

Dr Ioane is a Matai of her father's village in Samoa the title was bestowed to acknowledge her service to the community in Samoa and her role as a Samoan clinical psychologist in Aotearoa. This has enhanced her ability to relate authentically to Pasifika people and communities here and in Samoa informing her contributions as an advisor to Samoa as a clinical psychologist, an academic and an advisor to government departments such as Oranga Tamariki, New Zealand Police and the wider Justice sector. In her work with those departments and as an academic has two aspects: enabling the dominant system and those trained in its ways to work more authentically and effectively with Pasifika clients and assisting Pasifika students in psychology, counselling and psychotherapy to prosper amid the often alien theories and practices of these disciplines. Her contribution to the Pasifika Strategy – Toe Afua le Taea Fou – for the New Zealand Police is an important example of the first thrust. Talanoa Mai at Auckland University of Technology targeting Pasifika students in psychology, counselling and psychotherapy. Talanoa Mai, a support group providing mentoring, pastoral and academic support to Pasifika students in these disciplines an example of the second.

For psychologists Dr Ioane provides guidance and practical assistance to work in more culturally competent ways with Pasifika clients. Her writing embodies the respect and humility she urges practitioners to show towards their clients. She is a worthy recipient of the 2020 Public Interest Award.