

Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs



A Magazine for Pacific Communities n e w s l e t t e r SEPTEMBER 2004



Hutt Valley DHB launches Pacific Health Action Plan
Pacific Woman on Families Commission
NIU FM opens Wellington studio
Ministry helps NZ Police training

Social and economic prosperity for Pacific peoples



"This Spring issue of the Ministry's newsletter features a number of important and exciting developments that all contribute to the social and economic prosperity of Pacific peoples in New Zealand.

I was privileged to lead the Ministry Team in early August for the first feedback meeting between Government agencies and the Pacific community of Hawke's Bay. Most of the 70 milestones agreed to in the 2003 Programme of Action for that region, had already been implemented. It was pleasing to note the close co-operation of government agencies the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs and the Pacific Advisory Group in Hawke's Bay to develop new milestones for this region.

This was reiterated when the Associate Minister of Pacific Island Affairs, Hon. Taito Phillip Field and Mana MP, Luamanuvao Winnie Laban, met with Pacific community leaders and representatives of government agencies in Napier on 21 August.

Taito had earlier spoken at the official opening of the Community Day as part of the finale to Hawkes Bay's very successful, 'sPACIFICally PACIFIC'. The 2004 Hawkes Bay 'sPACIFICally PACIFIC' was a week-long event that included a youth rally with speech and writing competitions, cultural performances and guest speakers Dr Palatasa Havea, former All Black great Michael Jones and Senior Police Constable Nick Tuitasi.

In July this Ministry hosted the launch of Niu FM's Wellington studio, another important milestone in this four-year pilot project. The National Pacific Radio Trust that operates the Niu FM network, is a project directly derived from Pacific Capacity Building programme – a Government initiative led by this Ministry since 2000.

Pacific peoples had clearly identified a national radio network as critical to

realising their social and economic aspirations. Having a studio in Wellington means Pacific peoples in the Wellington and nearby regions now have ready access to Niu FM's broadcasting facilities.

The Ministry has regular slots on the network's Pacific Language programmes in the evenings to inform Pacific communities of the Ministry's work and provide first hand information about Government services provided by other government agencies.

To ensure that Ministry staff are up to the play with compiling radio reports and presenting information over the network, media training programmes have been held for staff in Auckland and Wellington focusing on radio.

An example of government information targeting Pacific communities, is the Ministry of Housing's popular Tenancy Guide that has been translated into Samoan and Tongan languages.

These Pacific language versions of the Tenancy Guide were jointly launched by the Acting Minister of Housing, Ric Barker at a ceremony attended by Associate Minister of Pacific Island Affairs, Hon. Taito Phillip Field, Porirua City Mayor Jenny Brash, Ministry of Housing CEO, Katrina Bach and Pacific community leaders.

For the Hutt Valley region, the Minister of Health, Hon. Annette King launched the Hutt Valley District Health Board's, Pacific Health Action Plan for the next three years. Work on the Plan was led by the sole Pacific Board member on the HVDHB, Fuimaono Karl Pulotu Endemann and Suafole Gush, Pacific Development Advisor and Chairperson of the Hutt Valley Community

Reference Group.

And in early July, the new Families Commission was officially launched at a ceremony in Parliament by then Acting Prime Minister, Annette King.

The six-member Families Commission is led by Dr Rajen Prasad, former Race Relations Conciliator. It is encouraging and very pleasing to note that there is one Pacific member on this important Commission. She is an Auckland-based Family and Community lawyer, Sandra Alofiavae.

The Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs has led major consultative exercises within Pacific communities and across central government agencies to identify priorities for policy and service development. One of the key strategic priorities identified as part of this process in 1999 is to "significantly strengthen Pacific families".

It is important to note that issues surrounding the labour force participation of young Pacific people over the next 50 years will be crucial to addressing the economic needs of Pacific families. This Ministry has identified five priorities for work on economic development for Pacific youth, including "Assisting Pacific families and communities to support Pacific youth in achieving their aspirations for social and economic prosperity".

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Kia Manuia



Fuimaono
Les McCarthy –
Chief Executive.

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Acknowledgments:

Front cover: Youngest members of the FETU AO choir of the Hastings Methodist Church that featured in the feedback meeting between the Hawkes Bay Pacific Community and Government agencies in early August.

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Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs' Newsletter

www.minpac.govt.nz

“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.

Pacific Greetings

It is an honour for me to comment in this September 2004 issue of the Ministry's national newsletter on behalf of my colleague, the Minister of Pacific Island Affairs, Hon. Phil Goff, who had been on an official trip overseas in his capacity as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

It was my pleasure recently to attend the *sPACIFICally PACIFIC* careers expo in Hawke's Bay – one of three such expos held around New Zealand to encourage greater educational achievement among young Pacific people.

Celebrating achievement has always been a strength of Pacific communities, and *sPACIFICally PACIFIC* uses celebration of achievement as a way to communicate to young people, their parents and their communities the value of educational achievement and participation in employment, training and business opportunities.

This year's expos mixed performance, art, workshops and motivational speakers to promote the theme 'Step Up'.

