



Incredible Years Pacific Fono



Talofa lava, malo e lelei,
kia orana, ni sa bula, taloha ni,
fakaalofa lahi atu, halo olaketa,
kam na mauri, kia ora, greetings!

December 2013 Report



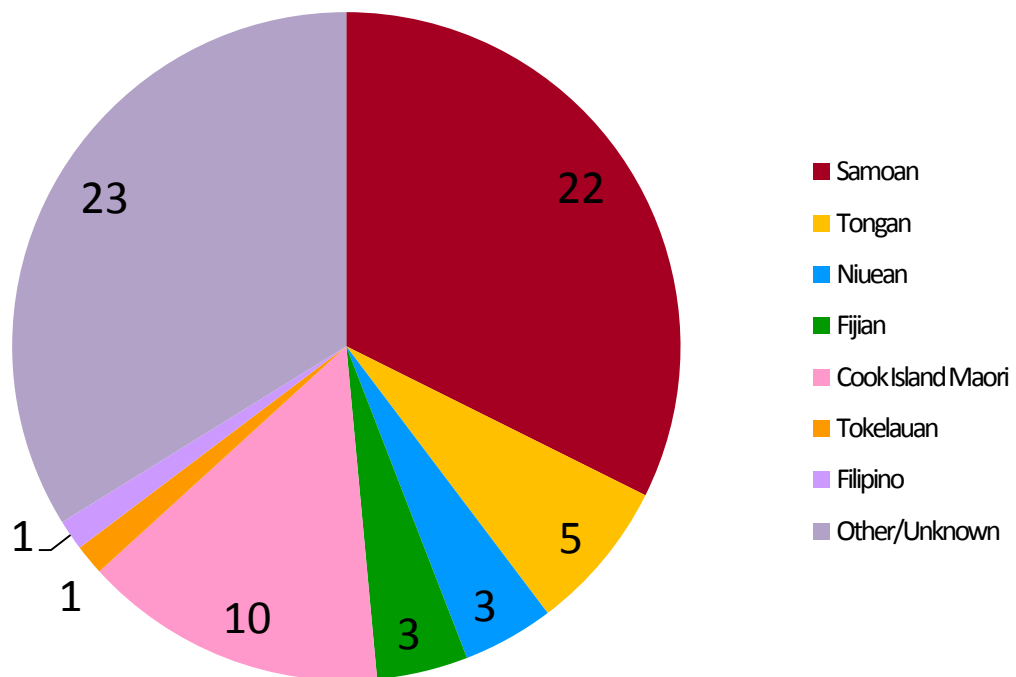
The Incredible Years Pacific Fono was held in Auckland on 2nd December 2013. Sixteen trained Pacific parent group leaders attended. The fono was opened with a prayer and the Samoan Hymn Fa’afetai, followed by introductions from all participants, and identification of goals for the day.

Overview from The Werry Centre

Tania Anstiss, Incredible Years Mentor, outlined the proposed Pacific resource developments and an overview of Pacific involvement in Incredible Years –

	All	Pacific	Maori
IY Trained	1165	68	259
Accreditees	139	18	48
Accredited	83	3	14

Trained Pacific Group Leaders by Pacific Ethnicity



Presentations

Experienced Pacific Group leaders shared their experiences of delivering IY to Pacific and in particular what works best for Pacific –

- Mercy Drummond (Capital and Coast District Health Board)
- Siosinita Alofi (Auckland District Health Board), Una Filo (Martin Hautus Foundation) and Nafetalai Loloma Ngaluafe (Family Start)
- Talei Solomon-Mua (Martin Hautus Foundation)
- Fialauia Toailoa-Amituanai (Family Start) and Nafetalai Loloma Ngaluafe (Family Start)
- Tavita Tofi (Ministry of Education) and Tiama Solomona (Ministry of Education)

These presentations stimulated many questions and useful sharing amongst participants. Highlights from these discussions are summarised below –

What works best for Pacific?

In session -

- Plenty of discussion
- Lots of role-plays
- Pacific parents love having their own 'gems' and 'principles' acknowledged!
- Ensuring you include a karakia
- Use culturally relevant metaphors, images and analogies wherever you can
- Pacific parents often prefer the term 'encouragement' rather than praise of their children
- 'Keep it real' – share your own experiences where/when appropriate
- Remember the importance of incorporating traditional Pacific values and beliefs, such as family, respect, spirituality
- Know the programme well so you can move from English to Pacific language easily for translating words and concepts
- The sessions are opportunities for parents to learn English terms and concepts
- Focus on one or two key ideas from the session for those who struggle with speaking English

Outside the session -

- Ensuring parents have catch-up sessions at home if they miss a group session
- Take care in choosing an appropriate venue – this matters! E.g. Pacific like church based venues
- You need to 'sell' yourself and the programme in the parents' own language
- Remember it is not just the language, but how you think and present yourself that matters to Pacific – first impressions count!

