

PASIFIKA PAULSE

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Malo e lelei, Fakaalofa lahi Atu, Ni sa bula vinaka, Taloha Ni, Kia Orana, Talofa Lava

A warm welcome to the first newsletter of the Pacific Health Branch.

The Pacific Health Branch was established in September 2000. The key roles of the Branch are to develop strategic health policy for Pacific peoples; support programmes within the Ministry of Health working on Pacific peoples health; establish and maintain links with other Government agencies to bring about consistent policy approaches on issues affecting Pacific communities.

The Branch also views its role as bridging communication between Pacific communities and policy writers as an important means to

ensuring that community needs are being reflected.

The Branch is lead by a policy Manager and supported by a team of analysts and a clinical advisor. These positions are soon to be appointed in the next few weeks. Pacific Branch works in close collaboration with the Chief Advisor, Audrey Aumua.

Many people have contributed to the establishment and ongoing work of the Branch. These are Jean Mitaera, Dr Ate Moala, Losa Moataiane, Liz Tanielu, Utulei Antipas, Jeanine Corke, Linda Noiotai, Lani Boath, Sally Stewart and Emma Hindson.

Pacific Provider Development Fund

The Pacific Provider Development Fund (PPDF) is part of the Government's priorities for health as set out in the New Zealand Health Strategy.

The first of these priorities is to 'address the health disparities between Māori, Pacific peoples and other New Zealanders'. Pacific provider and workforce development are critical to improving Pacific people's health and reducing disparities between Pacific peoples and other New Zealanders.

The primary purpose of PPDF is to enhance and support the delivery of effective 'by Pacific for Pacific' health services, facilitate sustained growth of a skilled Pacific health and disability workforce, and to improve the integration and overall co-ordination of health services to Pacific peoples.

This is the third year of PPDF funding and last year the Government allocated

\$1.35 million. The Government will allocate further \$15 million for PPD to be allocated over 2001-2004.

The first \$5 million is available in this financial year and information about the access of funding will be released in a few weeks through this newsletter and provider meetings.

Key priorities for the allocation of PPD will be:

- provider assistance
- service development
- best practice research and procedure models
- workforce development
- scholarships.

This newsletter is to keep Pacific health providers updated on Pacific Health Branch activity, and will be released every eight weeks. We hope it provides insight and information on the Ministry's development of Pacific health.

We welcome any feedback to help us provide better information to you.

Development of Pacific Health and Disability Action Plan

One of the key tasks of the Pacific Health Branch is the development of the Pacific Health and Disability Action Plan.

In December 2000 the Branch launched 17 public consultation meetings with communities on key health priorities. These consultations, together with the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs' Programmes of Action have resulted in the development of this Plan.

The Ministry of Health has been guided and supported by the Pacific Health Reference Group in bringing the Plan to fruition.

The Plan will be the key tool for assisting DHBs and providers to implement Pacific Health priorities.

The vision of healthy Pacific peoples achieving their full potential throughout their lives underpins this Plan, and it aims to provide a comprehensive approach to co-ordinating holistic and integrated programmes within the health and disability sector.

The priorities of action identified are:

- child and youth health
- participation of disabled Pacific peoples
- promoting healthy lifestyles
- primary health care, preventive service and provider development
- workforce development
- health information and research.

The Branch is looking to launch the Plan before the end of the year.

Pacific Health on the Ground

A look at a Pacific service working with Tongan communities:

A presentation by Dr Sitaleki Finau and Eseta Finau at the Pacific Medical Association Conference, Cook Islands, July 2001.

The Langimalie Health Centre is owned and governed by the Tongan Health Society Inc. Initiated in 1996, it began delivering primary medical care in December 1999.

Langimalie has four registered GPs, 15 nurses, two social workers, five community health workers and seven administrative personnel.

In addition to funding, support comes from the Tongan Community in the way of contributions of cash, work and services; furniture, equipment and other goods; advice and moral support; goodwill and church support.

In its three years of operation Langimalie has registered 8896 GP clients – with a daily average of 62 GP consultations.

There have been 4360 under-fives registered for child facilitation (89% immunisation coverage); 4500 screened for hepatitis B; and 2500 screened for diabetes, with 545 being put on the diabetic register.

Home visits and house calls numbered 152 and the Society has made 131 community and church visits for health talks/presentations.

Tongan staff within the Langimalie Health Centre are bilingual. Their service is community based, and they offer low consultation fees (\$10 no community services card \$5 with card); lengthy consultations; proactive health services; a family size consultation room and they are open 53 hours per week.

As a Pacific health provider the Tongan Health Society embraces the philosophy that health is ethnic specific and therefore should be client focused and a one model does not fit all.

It believes health services that are owned and driven by community needs and realities are essential for improved access and self-esteem and that this is only possible if cultural democracy prevails.

Langimalie is one of six primary care organisations in Auckland.

Profile

Carmel Leinatioletuitoga Peteru Manager Pacific Branch

Carmel comes to the Pacific Health Branch with an expansive background in Pacific health. She has worked for a variety of Pacific health providers and has been involved in conferences on Pacific and womens' health since 1983.

Carmel co-authored *Tangata o te Moana Nui: The Evolving Identities of Pacific Peoples Aotearoa/New Zealand* (2001) and *O le Taeao Afua The New Morning: A Qualitative Investigation into Samoan Perspectives on Mental Health and Culturally Appropriate Services* (1997).

She has an MA in Social Science Research (Merit) from Victoria University and has been Manager of the Ministry's Pacific Health Branch, since April this year.

