

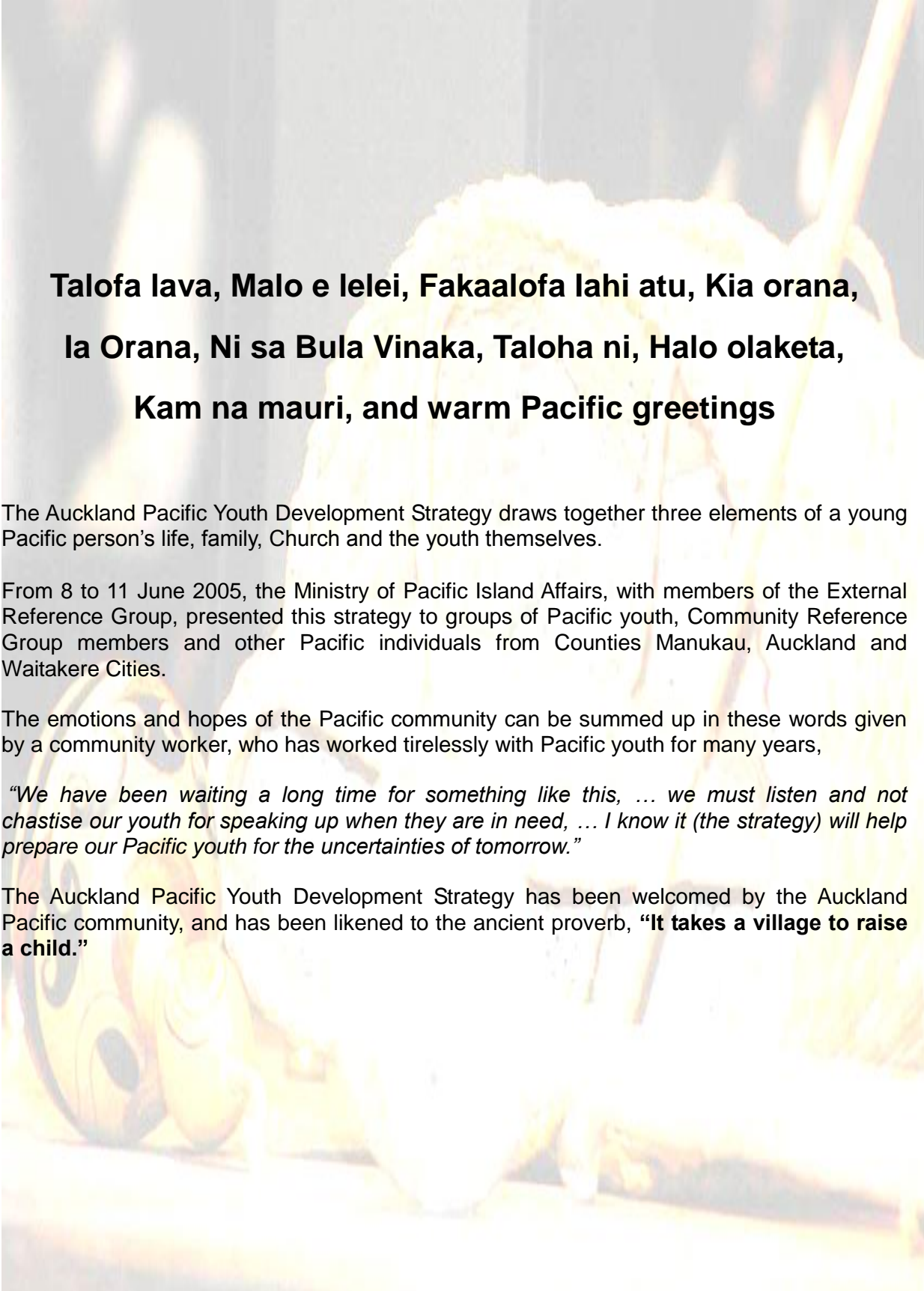
Pacific Youth Development Strategy

**Deliver positive life-change and affirmation for
all Pacific youth in Auckland**



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**Talofa lava, Malo e lelei, Fakaalofa lahi atu, Kia orana,
Ia Orana, Ni sa Bula Vinaka, Taloha ni, Halo olaketa,
Kam na mauri, and warm Pacific greetings**

The Auckland Pacific Youth Development Strategy draws together three elements of a young Pacific person's life, family, Church and the youth themselves.