Outstanding role models such as King Kapisi (musician and businessman), Sara Jane Auvaa (Pasifik Diva and law student), Senior Constable Nick Tuitasi, Michael Jones and Dr Palatasa Havea – speakers with a genuine empathy for what matters to young Pacific people – provided inspiration by relating the stories of how they have 'stepped up' to be part of New Zealand's emerging generation of leaders.

It is important that young Pacific people hear these stories of success because we need to ensure that the next generation fully realise their potential in education and in the workforce, to build a better and more prosperous future for themselves and their communities.

Certainly they are already taking a greater interest in



Associate Minister of Pacific Island Affairs, Hon. Taito Phillip Field, with some officials at the Hawke's Bay Specifically PACIFIC expo in late August.



Hon. Taito Phillip Field.

education than ever before, as we can see this through the increasing number of enrolments at tertiary level. Between 1997 and 2001 the number of Pacific enrolments at university grew by 26 per cent, compared with a 14 per cent increase in total enrolments. Nevertheless, only 15 per cent of Pacific people aged 18 to 24 were enrolled in 2001; less than half the national level of 32 per cent.

Hopefully those figures will continue to improve because in 50 years' time, New Zealand's Pacific population will be over 600,000. That's a 40 per cent increase on the current Pacific population. One in five of our children by then will be of Pacific descent, and their talents, their skills and their successes will determine the success of New Zealand.

Pacific peoples must succeed economically, to ensure New Zealand's economy achieves its full potential.

It is important that we as Pacific people have a voice in the laws of New Zealand. Our country's system of parliamentary democracy not only provides for citizens to elect their representatives but also allows citizens to have a say in shaping the laws that affect them. This involvement is achieved by the Select Committees of the House of Representatives receiving submissions from the public.

The official government website: www.beehive.govt.nz is the web main page from which the public can find information regarding Select Committees. The link, parliament.govt.nz hosts the schedule for Select Committees, Venues and the Closing dates to make submissions. This link also holds information on how to make a submission to a Parliamentary Select Committee.

I encourage you to have a read and visit the official government website to find out more information about select committees and submission writing.

In early August, I accompanied Prime Minister Helen Clark to the Pacific Island Forum in Apia, Samoa. The Prime Minister then travelled on to Tokelau. The people of Tokelau, with the support of the New Zealand Government, have had greater self-determination in recent years, and a referendum may soon be held on whether they want to move to full self-governance, in free association with New Zealand.

At the request of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs is organising a meeting for Tokelau communities in Wellington within the next few weeks as a follow up to her Tokelau visit.

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Kia Monuina.

Hon. Taito Phillip Field
Associate Minister of Pacific Island Affairs

Hutt Valley DHB launches Pacific Health Action Plan

"The launch of this Pacific Health Action Plan is a significant milestone in the journey toward better health for Pacific people" – Minister of Health, Hon. Annette King.

The Minister of Health, Hon. Annette King, echoed the Government's accolades when she spoke to launch the Pacific Health Action Plan for the Hutt Valley District Health Board in early August 2004.

"It is a great pleasure to be here to launch the Hutt Valley District Health Board's *Pacific Health Action Plan*, on what is truly a special day in terms of the health of Pacific people living in the Hutt," said the Health Minister.

"I specially want to mention Suafole Gush, Pacific Peoples Health Advisor. This is your 'baby', and today is the culmination of a year of hard work. You can be particularly proud".

Suafole Gush, is the Chairperson for the Hutt Valley Community Reference Group, originally set up by the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs for the Pacific Capacity Building pilot project four years ago.

"I am pleased that this important milestone for the Pacific community in the Hutt Valley for the next three years is now in place," said Suafole.

"The HVDHB are committed to ensuring the goals of the Action Plan are implemented: the first of this involves scholarships for Pacific communities towards building of workforce capacity".

"This is one Pacific community that has been so positive in coming forward with solutions to their health problems so for me its been a privilege to work and serve them from my role as an advisor to the HVDHB," said Suafole.

The sole Pacific Board member for the Hutt Valley DHB,



Health Minister, Hon. Annette King, flanked by Education Minister Hon. Trevor Mallard and Suafole Gush, Pacific Health Advisor for the HVDHB at the launch of the HVDHB's Pacific Health Action Plan.

Afioga Fuimaono Karl Pulotu-Endemann, played a major role in ensuring this Action Plan was put in place by the HVDHB. He has been consistently flagging our Pacific issues on the board table ensuring inequalities are addresses and solutions to making Pacific health a priority area of the Hutt Valley District Health Board.

Present at the launch were the Minister for Education, Hon. Trevor Mallard, Peter Glensor, Chairman of the HVDHB and Board members, representatives of other government agencies, health providers church and community leaders.

Pacific young people urged to take up Fonterra opportunities

Pacific young men and women are being urged to take up training and employment opportunities within New Zealand's biggest manufacturer of dairy products, Fonterra.

The company's sole, Pacific scientist, Dr Palatasa Havea, said he wants more Pacific people to enter the industry and take up numerous opportunities available at Fonterra.

For years, Fonterra has been offering a one year graduate training programme.

"This training programme is the best window for a good job at Fonterra. People will take one year of study (with good pay) then work in any of the many opportunities," said Dr Havea.

To date, no Pacific candidates has taken this course, even though this has been going on for more than 25 years. About 20 to 30 people are accepted in the programme every year.

