Waka Hourua

Māori and Pasifika Research Symposium 2015
MIHI

Kia ngātahi te waihoe
Tahuri te kei o tō waka, whatiwhati ngaru
Haere ki tua, papapounamu te moana
E topa, e rere ki uta

Paddle as one
Turn the front of the canoe into the waves and push through them
Because past the waves the ocean is flat
And we will speed off into the distance
Paddle as one anoe into the waves and ast the waves the ocean will speed off into the distance.

Because the canoe is flat and we...
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BACKGROUND

New Zealand Suicide Prevention Strategy and Action Plan

Suicide is a major issue that is of real concern to New Zealand communities. Every year approximately 500 people take their own lives by suicide, affecting the lives of many others. These deaths are preventable. Multiple risk factors and life events are involved in a person ending their life.

The prevention of suicide is both complex and challenging, and no single initiative or organisation can prevent suicide on its own. A comprehensive and coordinated approach is required across government and non-government organisations, and in partnership with the community.


The New Zealand Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2013–2016 continues to work toward the goals of the Strategy and sets clear objectives to:

- support families, whānau, hapū, iwi and communities to prevent suicide, and reduce the impact of suicide
- improve the range, coverage and targeting of suicide prevention services, and
- lift the quality of information and evidence for effective suicide prevention.

The plan includes actions to build the capacity of Māori whānau, hapū and iwi, Pasifika families and communities to prevent suicide, supported by stronger leadership and culturally relevant education and training.

Waka Hourua, a National Māori and Pasifika Suicide Prevention Programme

Te Rau Matatini and Le Va are partners in the delivery of Waka Hourua, a National Suicide Prevention Programme for Māori and Pasifika Communities. Waka Hourua is funded by the Ministry of Health.
Waka Hourua aligns with the New Zealand Suicide Prevention Action Plan’s action 1.1 to:

- build the capacity and capability of Māori whānau, hapū, iwi, Pasifika families and communities, to prevent suicide and to respond safely and effectively when and if suicide occurs
- ensure that culturally relevant education and training are available to Māori whānau, hapū, iwi, Pasifika families and communities that focus on building resilience and leadership
- build the evidence base of what works for Māori whānau, hapū, iwi, Pasifika families and communities to prevent suicide, through research carried out by, with and for these groups, and
- build the leadership for suicide prevention.

A Strategic Research Agenda for Māori and Pasifika Suicide Prevention

Te Rā o Te Waka Hourua is the Strategic Research Agenda for Māori and Pasifika Suicide Prevention. The Agenda is driven by distinctive Māori and Pasifika priorities, aspirations, and values that are underpinned by the realities of Māori and Pasifika experience and world views.

Te Rā o Te Waka Hourua - The Waka Hourua Strategic Research Agenda – provides a mechanism to:

- Build the evidence base of what works for Māori whānau, hapū, iwi, Pasifika families and communities to prevent suicide, through research carried out by, with and for these groups; and
- Build the leadership for suicide prevention.
AIM
The Waka Hourua Māori and Pasifika Suicide Prevention Research Symposium aims to build and expand indigenous evidence on suicide prevention through a focussed forum.

GOAL
The Waka Hourua Māori and Pasifika Suicide Prevention Research Symposium provides a forum to articulate and promote the research findings aligned to the four priorities of Te Rā o Te Waka Hourua Strategic Research Agenda Realising Potential:

1. Māori and Pasifika Development
2. Cultural Identity
3. Supporting Recovery
4. Cultural Knowledge

Projects presenting at the symposium are those funded and not funded by the Waka Hourua Māori and Pasifika Research Suicide Prevention Research Fund.
Research Agenda Priorities

Realising Potential: Māori and Pasifika Development
Whānau, hapū, iwi, Māori and Pasifika people’s aspirations include the desire to have greater control over the direction and shape of their own institutions, communities and development as a people. Realising potential will be facilitated by research which builds on the embedded strengths and assets of whānau, family, hapū, iwi, Māori and Pasifika peoples, supporting the identification of what is needed to facilitate and maintain wellbeing, as well as to prevent mental illness and support recovery.

