



**Pacific Nurses Section, NZNO quarterly news bulletin
Friday 25 November 2022**

Section message

Malo e lelei, Kia Ora, Talofa lava, Kia Orana, Ni sa bula, Taloha ni, Fakalofa lahi atu, and warm greetings to you all!

Welcome to our final Newsletter 2022. I would like to acknowledge and thank Linda Stopforth for your wonderful work on our Newsletter, most educational and wealth of information. Malo

It's been a challenging year but honoured to have been your Chairperson as part of this journey.

It has been a pleasure working with every one of you and thank you for your support over the years.

I would like to thank the committee and all members. Your commitment and passion to share and look for better ways of working together has been inspirational. Malo 'aupito.

And lastly, I would like to thank Angela Clark – Professional Nurse Advisor for her continuous support and genuine patience with us. Your thoughtfulness and understanding have given us strength to continue to serve our communities. You and past PNA's have been an asset to us, and we look forward to continuing work with you.

May the Lord bless you all, your families, and your work.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Tu'a 'ofa atu mo e hufia

'Eseta Finau

Consultation

NZNO regularly seeks members input on a range of documents up for consultation. The listing is regularly updated and full information [can be found here](#)

Pacific nurses in NZ

Flawed Fijian mental health system provides lessons for Aotearoa

Intertwining indigenous customs with a Western model [Read more](#)

PMA invests \$10000 award into Pacific Health Education Scholarships

The Pasifika Medical Association (PMA) has announced that it will invest the \$10,000 received with the Arataki Award for Leadership in the Community into health scholarships through their Pacific Education Fund. [Read more](#)

Labour schemes drawing nurses from across Pacific to lower-qualified aged care jobs in ...

The departure of over-qualified Pacific Island nurses who are taking up aged care jobs in countries such as Australia has experts concerned the "brain drain" is leaving critical gaps in the region's healthcare systems. [Read more](#)

Pasifika health in NZ

Government unveils plan to improve Pasifika health

Health New Zealand has launched an interim Pacific health plan – a commitment to improve the health and wellbeing of Pasifika in Aotearoa. [Read more](#)

Action plan launched to tackle poor health outcomes among Pasifika in NZ

A two-year plan has been launched to tackle health inequities among New Zealand's Pasifika population. [Read more](#)

Study on depression identifies key risk factors for Pasifika youth

Some of these factors include relationships with parents (particularly mother), relationships with friends, school engagement, and impulsivity. [Read more](#)

Melanesians in Aotearoa — a minority within a minority

Leina Isno is a proud ni-Vanuatu woman and advocate for Melanesian communities in Aotearoa. She spoke to Teuila Fuata'i about the importance of maintaining all our Pacific languages, and why it's been disappointing to see smaller Melanesian communities overlooked in the government's new Pacific Languages Strategy. [Read more](#)

ProCare launches Pacific Health Strategy and Tala-Moana

Leading healthcare provider, ProCare, has launched its refreshed Pacific Health Strategy alongside a new cultural competency app called 'Tala-Moana'. [Read more](#)

High smoking rates for Māori men, Pasifika women draw concern

More data and support programmes are needed to change high rates of smoking for Māori men, Pasifika women and vaping among young people, according to the Asthma and Respiratory Foundation. [Read more](#)

The epidemiology of aseptic meningitis in New Zealand children from 1991 to 2020.

McBride, M., Williman, J., Best, E., Walls, T., Sadarangani, M., Grant, C.C. and Martin, N.G. (2022), J Paediatr Child Health, 58: 1980-1989. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jpc.16131>

Aseptic meningitis, including culture negative and viral meningitis, contributes a significant health-care burden, including unnecessary antibiotic use and hospitalisation to treat possible bacterial meningitis. This study analysed aseptic meningitis hospitalisations in New Zealand (NZ) children over 29 years. [Read more](#)

Association of socio-economic status and ethnicity with mortality and morbidity of premature infants admitted to neonatal intensive care in South Auckland, New Zealand.

Pacella, M.J. and Meyer, M.P. (2022)

J Paediatr Child Health. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jpc.16255>

Socio-economic status (SES) and ethnicity have been associated with worse maternal and fetal outcomes. Counties Manukau is a region of New Zealand which has a high portion of the population living in areas of low SES and has a higher population of ethnic minorities (Pacific Islander, Asian and Maaori). To determine whether SES and ethnicity are associated with worse mortality and morbidity in preterm infants in Counties Manukau Hospital, New Zealand.

[Read more](#)

The effectiveness of ūloa as a model supporting Tongan people experiencing mental distress.