Dr Havea has recently raised the issue with this Ministry's Chief Executive Officer, Fuimaona Les McCarthy and have agreed to work collaboratively to encourage young Pacific peoples to take up the programme.

Applications are now open for positions on the **Fonterra Graduate** programme for 2005.

Fonterra Training Programmes are on page 11.



The sole scientist of Pacific origin within Fonterra, New Zealand's largest exporter of dairy products, is Tongan-born Dr Palatasa Havea who is behind efforts to encourage young people of Pacific origin to consider a career with Fonterra. He is pictured here with Fuatino Ilaoa one of the students attending a youth rally as part of 'sPACIFICally PACIFIC' in the Hawke's Bay region in August 2004 where he was one of the guest speakers.



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Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs' Newsletter

Wellington staff trained on the media

Wellington staff of the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs undertook two-days of media training in July as part of an overall strategy to educate senior staff on aspects of the media.

Also taking part were staff members involved with the Ministry's slots on Niu FM's Pacific Language programmes in the evenings.

The Wellington training followed a similar one held in June for the Ministry's Auckland-based staff.

The two-day programme included workshops on theory and radio presentation.

Manager Communications, Holona Lui, said Ministry staff have been involved with radio programmes in Pacific languages over Niu FM, Access Radio and community radio services for the past few years.

"It is important that Ministry staff directly responsible for these programmes are well trained to ensure quality information is disseminated to Pacific communities," said Manager Communications Holona Lui.

Senior Policy Analysts, Heker Robertson, Abba Fidow, Va'a Makisi and Laulu Lafaele Lupo and the Community Advisor, Faalogo Talosaga Va'ai attended the Wellington media training.

The second day of the training coincided with the launch of Niu FM's Wellington studios on 28 July.

Ministry staff had access to the new studio for presentation



Some of the Wellington staff taking part in the media training, pictured in the Niu FM studio with tutors, Elma Maua of Niu FM and media consultant, Sandra Kailahi.

exercises under the guidance of veteran broadcaster and Niu FM's representative in Wellington, Elma Maua and Auckland-based media consultant Sandra Kailahi.

Speaking at the opening of the programme, Ministry Chief Executive Officer, Fuimaono Les McCarthy, said while the focus was on radio, it was the intention to cover all areas of the media.

A more intensive follow up training is being planned before the end of the current financial year.

PM makes historic visit to Tokelau

In August, the Prime Minister Rt Hon. Helen Clark became only the third New Zealand Government Leader to visit Tokelau in the almost 80 years that these islands have been administered by New Zealand.

She made the historic visit immediately after the Pacific Island Forum summit in Apia Samoa on 14 August 2004.

The Forum was held in Samoa after Niue, the scheduled host, was devastated by Cyclone Heta at the beginning of this year. Helen Clark thanked Samoa for stepping in at short notice when Niue was unable to host.

The New Zealand Prime Minister visited all the three atolls of Nukunou, Atafu and Fakaofu where she was welcomed with open arms by the people of Tokelau. She also had talks with the elders on matters concerning relations between New Zealand and Tokelau.

The visit was particularly timely as Tokelau, with the support of the New Zealand Government is in a process, of moving towards greater political self-reliance.

Tokelau's 1500 residents are New Zealand citizens. There are also 6000 Tokelauans living in New Zealand.

"In September, New Zealand and Tokelau officials aim to reach agreement on a draft Treaty which would give effect to self government for Tokelau in free association with New Zealand," said Helen Clark.

"This draft would then be considered in Tokelau before high level talks in New Zealand. The objective is to hold a referendum in Tokelau late next year on the proposal for self government."

The Prime Minister has instructed officials of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet to work together with the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs, in organising a national meeting with New Zealand's Tokelau community to further discuss the issue of self government.



NZ Prime Minister, Rt Hon. Helen Clark with Minister of Pacific Island Affairs & Foreign Affairs & Trade, Hon. Phil Goff and Minister of State and Associate Minister of Pacific Island Affairs, Hon. Taito Phillip, pictured in Apia for the Pacific Island Forum in early August.



Minister Phil Goff leads delegation to Pacific

The Minister of Pacific Island Affairs and Foreign Affairs and Trade, Hon. Phil Goff led an official New Zealand delegation to Palau, the Marshall Islands and the Solomon Islands in early June 2004.

The delegation included MPs, representatives of non-government organisations, academics, the media, business people and Government officials including the Ministry CEO, Fuimaono Les McCarthy and Manager Communications, Holona Lui.

“New Zealand is committed to the long-term development of a safe and prosperous Solomon Islands.”

The trip involved meetings with senior figures in all three countries, including the Vice President of Palau, President of Marshall Islands, Prime Minister of Solomon Islands, Foreign Ministers, and a number of other Cabinet Ministers. The delegation also talked to business people and academics, and visited projects funded by New Zealand's development agency, NZAID.

“The aim of the trip would be to strengthen New Zealand's relationship with all three countries,” Mr Goff said.

“Our relations with Palau and the Marshall Islands are warm but limited. This visit offers a chance to learn more about two of the most distant members of the Pacific Islands Forum, and to provide a firmer basis for discussing Pacific regional issues, especially in the context of work being done within the Forum.”