Realising Potential: Cultural Identity
Among indigenous and minority peoples, identity is a critical factor for wellbeing. An important foundation for mental health and wellbeing lies within the context of identity as Māori and Pasifika. This dimension recognises the importance of Māori and Pasifika aspirations, values, experience and worldviews, and the need to retain and nurture the distinct identity that comes from a unique heritage, common journeys and familiar environment. In terms of cultural identity, we recognise that Māori and Pasifika communities are diverse and the characteristics of ‘being Māori or being Pasifika’ are always in a state of dynamic change.
**Realising Potential: Supporting Recovery**

Whānau Ora has been described as a korowai (cloak) for recovery. Understood in its’ broadest sense Whānau Ora facilitates relationships and connections which enable participation and engagement in safe, inclusive and non-stigmatising environments. Whānau Ora recognises the differing realities experienced by Māori and Pasifika communities.

Best practice in relation to building whānau and community responsiveness to mental ill health, addiction and distress, focuses on enhancing early intervention through building whānau and community capacity to identify and intervene early when mental health problems occur.

**Realising Potential: Cultural Knowledge**

The ‘Cultural Knowledge Creation’ dimension recognises culture is experiential; a way of seeing, being, thinking and experiencing the world. This dimension recognises the creative potential of matauranga Māori and o a tātou measina (Pasifika) and that research innovations will flow from that and other cultural concepts related to knowledge creation.
Venue: Waikato-Tainui College for Research and Development
451 Old Taupiri Road, Ngaruawahia
Contact: Rachel McClintock Te Rau Matatini 0272979292

Symposium Agenda

Friday 19th of June

6.00 pm  Whakatau
6.30 pm  Tina
7.00 pm  Registration/accommodation
7.30 pm  Opening address: Dr Sarah Jane Tiakiwai - Waikato Tainui Research & Development
8. 00 pm  Presentation: Ngaropi Cameron (and Dr Leonie Pihama) - Tū Tama Wahine
8.30 pm  Group photo/preparation time

Saturday 20th June

MCs: Professor Linda Nikora Waikato Uni & Dr Mele Taumoepeau Otago Uni

7.00 am  Parakuihi
8.30 am  Presentation: Dr Cath Love - Koru Institution
9.00 am  Presentation: Kiwi Tamasese - The Family Centre
9.30 am  Presentation: Elizabeth Kerekere - Tiwhanawhana Trust
10.00 am  Kapu Ti
10.30 am  Presentation: Professor Denise Wilson - Auckland University of Technology
11.00 am  Presentation: Sam Manuela - Auckland Uni
11.30 pm  Presentation: Rachel McClintock - Te Rūnanga o Kirikiriroa
12. 00 pm  Kai
13.00 pm  **Presentation:** Dr Te Pora Emery (and Dr Candy Cookson-Cox) Te Arawa
13.30 pm  **Presentation:** Dr Bryon Seiuli - Waikato Uni
14.00 pm  **Presentation:** Dr Keri Te Aho Lawson - Otago Uni
14.30 pm  Kapu Ti
15.00 pm  **Presentation:** Litia Tapu, Kiri Saul, and Phillip Walker StatsNZ
15.45 pm  **Summary of Day:** Professor Nikora & Dr Taumoepeau
18.00 pm  Tina

**Sunday 21st June**

7.00 am  **Parakuihi**
9.00 am  **Waka Hourua Outcomes Framework:** Dr McClintock & Dr Sundborn
9.30 am  **Workshop:** Future focus and Recommendations
10.00 am  Feedback
10.30 am  Poroporoaki/Kai
12.00 am  Departure
Symposium Convener: Dr Kahu McClintock

Te Rau Matatini

(Waikato/Maniapoto, Ngāti Mutunga and Ngāti Porou) is the Manager Research at Te Rau Matatini. Kahu has worked in the health and disability sector for over 20 years, with a special focus on Māori health research and child and adolescent mental health. Kahu holds a Dip Nursing (Psychiatric), Higher Dip Teaching, B Ed, M Phil (Māori), D Phil (Psychiatry). She was a Member of the Māori Health Committee, New Zealand Health Research Council from 2008 to 2014, and Chair of Ngā Kanohi Kitea Community Research Committee, New Zealand Health Research Council during that term. She is the lead for Te Rā o Te Waka Hourua. Waka Hourua Research Programme.