Vaka, S., Hamer, H.P. and Mesui-Henry, A. (2022),

Int J Mental Health Nurs, 31: 1438-1445. <https://doi.org/10.1111/inm.13044>

This article is based on a larger research project, which investigates the effectiveness of a culturally appropriate model, namely *ūloa*, when working with Tongan people. *Ūloa* is a communal method of fishing in Tonga, which includes all members of the community. A previous paper described the three phases of *ūloa*: presenting the concept to health providers and community groups; phase two amended the model based on phase one. This paper reports on *phase three* and findings related to the increased awareness of *ūloa* model within the mental health services and to raise awareness of how to work with Pacific people and adjust the health service to suit the needs of this population to test its effectiveness. Using reflexive thematic analysis, results highlighted a number of patterns both across the groups, described as *napanapangamālie* (harmony, balance), *ngāue fakataha* (working together/oneness), and *toutai* (fisher). These findings continue to support that the conventional biomedical approach employed in the mental health services overlooks elements of Tongan constructions of mental illness and the intersections between Tongan and biopsychosocial themes. Care that is based only on the 'medicine' rather than bringing the spiritual aspect into care planning (*fake leaves*) will not serve the needs of the Tongan community. [Read more](#)**Using *Fa'afaletui* to explore Samoan consumers' experience and interpretation of mental health person-centred care in Aotearoa, New Zealand.**

Mulipola, T.I., Holroyd, E. and Vaka, S. (2022), Int J Mental Health Nurs. <https://doi.org/10.1111/inm.13090>

This study applied a *fa'afaletui* cultural lens to an exploratory qualitative study examining Samoan families' experiences and engagement with a person-centred care model employed in specific mental health services in Aotearoa. Six semi-structured *talanoa* group discussions with families who had been previously or currently engaged with mental health services. In addition, a local stakeholder group was recruited to guide stages of the *fa'afaletui*. A total of 13 individual participants from six families participated. Participants consisted of four mothers, two fathers, five sisters, one son, and one husband. Five themes were identified: (i) Fa'atuatua ile Atua; Spiritual faith in God; (ii) It is a hush hush topic; stigma of mental illness; (iii) We are in the dark with our communication and dealings with the services; (v) Practice what you preach; clinical service delivery misaligned with the model of care; and (vi) Alofa (love) and fa'aaloalo (respect); enablers of positive experience. The findings overall highlight spirituality and religion as core to a Samoan's faith to foster resilience and healing when facing adverse mental health events with their family members. In addition, the need to build up capacity for Pacific staffed specialist services and Pacific model to achieve equity and holistic care for Samoans and other Pacific populations at risk of adverse mental health outcomes are recommended. [Read more](#)

Nursing in the Pacific

153 years on: Sheila – a remarkable Fiji nurse - The Fiji Times

A remarkably active woman, Somwati Sheila Nandan, successfully combined an 18-year nursing career with a zealous dedication to community service and welfare organisations. [Read more](#)

Health in the Pacific – general

Doctors in New Caledonia blamed for attacks on services

Doctors in New Caledonia have reacted with dismay to claims they are being assaulted because of their supposed lack of understanding of Pacific culture. [Read more](#)

Solomons' health service deployed as hundreds of covid cases detected

An outbreak of Covid-19 has been declared for Temotu Province in Solomon Islands, with more than 400 cases reported in the nine days to Tuesday morning. [Read more](#)

Pacific Mental Health Surveys Project to Comprehensively Assess Mental Health Needs In Pacific Countries

The Pacific Mental Health Surveys Project will investigate mental health challenges in Samoa, Tonga and Tuvalu [Read more](#)

Ear and hearing health in Niue: a qualitative study on the worldviews, knowledge, beliefs and use of health care.

Holt Elizabeth A-L, Nosa Vili, McCool Judith, Thorne Peter R. (2022)

Journal of Primary Health Care **14**, 237-243.

<https://doi.org/10.1071/HC21137>

Introduction: Hearing is a primary sense that facilitates the development of spoken language, social connection and an appreciation of sounds within the natural world. Hearing loss has multiple adverse effects across the life course. Understanding the worldviews of ear and hearing health in Pacific peoples is crucial to inform responsive and appropriate hearing health and primary healthcare services.

