok.org.nz



Giving languages the flick!

Designed to get young ones to 'flick it on', three new colourful e-postcards are being released by the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs.

The electronic postcards promote the Cook Islands, Niuean and Tokelauan language websites, which encourage people to access lessons and other interesting material about their cultures, heritage and languages.

The electronic postcards will be e-mailed to community networks. It's hoped that people will 'flick' them onto their friends and family, and that children, teenagers adults will make regular visits to the sites.

"It's cost effective for us to use email technology," says project co-ordinator, Ofania Ikiua.

She says the language used is to appeal to the young New Zealand born Niueans, Cook Islanders and Tokelauans, or anyone interested in learning these important languages.

The websites are: www.learnniue.co.nz
www.learntokelau.co.nz
www.tuatuamai.co.nz



COMMUNITY RESPONSE FUND SUPPORTS CRITICAL SOCIAL SERVICES

Applications for the Community Response Fund are now open for the first round of funding, and will close 3 July 2009.

The new Fund was launched by the Minister of Social Development and Employment Hon Paula Bennett on 20 May 2009.

Up to \$104 million has been made available over a two year period for the Fund. It's designed to aid critical social services facing a significant increase in demand for their services or severe financial difficulty as a result of the economic downturn.

Minister Bennett said that the Fund is a short-term response to serious funding issues being faced by organisations which work with vulnerable families, children, young or older people.

Regional panels with community representation will consider applications every four months. Successful applicants will be notified in September.

The decisions will be made by regional panels close to where the services are delivered. Many panels will include a

representative from Te Puni Kōkiri, ensuring a Maori perspective is available.

The maximum amount of funding available will be \$50,000 per application. There is provision for grants above that amount, but only in exceptional circumstances.

"We know there are groups working with the most at-risk individuals and families which are really struggling in the current economic climate. The Community Response Fund recognises and responds to those needs. I'd encourage those groups which meet the criteria to apply to the Community Response Fund," Ms Bennett says.

For further detail, interested parties can call 0800 777 100 or look at the Family and Community Services website at www.familyservices.govt.nz.