Ethnic-specific beliefs and values in IY delivery

Siosinita outlined the importance of incorporating traditional Tongan beliefs and values –

- Family
- Respect
- Spirituality
- Reciprocity/generosity
- Unity/harmony
- Humour
- Humility

Siosinita noted that sometimes these values may be in conflict with our role as a professional – for example in setting boundaries between our personal and professional roles, sharing our personal experiences in the group. Tavita provided an overview of core Samoan principles, concluding that these can be linked with those in IY –

- Fa'asinomaga – a sense of belonging
- Alofa – love, compassion
- Fa'a aloalo – reciprocal respect, honouring others, underpins all relationships
- Tautua – service to others, pathway to leadership

Accreditation and Fidelity

- Find ways to demonstrate key accreditation skills in a way that feels comfortable and respectful for you as a Pacific group leader. Remember programme fidelity includes being flexible and responsive to culture difference – for example, to ensure a respectful process for spontaneous role-plays make sure you are validating and affirming of the parent before inviting them to share more about the scenario they are describing, use words which are a good 'fit' for you
- Pacific accreditees may need to practise self-acknowledgement (e.g. in self-reflection process required for accreditation) as this can be hard for Pacific

Key cultural messages in delivering to Pacific

- Remember culture has a profound effect on our lives - acknowledge the differences between 'mainstream' and Pacific cultures
- Respect cultural differences *between* Pacific cultures
- Remember there will be differences in learning style and ways to make sense of the programme
- There are some key differences between mainstream and Pacific cultures –
 - Spiral rather than linear time

- Important events are more significant than chronological order
- Relationships are more important than time
- Differences in sense of self and space

Where to from here for Pacific IY?

In small groups, participants brainstormed their 'wish lists' for Pacific IY. A summary of the recommendations arising from these discussions is provided below –

- Build the Pacific IY workforce – aim to grow numbers of trained and accredited (aim for 8-10 in 2014!), particularly male, young Pacific group leaders
- Aim for ethnic specific Group leaders to match ethnicity of parents
- Provide Pacific accreditation support, including additional cultural support and acknowledgement of uniqueness of being Pacific
- Access to 'live' face-to-face accreditation reviews as an option
- Make interpreters available for use in parent groups
- Continue to develop the Pacific resources as planned – participants welcomed the progress to date and endorsed the recommendations from the IY Pacific Working Group in relation to the Pacific parenting pyramid poster as follows –
 - 4 versions of poster for main Pacific ethnicities – Samoan, Tongan, Cook Island, Niue
 - Translation of words for each version
 - Tree of life/coconut palm as central theme (in place of harakeke), sprouting coconut
 - Pacific ocean as banner for top and bottom
 - Use Pacific weaving for background
- Further suggestions for Pacific posters included –
 - A request for 'Ngā Tau Miharo' to be translated for each version
 - A request to circulate translations to wider group before production to confirm wide agreement on understanding
- Additional resource suggestions for future included –
 - Translations of fridge notes for parents
 - Pacific DVD featuring families and group leaders (similar to Maori DVD)
 - Culturally appropriate vignettes
- Undertake a survey of Pacific in IY – find out who is delivering and where, different Pacific ethnicities, and if not delivering, are there barriers?
- Advocacy for Pacific group leaders to have longer programmes and longer sessions to allow for added complexity, language issues and importance of relationship-building time for Pacific

The Werry Centre plans for IY Pacific

In response to recommendations from the IY Pacific Working Group and feedback from this fono, the Werry Centre plans to –

- Offer a Pacific accreditation pathway – a targeted Pacific-only accreditation intake, including Pacific-specific accreditation workshop
- Continue with providing an annual fono for all trained parent Group leaders
- Continue to build the number of IY trained Pacific by ensuring a minimum number of Pacific participants at training
- Progress with the resource development as presented
- Continue to work alongside and take guidance from the IY Pacific Working Group for all developments

Acknowledgements

Thank you to all participants for their enthusiasm and input during the fono. In particular, thank you to those who provided a great focus and inspiration on the day with their presentations – Mercy, Talei, Tavita, Tiama, Fia, Loma, Siosinita, Una. Also thank you to Anita for all the ‘behind the scenes’ work to get everything organised for the day, and to Mali and Anita for an amazing job getting the room set up.

Tania Anstiss

Incredible Years Mentor