Aim: To understand the worldviews, knowledge and beliefs held by the Niuean community in Niue towards ear and hearing health, and the use of healthcare methods to contribute to service development. [Read more](#)

Covid-19

More Māori And Pacific Peoples Eligible For Second COVID-19 Vaccine Booster

Māori and Pacific peoples aged 40-49 will be eligible for a second Covid-19 booster from Friday 18 November to provide additional protection from the virus, Deputy-Director General and head of the Public Health Agency Dr Andrew Old, said today. [Read more](#)

Journals, reports and articles

Pacific Health Review

Issue 35

Welcome to Issue 35 of Pacific Health Review.

This issue covers a range of topics of interest to Pacific people living in Aotearoa NZ, including a study providing important information on barriers to older Pacific peoples' participation in the NZ healthcare system.

Other highlights include:

- Understanding barriers to immunisation in Pacific people
- Helicobacter pylori in NZ – diagnostic trends and related costs
- Pasifika women's knowledge and perceptions of cervical screening

[Read more](#)

Engaging in research with Pacific communities as a non-Pacific researcher: reflecting on lessons learnt,

Margaret Flavell & Emma Cunningham (2022)

Kōtuitui: New Zealand Journal of Social Sciences

Online, DOI: [10.1080/1177083X.2022.2108465](https://doi.org/10.1080/1177083X.2022.2108465)

A key challenge for the cross-cultural researcher is how to maintain authenticity in the stories of participants, paying careful attention to any inherent power imbalances. In this article, we share our respective experiences of conducting research with Pacific students and their families in Aotearoa New Zealand as non-Pacific researchers. We discuss tensions we encountered regarding power and positionality, highlighting the importance of engaging with Pacific perspectives and methodologies to help counter these tensions. In our respective studies, we aimed to promote the voices of our participants and conduct research which prioritised Pacific values. We further appreciated that we must not let our own research agenda override the needs of our participants. We explain why we believe these ideas to be so important and draw tentative conclusions on ways to engage in research with Pacific families based on what we have learnt. The data presented from our respective studies highlight our approaches and present some of the challenges, as well as our efforts to engage in reciprocal, respectful relationships with our participants and their families. We hope that, in sharing our reflections, we may offer some useful insight to other researchers embarking on a similar journey to us. [Read more](#)

The articles below are not freely available but may be sourced via the NZNO library or those of a DHB or educational institution

Surviving versus thriving: The wellbeing of primary school aged children in Tonga.

Langridge, F.C., 'Ofanoa, M., Fakakovikaetau, T., Wilkinson-Meyers, L., Percival, T., Riley, A.W. and Grant, C.C. (2022),

J Paediatr Child Health, 58: 880-886. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jpc.15869>

To enable improvements in global child health, the focus must move beyond child survival to child wellbeing. In the Pacific Islands, the wellbeing of children has received little attention. This study aimed to investigate the wellbeing of children from three primary schools in Tonga.

Trends in deprivation in hospitalisations of Indigenous children and young people in Aotearoa New Zealand. Oben, G., Crengle, S., Kokaua, J. and Duncanson, M. (2022), *J Paediatr Child Health*, 58: 1345-1351. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jpc.15979>

To examine the 20-year trends in socio-economic inequities in hospitalisations of Māori and non-Māori non-Pacific (NMNP) under-25-year olds in Aotearoa New Zealand. [Read more](#)

All-of-Government Pacific Wellbeing Strategy

Mai na matua, mo ki tatou, ki na fanau - Learning from yesterday, living today, and hope for the future

This alagakupu Tokelau guides the Strategy and urges us to learn from our ancestors, from past experiences, and through living today, to ensure hope for our families and the future.

The All-of-Government Pacific Wellbeing Strategy is the mechanism for a new way of working across government to improve wellbeing outcomes for Pacific peoples

[Read more](#)

Professional development

2023 Public Health Summer School

When: 7–17 February 2023

Course length: 1-2 days

Where: University of Otago, Wellington (Newtown or City). Some courses online.

There are 15 courses on offer including 6 new topics on a range of important areas from infectious diseases to cancer prevention to countering disinformation and more. Plus, many of our ever-popular core courses are back including Hauora Māori, Pacific health, epidemiology and health research methods.

To see a summary of all courses available, please view the:

[Summer School flyer](#) (PDF format)

To register or to view more information on each course, please visit:

[Public Health Summer School](#)

So don't hesitate, have a look at the great range of courses and take advantage of the 25% earlybird discount available until 21 December 2022. Many courses have limited numbers so don't miss out...register now

The above bulletin has been compiled by Linda Stopforth, SNIPS, on behalf of Pacific Nurses Section, NZNO.

It is provided quarterly on the last Friday of February, May, August, November and contains an overview of news items, articles, and research papers of interest to the Section members. All links are current at the time of being compiled and distributed.

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