In Palau Mr Goff announced funding for a conservation project aimed at preserving the iconic giant clam. In the Marshalls he visited a computer classroom at the University of the South Pacific that is funded by NZAID.

In the Solomons Mr Goff met with key figures of the Regional Assistance Mission (RAMSI), as well as business figures, members of civil society and non-government organisations. He also visited an NZAID education project and the New Zealand Police operations centre in Honiara.

“New Zealand is committed to the long-term development of a safe and prosperous Solomon Islands. We are providing considerable funding and technical assistance to help the Solomons government restore essential public services, and have already committed NZ\$30 million over the next three years to support the education sector,” Mr Goff said.

New Zealand Fiji Community Effort for Flood Relief Assistance to Fiji

A disastrous flood in the central part of Fiji in April 2004 prompted a national appeal to the Fiji community in New Zealand to help the flood victims.

National and regional radio stations assisted by appealing for donations and contributions from the Pacific Communities both in the Wellington and Auckland regions. Fijian communities in the main centres co-ordinated the collection of relief materials. Two points of collection; Petone for Wellington and the Viti Centre for Auckland were confirmed after container and freight assistance was sought from New Zealand Agency for International Development, NZAID.

The NZAID in response agreed to fund two containers, shipment and transportation costs to the islands. The first container from Wellington arrived in Suva on Wednesday 23rd June. The second container loaded in Auckland arrived in Fiji by the end of August 2004.

The Fiji communities is seeking donations focused on meeting the needs of schools and hospitals in the affected areas. Items collected included households, office furniture, computers, reading books children's toys, and clothing.

The Ministry was only too happy to make available the time of Mr Sai Lealea, Director of Monitoring and Governance and Fijian staff to assist with organising the container shipments to Fiji.

The Fiji High Commission Office in Wellington said the Fiji Government is overwhelmed with the support and assistance and convey their deepest appreciation to the Pacific Island communities, churches and friends of Fiji for the donations, in particular the NZAID for its great assistance. Total value of the goods donated amounted to around \$45,000.



The Ministry's Director, Governance and Monitoring, Mr Sai Lealea, pictured with Mrs Mere Tora, First Secretary for the Fiji High Commission Wellington Office and Mr Prem Chand, a Fiji community representative.



Pacific woman on Families Commission

A Pacific woman has joined the newly set up Families Commission. She is Auckland-based family lawyer, Sandra Alofivae who brings to the new Commission 14 years of professional legal experience specialising in family and youth law and 20 years experience of voluntary and community service with a particular focus on education for families and communities in South Auckland.

She has extensive knowledge of family structures and the critical issues for Pacific families. Sandra Alofivae also possesses sound governance experience, including as a Board member for Presbyterian Support Northern. Sandra is fluent in Samoan.

The six-member Commission established under legislation was formally established in July at a launching ceremony



Auckland-based Samoan lawyer, Sandra Alofivae, pictured with husband, Paul Chankay.

in Parliament attended by Health Minister, Hon. Annette King, Minister for Economic Development, Hon. Jim Anderton, then Acting Minister for Social Development, Hon. Ruth Dyson, United Future New Zealand Party Leader, Peter Dunn, government officials and family and friends of the new Commissioners.

The Families Commission will act as an advocate for the interests of families. It will encourage informed debate on issues affecting families. It will also commission research into family issues and comment on policies affecting families.

Funding of \$28.233m was provided in Budget 2003 for the Commission's first four years.

Members of the original Commission are:

- Dr Rajen Prasad, Chief Commissioner (full-time appointment)
- bioethics specialist Sharron Cole (Deputy Chief Commissioner)
- psychiatrist Prof Mason Durie
- legal expert Sandra Alofivae
- former Human Rights Commissioner Carolynn Bull, and
- long-time family advocate Lyn Campbell.

Housing Tenant Guide published in Samoan and Tongan languages

The Ministry of Housing's popular tenant guide, 'What to do when you're renting', is now available in both Samoan and Tongan languages.

This important milestone was celebrated in a happy ceremony at the Ministry of Housing's Tenancy Services Centre in Porirua on Tuesday 16 July 2004.

Speaking at the launch, Acting Minister of Housing, Hon. Rick Barker said it was important for all tenants to fully understand their rights to avoid disappointment. He said a large number of tenants throughout the country were of Pacific origin and the Ministry was keen to be able to support and assist them through provision of the Tenancy Guide in Pacific languages.

Also present at the launch was Associate Minister for Pacific Island Affairs, Hon. Taito Phillip Field, who thanked the Ministry of Housing for the initiative to provide the tenancy guide especially in the Samoan and Tongan languages.

The Ministry of Housing CEO Katrina Bach, acknowledged the support of the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs with this project.

She said the guide is designed to answer the most common questions tenants have about renting, and covers everything from moving in to sorting out any hassles that might come up along the way.

A large number of Samoan and Tongan community leaders attended the ceremony. A group of school children from a local school was also involved in presenting a Pacific cultural performance at the launch.

Amongst the invited guests at the launch were the Mayor of Porirua City, Jenny Brash and Councillor Litea Ah Hoi

Tai Ah Kuoi, Policy Analyst (Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs), said the Pacific language tenancy guide would be an invaluable asset to the communities involved.

