

# Engaging Pasifika

National Pasifika  
cultural competency  
training programme  
2014-2015

The Engaging Pasifika (EP) programme focuses on the foundation knowledge, skills and attitudes required for services to work effectively with Pasifika people and their families, particularly at the critical first point of contact. The EP programme includes three key components.

- ✕ **EP Online** – an online learning module which all participants are required to successfully complete in order to participate in live training.
- ✕ **EP Live** – a full day workshop facilitated by a team of expert knowledge holders.
- ✕ **EP Forum** – post-training support and resources provided via an online forum.

Workshop participants also have the opportunity to access ethnic-specific online learning modules on completion of the programme.

Organisational cultural competency services are also available to work alongside services to help develop systems, processes and procedures that enhance access to and use of quality services for Pasifika communities.

## Who it's for

- ✕ Clinicians.
- ✕ Frontline workers.
- ✕ Support workers.
- ✕ Administrators and managers.
- ✕ Governance and leaders.

Engaging Pasifika is targeted at non-Pacific health and disability workers in district health boards, non-government organisations, support services and primary healthcare.



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# Our approach

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Engaging Pasifika focuses on three essential themes for successful engagement with Pacific families, especially at the first point of contact.

- ✕ **Family** – social structures, relationships, roles and obligations.
- ✕ **Language** – effective communication including non-verbal language and cultural nuance.
- ✕ **Tapu** – primarily understanding the Pacific person as a relational being.

Underpinning the themes is the concept of *va*, which prioritises relationships in collective Pasifika world views. Various ethnic-specific approaches are explored and multimedia is used to enhance experiential learning.

The EP Live workshop is an intense cultural immersion experience facilitated by a team of Pasifika knowledge holders, role modelling a family- and values-based approach. Learners are gently navigated outside of their comfort zones and into the Pasifika world through *talanoa* (discussion), action-learning and video scenarios.

# Outcomes for the learner

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Learners gain practical knowledge and skills to engage more effectively with Pasifika people and their families, especially at the critical first point of contact.

- ✘ Knowledge of the history of Pasifika in New Zealand and conditions Pacific people are born into, grow, live, work and age.
- ✘ Enhanced awareness of self in regards to cultural identity and how it may impact on others.
- ✘ Awareness of systems and structures that support cultural competence.
- ✘ Ability to identify cultural difference, similarity and diversity through self-reflection.
- ✘ Understanding Pasifika cultures, and their ethnic specific values, beliefs and behaviours.
- ✘ Understanding of the concept of *va*, its practical implications and fundamental importance for Pasifika people as relational beings.
- ✘ Understanding of family, language and *tapu*, and the impact these may have on people's behaviour and engagement.

## How much does it cost?

Engaging Pasifika is free for Ministry of Health funded disability support service, public health, mental health and addictions workers (although we may ask for a contribution for catering or venue). The programme can also be tailored for organisations that are not funded, and costs can be negotiated.

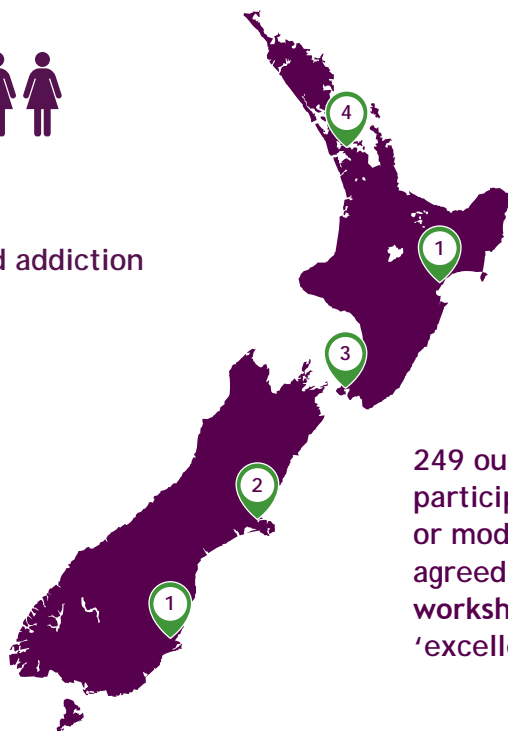
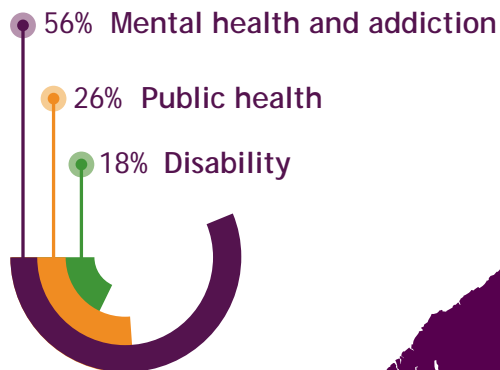
Registered addictions practitioners can gain DAPAANZ points to add to their continuing professional development.

# 2013-2014 results

Since its beginning, over 1,800 health and disability workers have participated in the EP programme across the country with 94 per cent of participants reporting that the programme is 'excellent overall'.



450 attendees from:



From July 2013  
to June 2014

**11** Engaging  
Pasifika  
workshops  
delivered

249 out of 264  
participants strongly  
or moderately  
agreed that the  
workshop was  
'excellent overall'



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