Appropriate Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) for Māori whānau

Dr McClintock conducted the first in-depth investigation into the acceptability of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) for Māori whānau. The findings from this study support the concept that successful engagement and participation of Māori with CAMHS is more likely to occur when whānau involvement is encouraged and when culture issues are supported. The findings from this study are viewed as useful to guide future CAMHS development with the Tomokanga survey, a tool developed for assessing service provision, forming part of the assessment of this progress. The proposed development aligns with the traditional Pōwhiri process of engagement and participation of Māori with CAMHS. This is founded on cultural respect, partnership, cooperation, reciprocity, and commitment. This study advocates for a CAMHS delivery and workforce with the ability to offer these processes.
Symposium Co-Convenor: Dr Gerhard Sundborn

Le Va

Dr Gerhard Sundborn is of Tongan heritage. He is the inaugural recipient of the new Health Research Council Pacific Career Development Award, the Sir Thomas Davis Te Patu Kite Rangi Ariki Health Research Fellowship. In 2014 he was the Research and Development lead at Le Va and assisted in the development of Te Rā o Te Waka Hourua under the directorship of Dr Kahu McClintock.

**Pasifika youth and sugar intake**

Gerhard has participated in a wide range of health research projects related to Pasifika peoples, families and children. His current research fellowship focusses on Pasifika youth and ways to reduce sugary drink intake amongst this age group as a means to address obesity.
Master of Ceremonies: Professor Linda Nikora

Professor Linda Nikora joined the University of Waikato staff in 1989 after completing an undergraduate degree. She completed graduate papers in cross-cultural, community, social and ethno psychology and was actively mentored by Professors James and Jane Ritchie, Prof David Thomas, Dr Ngahuia Te Awekotuku and others of the Ernest Beaglehole ‘brand’ of psychology. She designed and taught four courses in Māori development, and initiated an innovative and successful Māori student support system. Through a series of critical symposia in the 1990’s, she secured the foundational networks for the development of indigenous psychology in New Zealand, and successfully worked with the New Zealand Psychological Society [NZPS] to engage its membership with bicultural issues and socially just policies and practices. She has sustained collaborative partnerships with colleagues in the NZ tertiary sector. She was an active member of the work group that wrote the new 2002 Code of Ethics for psychologists in NZ, adopting the Treaty of Waitangi as its pivotal frame of reference. Twice she had the honour of delivering the keynotes at the NZPS annual conferences in 2000 and 2007.

Director of the Māori & Psychology Research Unit

Linda is particularly proud of being the founding Director of the Māori & Psychology Research Unit (MPRU) at the University of Waikato. This initiative consumed much of her time as she led the MPRU through growing capacity and collaborative relationships, increasing their competitive edge and becoming known as a critically Māori focused research group concerned with Māori aspirations. Between 1997-2007, Linda co-led to completion projects funded by the HRC [6], Marsden [3] and FRST [1]. Concurrently, she continued her own PhD work titled: Māori Social Identities in New Zealand and Hawaii, and supervised the theses of 16 Masters students, while providing ongoing Māori guidance across the Psychology Department. She also co-authored with Professor Ngahuia Te Awekotuku the Montana award winning book titled Mau Moko : the World of Māori tattoo (2007). It was voted the Inaugural Māori Book of the Decade.
Co-Master of Ceremonies: Dr Mele Taumoepeau

Dr Mele Taumoepeau PHD Lecturer Te Whare Whakamātou Hinekaro: Department of Psychology University of Otago.

Dr Mele Taumoepeau’s research interests include preschoolers’ socio-emotional development, the role of parent-child conversations about mental states in preschooler’s children’s social understanding, cross-cultural differences in parent-child conversations about the mind and child language development. She has extensive experience in conducting small scale longitudinal studies with children and their families. For the past three years her research has focused on understanding the role of parent-child conversations in the development of children’s social cognition in Pasifika families.

Culture and social understanding
Very few studies have examined parent-child conversations in non-Western cultures. If children construct an understanding of their social world through conversations about mental states, it seems important to examine how different language socialization practices might influence the tendency to refer to mental states. Mele’s most recent longitudinal study examines the types of conversations Pasifika families have with their children between the ages of 15 and 39 months. The initial findings suggest that the degree of ethnic identity influences parents’ tendency to refer to their child’s mental states. Furthermore, we find that siblings in this Pasifika sample play an important role in toddlers’ understanding of their social world. These findings suggest the possibility of alternative and more distributed pathways to children’s social understanding.
Opening address: Dr Sarah Jane Tiakiwai