The Tenancy Services Centre is located at:
1st floor, 1 Walton Leigh Avenue, Porirua.

For more information contact:

Kirsten Collins, Ministry of Housing
(04) 474 2005 or (025) 46 55 99,
e-mail: kirstenc@minhousing.govt.nz,
www.minhousing.govt.nz or

Tuiloma Sikoti, Ministry of Housing
(04) 474 2013 or 025 481 152,
e-mail: tuilomas@minhousing.govt.nz



NIU FM opens Wellington studio

The National Pacific Radio Network, Niu FM, officially opened their Wellington studios on Wednesday 28 July with a live Breakfast Show from the Capital.

Associate Minister for Pacific Island Affairs, Hon. Taito Phillip Field and other dignitaries joined Niu FM's Breakfast hosts Mario and Stephanie on air to mark the occasion.

Located within Radio New Zealand House on the Terrace, the Niu FM studio had been operational for some time, with the network's Wellington representative, Elma Maua using it for preparing and presenting Niu FM's daily Pacific News. The launch ceremony began with a live to air blessing led by Rev Setu Masina of the Pacific Island Presbyterian Church.

Speaking on air during the launch ceremony, Minister of State and Associate Minister for Pacific Island Affairs, Hon. Taito Phillip Field said the Wellington studio was another step forward in keeping Pacific communities better informed and more up-to-date with current news, music and much more!

"Niu FM provides a window for all New Zealanders to share and learn more about Pacific peoples, their unique cultures and their views of issues that are important in their lives."

"Niu FM is New Zealand's first National Pacific Radio Network – it is the realisation of one of Pacific peoples long-held dreams that is the setting up of a Pacific National Radio Network."

Guests at the launch included Pacific church and community leaders, senior officials of the Ministry of Culture and Heritage, the Crown agent in the Niu FM pilot project and the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs led by Chief Executive Fuimaono Les McCarthy.

When it was first launched in August 2002, Niu FM was able to broadcast to certain areas of Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch. Today coverage has been extended to about 85 percent of the country from Whangarei to Invercargill. The network is now online.

The Niu FM pilot project, is presently being independently evaluated. Niu FM was established to contribute to Government's goals for reducing inequalities and building the capacity of Pacific communities. The Ministry for Culture and



Associate Minister of Pacific Island Affairs, Hon. Taito Phillip Field, with Niu FM's Breakfast Team of Mario and Stephanie soon after the launch of the network's Wellington studio.

Heritage in association with the Ministry of Pacific Islands Affairs are sponsoring the evaluation which is being viewed by Magila Annandale from Fresh Consulting.

The result of this survey together with other surveys and findings of the evaluators from discussions with various people and groups will go to informing a report to the Government about the future of Niu FM.

Listen to Niu FM online: www.niu.fm

And remember you can continue to tune in on your radio on the following frequencies:

Whangarei 100.3 FM / Auckland 103.8 FM / Hamilton Waikato 103.4 FM / Tokoroa 104.2 FM / Rotorua 103.9 FM / Taupo 103.9 FM / Hawkes Bay 103.9 FM / Wellington 103.7 FM & 100.7 FM / Christchurch 104.1 FM & 100.9 FM / Dunedin 103.8 FM / Invercargill 103.6 FM / Sky Digital Channel 103

Agencies keen to utilise Community Reference Group (CRGs)

The selection of new Community Reference Groups for the Auckland region in July has brought positive feedback from Government Agencies keen to work together with these advisory bodies. The Community Reference Groups, are members of different Pacific communities nominated by their ethnic communities to work with the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs and other Government agencies.

There are 39 CRG members in Auckland, plus 10 nominated from Hamilton to make a total of 49 in the Northern Region. At the moment CRG members have been meeting regularly for training in various Government sectors. These sectors include the Department of Education, Health, Social Services, Justice, Employment and Economic Development.

Recently, the Community Reference Group for the Education sector met with the Waikato Institute Of Technology and The Best Training Institute of Manukau, to discuss ways to attract Pacific Island

students to learn new online computer programs and modern information technology, a part of the ICT or the Information Communication Technology Project. This coincided with the consultation processes for the national Digital Strategy in which the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs was involved.

It is the intention that all New Zealanders including the Pacific Island Community should benefit from the power of information and communications technology, to harness information for economic and social prosperity.

The Ministry of Education held a community *fono* in South Auckland in August, and five members of the Community Reference Group took part as facilitators for their various ethnic groups. One of this Ministry's Community Advisors in Auckland, Savea Al Harrington Lavea said it is quite remarkable to see CRG members taking a leading and productive role in these consultations. "It is a wonderful way to participate and maintain positive relationships with Government and independent agencies and advising on what is good, and needed by Pacific people," said Savea.



Tenancy Services targets Pacific communities

The Ministry of Housing has recognised the need to support Pacific people in the rental market and has designed a strategy that targets Pacific communities around the country.

Providing the Ministry's popular tenant guide in the first language of Samoan and Tongan speakers, is a key part of that overall strategy.

"This ensures Pacific households are educated about the services available to them, and their rights and obligations when renting," said Pacific Development Advisor, Tuiloma Cherylne Sikoti.

"Pacific peoples make up a significant part of New Zealand's tenant community – 62% of Pacific people live in rented accommodation compared to 32% for the general population."