From 8 to 11 June 2005, the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs, with members of the External Reference Group, presented this strategy to groups of Pacific youth, Community Reference Group members and other Pacific individuals from Counties Manukau, Auckland and Waitakere Cities.

The emotions and hopes of the Pacific community can be summed up in these words given by a community worker, who has worked tirelessly with Pacific youth for many years,

"We have been waiting a long time for something like this, ... we must listen and not chastise our youth for speaking up when they are in need, ... I know it (the strategy) will help prepare our Pacific youth for the uncertainties of tomorrow."

The Auckland Pacific Youth Development Strategy has been welcomed by the Auckland Pacific community, and has been likened to the ancient proverb, **"It takes a village to raise a child."**

Introduction

The Ministry of Social Development has taken the lead in the development of a Pacific Youth Development Strategy for Auckland that has the following goals:

- **Improve social well-being of Pacific youth** - Increasing educational attainment will increase economic development and achieve positive health outcomes
- **Ensure a collaborative approach and process** - Effective holistic collaboration between government organisations in partnership with community and Pacific youth will result in an effective strategy

Based on terms of reference derived from these goals, a set of objectives for the strategy were developed. These were to:

- support the Ministry of Social Development and other government agencies to meet the needs of Pacific youth
- analyse information and identify issues in relation to the Pacific youth population
- formulate an appropriate cultural consultation process
- lead collaborative strategies between government and Pacific communities to increase the capacity of Pacific youth
- mobilise and empower Pacific communities to become involved in community initiatives

Representatives from government agencies and organisations, leaders from the Pacific Island Community, along with the Pacific Youth Advisory Group comprised the External Reference Group.

The participating agencies and organisations are listed in the appendices.

Consultation with the community was carried out through the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs.

Need for a Pacific Youth Development Strategy

Concentration of Pacific Youth

Pacific people currently comprise 6.5% of New Zealand's total population, and constitute one of the most youthful and fastest growing ethnic groups in New Zealand. Pacific young people will play a significant role in the future workforce, it is projected they will comprise 13% of the total workforce by 2051.

As such, the negative impacts in their ability to fully participate will be compounded on the individual, family and society unless appropriate action is taken. This means that improving the educational, economic and social wellbeing of Pacific young people and resolving barriers to their participation, constitutes an investment for New Zealand as a whole.

Auckland Focus

The majority of the Pacific population in New Zealand are located in the Auckland region, living primarily within urban areas. Of all Aucklanders under the age of 15, 18% are Pacific people.

Population projections estimate that there will be an increasing concentration of Pacific people in the northern part of the North Island in the next 10 to 15 years. The Auckland region is projected to have the largest numerical increase with the number of Pacific people residing within its boundaries increasing from 176,000 in 2001, to 253,000 by 2016. Much of the projected growth for Pacific people is projected to occur in Manukau City.

As a result of the speed at which the Pacific youth population is growing, and in the face of a generally ageing population, Pacific young people will make up an increasingly large proportion of the New Zealand labour force within the next twenty years, playing a critical role in New Zealand's social and economic development.

Focusing the Pacific Youth Development Strategy on the Auckland region will enable it to most effectively respond to the needs of the greatest number of Pacific young people, both now, and in the future.

In addition, focusing the strategy on Auckland recognises that the majority of Pacific young people and their families function within an urban context. It also recognises the need for a tailored approach which achieves improved economic and social wellbeing for young people in a way which is appropriate to Pacific people. In doing so it enhances the government responsiveness to Pacific people.

Barriers to Participation

Evidence indicates that Pacific young people are disproportionately disadvantaged by low educational achievement, poor health and poverty, providing significant barriers to their participation in employment and their long term economic and social wellbeing.

Resolving barriers to people's active participation in the workforce is increasingly important for the New Zealand economy, particularly, given the demands of the labour market and the declining birth rate.

Because of their culture, demographics and location, some of the issues which affect the social and economic wellbeing of Pacific young people differ significantly from those facing other populations in New Zealand. Responding to these issues therefore requires a tailored approach which reflects the uniqueness of Pacific people.