Sarah-Jane Tiakiwai was appointed Academic Director for the Waikato-Tainui College for Research and Development, the academic and research arm of the Waikato-Tainui tribe in 2010. Sarah-Jane is from Waikato-Tainui and Te Rarawa tribes, and also has connections to Ngāti Awa and Ngāti Pikiao. Sarah-Jane has had extensive academic and research experience in the tertiary sector – particularly in the Wānanga and University environments and she has engaged at various levels in a number of national research and professional development projects. She graduated with her PhD in 2002, which explored successful Māori participation in higher education. Sarah-Jane has a strong interest in tribal development and Māori success. As part of her role as Academic Director, Sarah-Jane is overseeing projects on tribal wellbeing, connectedness and identity; tribal leadership; tribal education; oral health of tribal members and tribal governance.

Health and Wellbeing within an Iwi Context.

2015 marks the 20th year since the tribe’s settlement with the Crown over the Raupatu of Waikato-Tainui tribal lands. This presentation will overview the impact of Raupatu on Waikato-Tainui – both historically and through to contemporary times through three key markers: Reflections, Resistance and Resilience. These markers provide both historical context to what the tribe suffered as well as enabling an insight as to how the tribe fought to maintain its sense of self or wellbeing through this traumatic period. The resolution of the Raupatu has provided the tribe a platform from which to move forward. The lingering question is to what extent has the Raupatu impacted on the health and wellbeing of the tribe and what might we need to consider as a tribe about our health and wellbeing moving forward into the future.
Presenters: Ngaropi Cameron (and Dr Leonie Pihama)

Ngaropi Cameron and Dr Leonie Pihama are the lead investigators on this project and Dr Janice Wenn and Bry Kopu complete the research team. Ngaropi is CEO of a Whānau Ora provider of social services in Taranaki, Tu Tama Wahine o Taranaki Inc., and is a Senior Family Violence Facilitator and Educator. She was a co-investigator in a kaupapa Māori qualitative study into family violence within whānau of Taranaki, investigating sexual violence / Historical Trauma Research, partnering with Indigenous Analysis Ltd, co-investigator in He Mokopuna He Tupuna – Traditional Childrearing Practices amongst Taranaki Iwi and co-investigator in Tupu Ake: Developing a Kaupapa Māori definition of ‘Resiliency’ for Rangatahi in Taranaki.

He Waipuna Koropupu
A Kaupapa Māori research project that seeks to address the silence that exists in relation to Taranaki suicide. Qualitative in nature, the data collected for analysis will be obtained from Taranaki whānau through participant interviews and hapū hui. Whānau experiences of suicide, behavioural patterns, warning signs and cultural and social systems will be explored.

This data collection will be complemented by an investigation into the core cultural values and attitudes towards suicide, metaphoric thoughts and directions contained within Taranaki purakau and whakatauki promoting and sustaining life - that will draw together Taranaki Mātauranga. It is expected that project findings will inform the reclamation and creation of guiding stories to inform a Māori-specific intervention strategy and the development of a kaupapa Māori healing framework based on core cultural values.
Presenter: Dr Catherine Love

Dr Catherine Love has worked in the field of whānau, iwi and community development for three decades. Her experience spans governance through to ‘on-the-ground’ work with taiohi and whānau. At a national level, as a member of a several iwi authorities and Treaty negotiation teams, Dr Love has worked in governance and policy, as well as being responsible for the establishment of iwi and Māori community driven health and education initiatives, including Nga Tekau Health and Addiction Service, Ahikaa entrepreneurship education and the Ahikaa Accelerated Learning Centre (targeting ‘hard-to-reach’ taiohi and whānau).

Towards Mauri ora: Entrepreneurship education and community development for hard to reach rangatahi and their whānau – pathway and models for sustainable development.

This research will examine the outcomes of Ahikaa, a specialised Kaupapa Māori entrepreneurship education programme for rangatahi experiencing recurring trauma and their whānau. Using a Kaupapa Māori methodology, Whānau Narrative Inquiry and motivational interviewing methods, this research will examine the transformative potential of entrepreneurship education for rangatahi and whānau self-determination.
Presenter: Taimalieutu Kiwi Tamasese

Taimalieutu Kiwi Tamasese is Coordinator of the Pasifika Section of The Family Centre. She specialises in family research as this applies to the Pasifika nations and to Pasifika people - for example in relation to mental health, poverty, housing, unemployment, cultural and gender deprivation.

