



MEDIA RELEASE

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Pacific “Puataunofu” Health and Safety Project Wins Big at National Awards

The Puataunofu Manukau project – a health and safety programme – for Pacific workers has received the judges’ commendation award for the: **best initiative to encourage engagement in health and safety** at the National safeguard awards for 2009.

The project team, comprising staff from the Department of Labour (lead agency), the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs (MPIA), Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC), Manukau City Council, Council of Trade Unions (CTU) Komiti Pasefika, Engineering Printing and Manufacturing Union (EPMU), headed off 130 nominations nationwide to take out the top prize.

The Puataunofu Manukau Project was developed to raise awareness of health and safety issues for Pacific workers and their employers, reduce workplace injuries and to inform the Pacific workforce on health and safety practices and standards in the region.

“We are delighted that industry leaders acknowledged the strength of this project and that it is being carried out with very little funding. We hope this award will now attract more financial support for the project,” said MPIA Director of Communications and Relationships, Magila Annandale.

“The project’s success is because of effective team collaboration in sharing knowledge and resources. Members offered commitment, skills, knowledge, experience and networks within Auckland Pacific communities,” Ms Annandale said.

Puataunofu is a popular flower found in the Pacific and Samoan concept. It refers to the integral centre of flowers. The project was given the name because it symbolised the collaborative approach by team members to improving workplace health and safety for Pacific workers in Manukau.

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