Strategic Support

Reflecting the government's commitment to reducing the social economic disparities which exist within our communities, a number of strategies already exist which focus on delivering positive social outcomes for Pacific people. These strategies support the Auckland Pacific Youth Development Strategy and include but are not limited to:

- Ministry of Social Development - Pacific Strategy
- Work and Income- Pacific Wave Strategy
- Ministry of Education- Pasifika Education Plan
- Ministry of Youth Development - Youth Development Strategy Aotearoa
- Ministry of Social Development – Opportunity for All New Zealanders
- Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs - Ala Fou – New Pathways: Strategic Directions for Pacific Youth in New Zealand

The Auckland Pacific Youth Development Strategy will enhance government responsiveness to Pacific people by providing a localised and collaborative response to the social and economic wellbeing of youth in the Auckland region.

Phase One - The Talanoa Process (Fofola le Fala)

A phased approach has been taken to developing the Auckland Pacific Youth Development Strategy. The first phase of this process used a traditional Pacific process of Talanoa.

Talanoa has a similar meaning in many languages of the Central Pacific. It means to have a conversation, to relate something, or simply to 'talk story'.

Talanoa is based on the principles of reconciliation, inclusion, sincerity, honesty, respect for each other as individuals, respect for the rich indigenous and other cultural traditions of the Central Pacific, and respect for spirituality, human values, aspirations for economic and social justice, and basic constitutional principles.

The Talanoa process ensured that a collective and collaborative approach was taken in formulating the strategy. It achieves this by providing a respectful environment in which the views of all participants can be heard, discussed and incorporated in the final outcome or product.

Based on a platform of information provided through extensive consultation with Pacific young people, the External Reference Group used the Talanoa process to discuss the information, explore issues and ideas, and to provide feedback as the strategy developed.

The extensive consultation with young people, from a range of areas, including school, church and community based groups ensured the strategy has been fully informed by young people themselves.

The robust nature of the Talanoa process and the extensive consultation with young people which underpinned it, has resulted in a strategy which has strong buy-in from those who participated in its development and remains focused on the needs and views of young people.



Phase Two- Draft strategy and its development

The Pacific Youth Development Strategy is now in the second phase. Its objective is to articulate development strategies with action projects that will ***deliver positive life-change and affirmation for all Pacific youth in Auckland.***

The focus and format of the strategy seeks to genuinely reflect and effectively respond to the issues identified by Pacific young people and from the input of the External Reference Group. It seeks to model, deploy and manage a Talanoa consultative process to formulate a Pacific Youth Development Strategy for Auckland that is jointly owned, endorsed, informed and implemented by the Pacific community, its youth, government and non-government service and funding agencies. In so doing, it highlights the integrity and inclusiveness of the Talanoa process.

Youth Participation and Consultation

The initial process of youth consultation included six hundred youth distributed over three cohorts of ages 9-13 years, 14-17 years and 18-24 years.

There was significant engagement by all stakeholders with weekly meetings, workshops and ongoing electronic conferencing over eight months of deliberations.

There were a number of collateral outputs including the Talanoa framework, a whole government/whole stakeholder and Community/government approach framework, a student database of survey participants, summarised themes from the consultations, activity systems maps and other related activities sub-systems from the strategy workshops.

The External Reference Group developed the strategic framework, three specific strategies, the activities systems maps, the activities for each of the systems and the initial action projects emerging from these discussions as the culmination of the Talanoa process. Their overarching intent was to be completely guided by the available evidence from the Pacific youth consultations, 'bold and courageous' in their strategy recommendations and prepared to use intrinsically Pacific specific solutions to the perceived opportunities

In keeping with the Pacific view of wellbeing and youth development, the strategy is holistic in nature and places the social and economic wellbeing of Pacific youth within the broader context of their family, church and the education system. As a result, the strategic framework has three key underpinning strategies as detailed over the page.

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK - Underpinning Strategies

Parents - First Role Models

“Tu manu ae le tu logologo”

“Birds come and go in search for food, but parent’s duties to their offspring continue until they are no more.”

Parenting – Focus on the function and importance of parents as role models and key influencers in the development of Pacific young people.

- Job security and stability of income
- Creation of a stable home environment
- Fuelling ambition and shaping dreams of children
- Primary health, hygiene and environment

Education - Empowering Pacific Youth

“Kia Aka’aka e vae e kai ei koe i tu ua mapu”

“You must be humble – to experience the richness of youth”

Education – Focus on the importance of an education system which responds in an effective way to meet the needs of young Pacific people and providing opportunities to achieve.

- Career planning and counselling
- Mentoring services
- Strategic alliances with training institutions
- Pedagogy, training and development

Church - Enhancing Community and Family

“Tanumia ra te au e ..., Ko au tu e ..., Ko au aroa e ...”