In relation to social policy analysis, Kiwi is engaged in the development of new social policy perspectives emanating from various Pasifika cultural rationalities. She is also concerned with the impact of government policy decisions on the Pasifika Sector of New Zealand society.

Further areas of her work include: documenting and analysing the effects of cultural dislocation upon the Pasifika community in New Zealand; a focus upon Pasifika youth; and patterns of migration to New Zealand from the Pacific. Kiwi is regularly contracted to speak and advise in areas of applied social policy at national and international levels. She is often on secondment to Afeafe O Vaetoefaga from the Family Centre.

Investigating Pasifika cultural strengths and prevention of suicide.

This research will investigate cultural strengths and the links with suicide prevention approaches in three Pasifika groups and develop projects to then be piloted. In summary the research will:

1. Identify Tokelauan, Cook Island and Samoan cultural concepts and knowledge on suicide and its prevention.
2. Develop practices and responses for piloting from the Tokelauan, Cook Island and Samoan cultural concepts and knowledge that can assist in the prevention of suicide.
3. Develop Tokelauan, Cook Island and Samoan suicide prevention mental health practices for piloting within mental health services.
Elizabeth Kerekere has been an activist within lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, intersex and queer communities (LGBTIQ) for over 25 years, with a focus on the well-being of takatāpui and of LGBTIQ youth. Elizabeth is Founder/Chair of Tiwhanawhana Trust which uses tikanga and kaupapa Māori to connect takatāpui to their culture; address racism and discrimination in LGBTIQ communities; and combat homophobia and transphobia within whānau and Māori society. She is writing the Takatāpui 101: For Takatāpui and their Whānau resource based on her experience and the findings of her about-to-submit PhD.

Part of the Whānau: The Emergence of Takatāpui Identity.

Since the late 1980s, Māori lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, intersex and queer communities (LGBTIQ) have increasingly adopted ‘takatāpui’ - a traditional Māori term meaning intimate companion of the same sex - as a means of connecting to an indigenous framework inclusive of diverse sexualities and gender identities, within which to identify personally and organise nationally. Founded in 2000, takatāpui organisation Tiwhanawhana Trust exemplifies weaving together of Māori and LGBTIQ communities to ensure the health and well-being of takatāpui. Firmly based on tikanga and kaupapa Māori, it seeks to “build our communities, tell our stories and leave a legacy.” Tiwhanawhana, in association with the Mental Health Foundation, is currently producing a video and print resource Takatāpui 101: For Takatāpui and their Whānau. It identifies factors that have helped takatāpui recover from the negative impact of homophobia and transphobia and how important it is that takatāpui are not denied connection to their culture and community because some whānau do not accept who they are.
Dr Denise Wilson is of Ngāti Tahinga (Tainui) descent. She is Professor of Māori Health and the Director of Taupua Waiora Centre for Māori Health Research at AUT University. Her research and publication activities are focused on Māori/indigenous health, family violence, cultural safety, and health (particularly Māori) workforce development. Denise has been involved in family violence research, and at a national level in the development of the Ministry of Health’s Violence Intervention Programme. She is currently a member of the Health Quality and Safety Commission’s Family Violence Death Review Committee and Roopū Māori. She is a co-author of The People’s Report for the Glenn Inquiry into child abuse and domestic violence. She is a Fellow of the College of Nurses Aotearoa (NZ) and Te Mata o te Tau (Academy of Māori Research & Scholarship), the Editor-in-Chief of Nursing Praxis in New Zealand, on the Editorial Board of Contemporary Nurse, and has been appointed to the Health Research Council’s College of Experts.

**Bringing Our Hearts with Our Minds**

Family violence is associated with suicide, and reviews of death and people’s accounts show that in order to realise potential and promote recovery of those people and whānau in need of support requires a shift in the cultures of many “helping” services. Becoming better helpers requires a starting point of understanding people’s stories and the context of their distress – it is a vital component of responsive services and the health and social care providers working within them. In this presentation, I will explore areas needing attention that includes being empathetic, reviewing the language within which we frame people and their whānau, listening carefully so we get their story right, and critiquing long-held assumptions and philosophies that inform service development and delivery. All this involves moving beyond universal and one-size-fits-all approaches. Importantly it involves bringing our hearts along with our minds to our mahi in order to realise the potential of people and their whānau and to promote their recovery.
Sam Manuela, is a Cook Island / Papa’a PhD student in the School of Psychology at The University of Auckland. His research interests lie in understanding the relationships between Pasifika identities and wellbeing for Pasifika peoples in Aotearoa. Ultimately, he is interested in the role of ethnic identity in positive health and wellbeing outcomes for Pasifika peoples. He has a strong background in statistical methods such as Confirmatory Factor Analysis and Structural Equation Modelling and use these methods to model the protective effects of different aspects of identity and wellbeing. He is also a member of the New Zealand Attitudes and Values Study a 20 year longitudinal study that aims to provide information about how the personality, attitudes and values of New Zealanders may be changing over time, and how this may relate to changes in health and wellbeing over time.