- Pacific peoples make up 21% of Housing New Zealand's tenants nationally and 44% in Auckland alone.
- More than 81,000 New Zealanders are Samoan speakers and around 23,000 are Tongan speakers.

The Tenancy Services Centre employs about 60 staff who are

involved with the administration of bonds, dispute resolution, and advice and information services.

For the 2003/04 financial year, some 213,000 bond lodgment transactions were recorded or roughly about 845 per day.

- 97% of these were processed within 5 days
- For the same period 203,000 bond refund transactions were recorded in or about 802 bond per day –
- 98% of these were processed within 2 days
- and a total of 815 bond advice calls were taken per day or 206,000 for the financial year.

In the area of dispute resolution, delivered through regional Tenancy Services offices close to 44,000 applications were processed with 62% settled out of court through mediation and withdrawal.

Free Line Pacific Island People in New Zealand

The Pacific Island community have the opportunity to access Language Line a free telephone interpreting service, that's helping to create clarity of communication between its participating agencies (see Box 1) and those who speak little or no English.

Language Line has Cook Island Maori, Niuean, Samoan, Tokelauan, Tongan and Tuvaluan in its list of available languages (See Box 2).

"The service is free to the ethnic communities," says Sonja Rathgen, the Establishment Director of the Office of Ethnic Affairs. "It means accessibility, clarity and speed for those who are not fluent English speakers when they deal with the participating agencies."

Language Line is available from Monday to Friday 9am – 6pm. To access the service, call or visit a participating agency (for example Passports – Department of Internal Affairs), ask for Language Line and for your Language. An interpreter is usually on the line within two minutes and will help you in your dealings.



From Left Iga Mokole (Community Advisor – MPIA, Auckland), Gia Nghi Phung (Ethnic Advisor – Office of Ethnic Affairs), and Sloan Maoate (Community Advisor – MPIA, Auckland).

The Language Line team are looking forward to growth, expansion and increased use of Language Line in the coming year. It's an excellent service, which brings smiles of understanding where once there was uncertainty and misunderstandings. We're delighted to welcome the Pacific Island community.

Information boxes and background notes follow.

For further updates, visit the Language Line website on www.language.govt.nz or for more information, contact: Kate Mitchell 04 495 9448 Kate.Mitchell@dia.govt.nz.

Box 1: LANGUAGE LINE'S – PARTICIPATING AGENCIES:

Accident Compensation Corporation	0800 10 19 96
Commerce Commission	0800 94 36 00
Department of Internal Affairs	
Office of Ethnic Affairs	(04) 495 9448
Births, Deaths and Marriages	0800 22 52 52
Citizenship	0800 22 51 51
Passports	0800 22 50 50
Department of Labour	
Employment Relations Service	0800 80 08 63
New Zealand Immigration Service	0508 55 88 55
Housing New Zealand Corporation	0800 80 16 01
Ministry of Economic Development	
Electrical Workers Licensing Group	0800 66 10 00
Insolvency and Trustee Service	0508 46 76 58
Measurement and Product Safety Service	0508 62 77 74
Ministry of Consumer Affairs –	
Consumer Line	(04) 474 2750
New Zealand Companies Office	0508 26 67 26
Ministry of Social Development	
NZ Superannuation	0800 55 20 02
StudyLink	0800 88 99 00
Work and Income	0800 55 90 09
National Poisons Centre	0800 76 47 66
New Zealand Police	Local Police Station
Tertiary Education Commission – English for Migrants	0800 37 65 69

Box 2: LANGUAGE LINE'S – AVAILABLE LANGUAGES:

Amharic, Arabic, Assyrian, Bengali, Bosnian, Cantonese, Cook Island Maori, Croatian, Dari, Farsi, Gujarati, Hindi, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Kurdish, Lao, Mandarin, Maori, Myanmar, Niuean, Pashto, Punjabi, Russian, Samoan, Serbian, Sinhalese, Spanish, Somali, Tamil, Thai, Tokelauan, Tongan, Tuvaluan, Ukrainian, Urdu, and Vietnamese.

Ministry signs Protocol agreement with Ministry of Health

A new Protocol Agreement has been concluded between the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs, and one of the major government agencies whose services impacts directly on Pacific peoples, the Ministry of Health.

It is only the second such agreement between the two ministries since 1977 and was officially signed on 29 July 2004 by Chief Executive Fuimaono Les McCarthy and Director General of Health, Dr Karen Poutasi. Senior Policy Analyst, Tae Tuinukuafe, said the new agreement further strengthens the working relationship between the two ministries.

"The purpose of this new agreement is to record the parties' agreement to a protocol for policy commentary and policy advice on matters relating to Pacific peoples' health," said Tae Tuinukuafe.



Chief Executive, Fuimaono Les McCarthy and Director General of Health, Dr Karen Poutasi, at the official signing of the new Protocol Agreement on 29 July 2004 at MPIA's national office in Wellington.

In addition:

- the two Chief Executives will meet annually to discuss and review strategic direction and key priorities of their respective agencies
- relevant Statement of Intent outcomes for each party
- identify and collaborate closely on a number of projects.

