

Engaging Pasifika

Half day workshop

Internationally, the field of cultural competence has emerged as part of a strategy to reduce disparities in access to, and quality of, health care and support services. Clear links have been made between cultural competency programmes and reducing ethnic disparities.

Engaging Pasifika is New Zealand's national Pasifika cultural competency training programme for the health and disability workforce, delivered by Le Va. It focusses on the essential skills, knowledge and attitude required to work effectively with Pacific service users and their families.

Based on international evidence, supported by Professor Betancourt from Harvard University, and acknowledged by the New Zealand Health and Disability Commission, the *Engaging Pasifika* programme takes a blended learning approach, with access to elearning modules and face to face workshops.

Engaging Pasifika contributes to the Ministry of Health's *Lets get real* mental health and addiction skills framework, building on the Pasifika *Seitapu* mental health and addiction framework.

Participants will gain enhanced understanding of Pacific values and practices, and importantly how to apply this understanding in practice. Participants will be required to complete the pre-requisite brief elearning module before they come to the workshop.

Your facilitators

Ben Tameifuna



Niua and Vaini, Tongatapu.

Ben has over 15 years working experience in the health sector having worked in the mental health and disability sector carry out various roles including coordinator for consumer support services, community support worker and also youth facilitator for the Like Minds Like Mine project, Intensive Service Coordinator at Taikura Trust, for the intellectual disability/mental health stream. He also facilitated holistic needs based assessments and coordinated appropriate supports for people with disabilities. His passion is working with people, particularly moving towards positive outcomes for our Pacific people's is reflected in his current role at Le Va to lead the implementation of the Faiva Ora National disability plan on behalf of the Ministry of Health, contributes to improving access to disability support services for Pasifika people and breaking down barriers around stigma in the Pasifika community. Ben is of Tongan descent and a father of four hailing from



Esther Faitala



With an academic background in population and community health, her 10 years of working experience has primarily been in Pacific workforce development. She worked within Maori Health, Pacific and Human Resources team within Taranaki and Counties Manukau DHB's supporting the development of the workforce development strategy, engaging with schools encouraging Pasifika students uptake science subjects that will lead into a career in health. She also worked closely with Pacific trained nurses through the process of becoming New Zealand registered nurses. Esther comes from a family of five with parents hailing from the villages of Satupa'itea and Apolima in Samoa.

Denise Kingi-'Ulu'ave



Denise is a registered clinical psychologist of Tongan descent and holds a senior manager position at Le Va. On top of being senior research and clinical manager, Denise leads LifeKeepers, New Zealand's first homegrown national suicide prevention training programme.

Denise has led psychological work in New Zealand prisons, mental health services (Adult, Child and Family) and Māori mental health in New Zealand and Australia. She is currently chair of Pasifikology, which is a national network of Pasifika psychologists in NZ.

Dr Liz Mati



Hailing from the village of Sa'anapu, Samoa, Dr Mati is a registered clinical psychologist and has been working within Pasifika communities for over 15 years in educational, forensic and mental health settings. As senior manager in Violence prevention, Dr Mati leads Le Va's *Atu-Mai* programme focussed on Pasifika young people and preventing sexual violence.

In her previous roles as a DHB Manager and clinical psychologist for Pasifika mental health services, Dr Mati supported the development and provision of culturally appropriate assessment and interventions for Pasifika young people, whom often had sexual and violent trauma histories, and their families.

About Le Va

Le Va is a national not-for-profit organization focused on supporting Pasifika families and communities to reach their full potential. As New Zealand's lead for Pasifika mental health and





wellbeing, Le Va is a Ministry of Health appointed agent to provide New Zealand's national centre for Pacific mental health and addiction workforce development.

Le Va takes a holistic view of wellbeing, encompassing physical, mental, emotional, spiritual and environmental components. This is reflected in our portfolio of work spanning the disability, mental health, addiction, public health, suicide prevention, and education sectors. Le Va's evidence based work is co-created with people who have lived experience, Pasifika cultural knowledge holders and expert thought leaders nationally and internationally.