The relationship between Pasifika identity and wellbeing.
This presentation will focus on current research I am conducting on the identities and wellbeing of Pasifika peoples in Aotearoa. First, the focus will be on the development of the Pacific Identity and Wellbeing Scale (PIWBS), a culturally-relevant self-report measure developed specifically for Pasifika peoples. Secondly, using a top-down factor analytic approach, I discuss how different facets of Pasifika identity and wellbeing are organised and related to each other (N = 586). Critically, this analysis shows that Religious Centrality and Embeddedness acts as a bridging link between broader domains of identity and wellbeing. The general statistical model will be discussed in terms of how it may provide broad conceptual insights into how Pasifika may experience identity and culture. Thirdly, two analyses will be presented showing how Pasifika ethnic identity acts as a buffer against the negative effects of perceived discrimination, highlighting the protective properties of ethnic identity. Finally, I will present and discuss some unpublished findings on the relationship between different aspects of Pasifika identity and psychological distress.
Presenter: Rachel McClintock

Rachel McClintock (Waikato/Maniapoto, Ngāti Mutunga, and Ngāti Porou) is a Researcher at Te Rau Matatini. Rachel previously worked in Kaupapa Māori community based research for Te Rūnanga o Kirikiriroa from 2010-2014. She holds a BSocSci (Psychology), and is currently enrolled in PGDipPH through the University of Auckland. Rachel has experience of research with Māori whānau and communities, across areas such as youth development, mental health and wellbeing, gambling, palliative care, and intergenerational communication. Rachel is leading the evaluation of the Waka Hourua Māori Suicide Prevention Community Initiatives and manages the Toro Mai To Ringa database for Te Rau Matatini.

Taiohi (Youth) and Indigenous Rites of Passage in the Contemporary Context
This presentation will share findings from a Kaupapa Māori, strengths based research project which sought to provide a better understanding of the concept of rites of passage in contemporary Māori (indigenous people of New Zealand) society. Using photovoice the project explored supports in communities that assist Māori taiohi (youth) in their transition to adulthood. The aim of the study was to inform the development of culturally specific, solution-orientated strategies and policies which will enhance the capacity of Māori whānau to development healthy taiohi.
Te Matapihi ki te Ora – a window to life
Towards recovery and redemption for whānau bereaved by suicide
‘Te Ūhunga’ is the Māori ritual of traditional engagement and cultural reclamation of space. In the context of suicide postvention, Te Ūhunga refers to the rituals that attend to and deal with the loss, grief, mourning, acceptance and recovery from mamae, aitu and parekura (pain, trauma and tragedy) suffered by whānau as a result of the suicide of a loved one. In this context also, Te Ūhunga is governed and regulated by Te Matapihi ki te Ora (the window to life) which is a culturally derived suicide postvention framework developed as part of a Te Arawa – community based research project entitled Te Waiata a Hinetitama – hearing the heartsong. This presentation will outline the application of Te Ūhunga through Te Matapihi ki te Ora; and show how the framework and the method work to restore ihi, wehi, wana, mana and mauri (life force; personal magnetism; reverence and zest for life) to whānau bereaved by suicide.
Presenter: Dr Byron-Malaea Sotiata Seiuli

Dr Byron Malaeala Sotiata Seiuli (PhD - Psychology) is Samoan with ancestral connections to Malie, Manono, Falealupo and Faleula. Byron is married to Charleen and they have eight children together. Byron is a Postdoc Research Fellow at the University of Waikato where he lectures and convenes courses in the School of Psychology. As a senior Pasifika clinician with over 15 years of face-to-face counselling experience, Byron brings extensive knowledge and experience in the areas of family relationships, trauma, grief, youth and adolescents, mental health, addiction and recovery. Byron’s doctoral research emerged as a direct result of his involvement with the Tsunami of 2009 that devastated Samoa, American Samoa and Tonga as a trauma specialist counsellor. The focus of this research examined the core of Samoan death and bereavement culture on the recovery and healing journey on his participants, including some families who were directly impacted by the tsunami. His doctoral research included a specific focus on Samoan men and their efforts to cope with loss and grief overall, aside from traumatic events like the tsunami.