“Let us cultivate peace always... Peace always ... Love always ... ”

Church – Focus on the church and its role in enhancing the wellbeing of Pacific young people and their families. Recognising that while there can be a disconnect between young people and the church, spirituality plays a significant role in the lives of Pacific young people.

- New leadership development
- Youth volunteer management
- Partnered outreach services

The strategy recognises that each platform is connected, with each having both a separate and combined impact on the economic and social wellbeing of young people.

Through the Talanoa process the nature, role and appropriateness of each platform has been debated and the activity strands which deliver on them extensively work-shopped. This has resulted in the final draft receiving both the endorsement and buy-in of the External Reference Group.



The fale represents the Pacific family with strong foundations

Phase Three- Action Projects and Framework

Phase Three of the Auckland Pacific Youth Development Strategy will be the implementation of the action projects. These projects are directly aligned with the underpinning strategies.

Through the consultation process the following were identified by youth as the outcomes they would most like to see:

Parenting

- positive family role models
- drug and alcohol-free families
- affirm the value of education
- violence-free family

Education

- pathways from education to professional employment
- youth mentoring services aimed at Pacific youth
- development of a teaching programme for Pacific youth seeking academic achievement
- more cultural resources for schools

Community

- involve community elders in youth mentoring
- develop a network of caregivers to take care of children and elderly
- consider church as service provider for the community

From these outcomes the following action projects have been identified:

Pacific parenting model and Pacific family intervention

- develop a detailed programme including a framework for an early intervention service that engages with Pacific families to ensure stable home environments are created
- ensure primary healthcare organisations engage with Pacific communities to support active participation

Pacific mentoring model

- develop an education framework that mentors young Pacific people in education and empowers them to make education and career decisions
- mentor Pacific youth to promote educational achievement which correlates directly with employment, income levels, standards of health and quality of life

Pedagogy, training and development

- teacher training model that is informed from Pacific experience and ensures that Pacific people are involved in the education delivery process
- develop a career development framework that includes Pacific content and approaches to encourage teacher excellence

Pacific reconciliation model

- recognise the holistic value of the church in maintaining cultural identity, language and a sense of community wellbeing
- develop a model that acknowledges the role the church can play in connecting Pacific youth with their culture

Partnered outreach services

- enable the church and the community to deliver necessary services to support ongoing stable employment, educational achievement and social well-being

Phase Three - Implementation

Phase three of the Auckland Youth Development Strategy will bring together the External Reference Group to participate in workshops to identify and develop action projects. The action projects will be assigned to a project team that is formed from members of the External Reference Group and other invited experts.

Through an on-going Talanoa process each action project will be considered, planned, implemented and approved by the External Reference Group on eight-week cycles. This is outlined in the diagram below:





Future of the Auckland Youth Development Strategy and the Talanoa Process

The External Reference Group that has been established through this process will continue to provide opportunities for co-operation and collaboration in designing approaches to work with Pacific youth through a wide variety of social development areas.

This strategic initiative has the potential to be a model that other agencies and regions in New Zealand can use to continue to improve the social outcomes of Pacific youth.

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the involvement and commitment of the Pacific community, those government agencies and community organisations which have taken part in developing the Auckland Youth Development Strategy to this point.

Appendix 1 – External Reference Group Participants

Michael Jones (Chairperson)

Pacific Leaders from the Community

Allan Va'a

Emile Va'afusuaga

Hamish Crooks

Korosea To'o

Nicholas Tuitasi

Pauline Winter

Ronji Tanielu

Sarah McRobie

Selio Solomon

Rev Setaita Kinahoi Veikune

Siautu Alefaio

Sully Paea

Dr Teuila Percival

Willie Maea

Emeline Afeaki

Appendix 2 – External Reference Group Participants

Pacific Youth Advisory Group

This group was led by Ronji Tanielu.

Adrian Sionepulu

Daisy Halafihi

Edith Vaka

Enaolla Paea

Fred Luatua

Gareth Dyer

Joep Berwick

Matthew Epati

Owen Aerenga

Paul Tupou-Vea

Renee Haitoua

Sam Pilisi

Taua Amosa

Toe Rosetta Mamea

Appendix 3 – External Reference Group Participants

Government Agencies

Ministry of Social Development

Child, Youth and Family

Housing New Zealand Corporation

Ministry of Economic Development

Ministry of Education

Ministry of Health

Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs

Ministry of Youth Development

Tertiary Education Commission

Work and Income