The Agreement also establishes a Protocol Group, comprising specific personnel from both ministries. The Protocol Group meets twice each year to:

- specify roles and relationships for both agencies
- encourage co-operation and maximise the available resource used by the development of key projects, communication, consultation, including sharing of information.

The new agreement covers areas in which both parties have desired outcomes to improve effectiveness policy advice to government about Pacific Health, monitoring and evaluation and Ministry of Health's responsiveness to health needs of Pacific peoples. The following are key projects that the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs has been contributing to:

- The Primary Health Care Strategy
- The Pacific Health and Disability Workforce Development Action Plan
- Future of Pacific Capacity Building and related milestones
- Statement of Intent.

Housing New Zealand Corporation highlights Low Deposit Rural Loans & Kiwibank in Reach

Housing New Zealand Corporation was one of a number of government agencies that took part in the sPACIFICally Pacific Expo Hawke's Bay 2004 in August, held at the Pettigrew Arena, in Taradale.

Housing New Zealand's brightly decorated stall with flowers and fruit was a popular spot for people wanting to know about eligibility for state housing and home ownership opportunities – in particular the Corporation's **Low Deposit Rural Loans** (LDRL) initiative and **Kiwibank In Reach**.

LDRL is a Government initiative provided through the Corporation for the past 10 years. LDRL requires a 3% deposit for eligible low-modest income earners who want to buy or build in rural/regional areas. It's available in a number of areas including Hawke's Bay, the Far North, Northland, Bay of Plenty, East Coast, the Waikato and Coromandel area, King Country, Wanganui and Central Plateau.

Kiwibank In Reach is a two-year pilot programme whereby the Corporation provides subsidised lenders mortgage insurance to Kiwibank, reducing the risk of lending to people with little or no deposit. This initiative targets first time home buyers, including Pacific households who want to live with extended family.

People, who haven't been able to get a home loan because their income is too low, or they aren't able to save a deposit, may be able to get a **Kiwibank In Reach** home loan.

The main criteria for a **Kiwibank In Reach** home loan are:

- one or two people in the same household have a combined income of up to or including \$55,000
- three or more people in the same household have a combined income of up to and including \$100,000.

Those who qualify and want to buy a house up to \$150,000 don't need a deposit; and those buying a house over \$150,000 only need a 5% deposit. The maximum loan is \$280,000.

Since September 2003, the Corporation has provided lenders mortgage insurance for Kiwibank allowing 455 households to buy their own home – of which 16 (3.5%) were Pacific households.

The Corporation is also running a 12-month pilot with Pasefika Pulse Trust to provide home ownership education workshops for Pacific People in the greater Wellington area.



Ministry input valuable to Police

The good working relationship between the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs and the New Zealand police has been extended to include increased input and participation by this Ministry into training for senior Police Officers.

Chief Executive Fuimaono Les McCarthy said the Ministry recognises the importance of senior Police Officers being aware of the issues impacting on Pacific peoples on a regional and national level.

"We have been working collaboratively with the New Zealand Police on their Pacific Responsiveness Strategy and we look forward to continuation of this working relationship," said Fuimaono.

The training for senior Police Officers is an extension of the Ministry's traditional advisory role for the New Zealand Police.

To date, the Ministry has assisted the New Zealand Police with two training programmes with the last one in August at the Ministry's national office in Wellington.

The first training in July at the Ministry's national office, involved Commissioned Officers and Senior Inspectors. The second training session was attended by a mixture of Senior Sergeants and Police Inspectors from across the country.

Both Chief Executive Fuimaono Les McCarthy and the Ministry's Director of Policy, Su'a Kevin Thomsen were involved in the two training programmes.



Senior Policy Analyst, Va'a Makisi, pictured with some of the Police Officers who attended the second training programme at the Ministry's national office Wellington in August.

News In Brief

PACIFIC BUSINESS DIRECTORY

The Pacific Business Trust will be publishing a Pacific Business Directory in October 2004.

The directory will be a comprehensive, user friendly directory of Pacific businesses, service providers and business people throughout New Zealand.

This resource will be used by Pacific businesses, the Pacific community, local and central government agencies, and others who recognise that the Pacific community is an emerging part of the wider New Zealand business scene.

It is free to list in this directory however businesses must be at least 50% Pacific owned to be eligible for inclusion.

Advertising space is also available. For more information about listing or advertising, please contact: **Leba Kini, PBT Administrator**, on 0800 287 7526 or email lebak@pacificbusiness.co.nz.

MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORATE HOLDS NATIONAL FONO

The Mental Health Directorate of the Ministry of Health is holding a series of public meetings around the country in October 2004 on the draft of the 2nd National Mental Health and Addiction Plan that the Ministry of Health is developing. Pacific communities and providers are welcome to attend the two remaining *Fono* in Auckland and Wellington.

The first *Fono* at the Hotel Grand Chancellor in Christchurch on 23 September was well attended.

Dates for the remaining meetings are as follows:

Auckland – Hotel Grand Chancellor, Auckland Airport on Friday 1st October from 1.30pm – 4.30pm

Wellington – Azzurra Room, Overseas Terminal, Chaffers Marina, Oriental Parade on Thursday 21 October 2004 from 1.30pm – 4.30pm

Copies of the draft Plan will be made available at the *fono* and can be accessed through the Ministry of Health's website: www.moh.govt.nz/improvingmentalhealth

PACIFIC RESEARCHER WANTED FOR BARBADOS CONFERENCE

A young Pacific Island researcher is being sought for an international conference to be held in Barbados in Mauritius from 10-14 January 2005.