Cultural and social factors influence young people’s lives

Byron’s current HRC funded research is focused primarily on Pasifika young adult men and mental health while in tertiary education. In this research, Byron is interested in examining the correlation between the way his participants learn to cope with the pressures associated with academic achievement; the role that family, church and community commitments play in their lives; and, their personal relationships with those intimately close to them, like a partner or close family members. Byron wants to highlight what is working well for this cohort, while also bringing to light what might be helpful to stem the adverse consequences of this group’s challenge to cope thereby leading to high suicide rates, high pregnancy and high levels of sexually transmitted infections. Byron will focus his presentation on the unique dynamics that surrounds researching Pasifika families, using examples from his research to contextualise this in Pacific and New Zealand situations.
Presenter: Dr Keri Lawson-Te Aho

Ngāti Irakehu/Ngāi Tāhu; Ngāti Porou, Ngāi Tūhoe, Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairoa, Rongowhakaata. Lecturer and Research Fellow - Department of Public Health, Wellington School of Medicine. Keri has a 30-year background in Māori health policy and strategy and was instrumental in establishing He Ōranga Pounamu, the Ngāi Tahu mandated Māori health and development organisation while working for the Ngāi Tahu Development Corporation. Keri has worked for the Families Commission, Māori Health and Development Commission, Public Health Commission and a range of Māori health and iwi provider organisations since the late 1980’s. In 1996, she was a Research Fellow at the East West Centre in Hawaii and has worked in Indigenous mental health for over 20 years. Keri’s passion is indigenous healing as a pre-requisite for indigenous development. Keri’s PhD is on the subject of Māori suicide prevention. She currently has a University of Otago Research Grant on the subject of hopefulness and Māori youth suicide prevention.

Hope Studies: Rangatahi Suicide Prevention

Suicide is a major preventable public health issue for indigenous populations including Māori. New Zealand currently has the second highest youth suicide rate in the 34 member OECD network with Māori youth suicide 2.5-3 times higher than the non-Māori youth rate. Suicide creates serious enduring impacts for rangatahi, whānau and communities and is a major social and economic burden. This research project, the first of a series of studies, examines the constituents of hopefulness in a cohort of 35 rangatahi in five communities - Whanganui; Wellington city, Paraparaumu, Kawerau and Flaxmere, all communities with significant completed suicides in the previous five years. The study examines rangatahi ideas about hopefulness using photo-voice and digital story-telling methods to elicit images of hope from their daily lives. This data will be utilised to develop a measure of indigenous hopefulness that can then be examined in a series of larger studies.
**Presenters: Litia Tapu, Kiri Saul, and Phillip Walker**

Litia Tapu, Manager, Wellbeing and Housing Statistics. Litia has worked with Statistics New Zealand across Buildings, Business Demography, Prices, and joined the Labour Market and Household Team early this year. Litia was born in Tonga and previously worked for the Government of Tonga.

Kiri Saul, Statistical Analyst in the Labour Market and Households unit at Statistics New Zealand. Kiri has a particular interest in data for Māori and has worked on a number of projects in this area, including the development of The 2001 Health of the Māori Language Survey, iwi and Māori stakeholder engagement for the population census, and analysis of the Te Kupenga survey of Māori well-being. Kiri is of Ngāti Kahungunu ki Te Wairoa and Ngāti Pākehā descent.

Phil Walker, Manager, Customer Engagement and Analytical Team. Phil worked on the development of Statistics NZ’s wellbeing surveys Te Kupenga and the New Zealand General Social Survey and has a background in sociology alongside social service development and delivery. Phil was born in New Zealand of Irish, Cornish and Scottish descent.

**Patterns of growth**

Statistics New Zealand will present on patterns of growth in the Māori and Pasifika populations and how wellbeing data from surveys such as Te Kupenga and the New Zealand General Social Survey can be used to inform initiatives aimed to improve outcomes for Māori and Pasifika people.