Those interested in being nominated for this conference should contact **Dr Paslatasa Havea**, Research Technologist, Nutrition & Milk Technical Team, Fonterra Co-operative Group Ltd, Dairy Farm Road, Private Bag 11029, Palmerston North, New Zealand

Email: palatasa.havea@fonterra.com

Tel: 64 6 350 4600 ext 7413, Fax: 64 6 350 4663

www.fonterra.com

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Technical (FGTP) Graduates – Start Dec 2004

Graduates in the Fonterra Graduate Technical Programme (FGTP) will be involved in an intensive, continuous, one year, post-graduate training course.

Graduates then move into business-as-usual roles within Fonterra in areas such as Production, Process Development, Product Development, Supply Chain, Marketing and Research. We are looking for graduates with degrees in Engineering (Chemical, Food, Mechanical), Science, or Technology (Food, BioTechnology, Bioprocess, Chemical, Environmental, Product Development etc). For more details regarding the Technical programme please click on the link below <http://www.fonterragrads.co.nz/vacancies.html>



Ministry sets up Corporate Services Unit

Under a new structure put in place since the beginning of 2004, the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs now has a Corporate Services Unit combining Human Resources, Finance, Administration and IT sections.

The new Unit is located within the Ministry's national office in Wellington. Chief Executive Fuimaono Les McCarthy said, as the Ministry continues to grow it was strategically critical to combine human resources, finance and administration and IT into one Unit.

The former Manager for the Ministry's Christchurch Regional Office, Ms Michelle Oberg heads the new unit as Manager, Corporate Services. Since taking up the job in February 2004, Michelle has devoted her energies to upgrading facilities within the national office. These include refurbishing the Ministry library, the formal meeting room, the ministry kitchen and creating a quiet room for staff. She has also set up new systems for human resource requirements of the Ministry.

"The transition from regional to head office has been challenging but rewarding and exciting. Although into my 16th year of working for the Ministry, the move to Wellington has been of extreme personal value, providing the opportunity to continue to develop and learn new skills," said Michelle.

"The establishment of the corporate services unit from Human Resources, Finance, IT and Administration seemed logical and will ensure that the Ministry continues to function efficiently and effectively."

Other members of the Corporate Services Unit are Finance Manager, Mr Steve Mockford who joined the Ministry in January 2004. Steve came to the Ministry from the Ministry of Health and has many years' experience in finance work within the public sector. He replaces Ms Fiona McCartney who resigned last year.

Mrs Rosemary Brook is the Corporate Services Accounting Officer working closely with the Finance Manager in the finance area. Rosemary has been with the Ministry for



Manager, Corporate Services, Michelle Oberg (middle) with Manager, Finance, Steve Mockford (closer to camera), Neil Shushamis (IT) and Lisa Debont-loane, Client Services Administrator.

three years.

Mr Sefa Tuinukuafe, the Corporate Services Finance Officer, is an important part of the team. Sefa has been with the Ministry for 9 years.

Mr Neil Shushamis is the Information Systems Administrator presently the only IT person for the Ministry. He is responsible for the maintenance and servicing of the Ministry's computer network and IT systems.

Mr Mike Mylonas, who headed the IT team for many years, left the Ministry recently to pursue other personal interests.

Lisa Debont-loane is the Client Services Administrator, and maintains all logistical functions of the Corporate Services unit as well as ensuring callers and visitors to the Ministry are attended to.

First review of Pacific Health launched since 1996

'Tupu Ola Moui: The Pacific Health Chart Book 2004' jointly written by the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs and the Ministry of Health was launched at the beehive this month by Health Minister, Hon. Annette King.

The publication is the first comprehensive review of Pacific health since the Public Health Commission carried out such an assessment in 1996. It also brings together information on more than 150 health and social indicators of relevance to Pacific peoples that will help in identifying priorities and assessing progress towards reducing inequalities for Pacific peoples in New Zealand.

"We know that compared to the total New Zealand population, Pacific people have poorer health status; are more exposed to risk factors for poor health; and experience barriers to accessing health services," says Senior Policy Advisor Abba Fidow.

"The high level indicators in this document will strengthen the ability of policy makers to have high quality policy advice for Pacific health issues in New Zealand."

Some of the key findings for Pacific peoples, compared with the total New Zealand population are:

- life expectancy is 74 years compared with 78

- infant mortality is higher
- teen pregnancy is nearly twice the national average though cultural factors need to be considered in regard to fertility timing
- heart disease rates are approximately double
- face more barriers to surgical than to medical care
- more likely to be overweight or obese
- prevalence of smoking among adult males is 35% compared with 26%
- more likely to be unemployed with an unemployment rate of 8% compared to 4.6%.

"The review shows us that Pacific peoples are visiting GPs as often as the total population," says Mr Fidow.

'**Tupu Ola Moui**' is a Niuean phrase meaning 'Growing a prosperous and healthy lifestyle.' The report is available from the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs website, or the Ministry of Health website, www.moh.govt.nz

