



# Global Pacific Solutions

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GPS 2025

Highlights  
Report



LeVa



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Published in July 2025  
By Le Va, Auckland,  
New Zealand  
**©2025 Pacific Inc Limited**  
ISBN 978-0-9951411-6-2

# Acknowledgements

“Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi,  
engari he toa takitini”

Success is not the work of an individual,  
but the work of many (Māori proverb).

Le Va would like to acknowledge the contributions of our cultural leaders, partners, sponsors, presenters and participants. Without you, Global Pacific Solutions 2025 would not have been possible.

As we reflect on the success of our GPS 2025 conference, we extend our gratitude to each individual and organisation that contributed to this special event. Your collective efforts have ignited meaningful conversations and paved the way for transformative change in our Pacific communities.

Firstly, thank you to our incredible presenters for sharing your invaluable insights, expertise and experiences. Your voices have been pivotal in shaping conversations around key issues and solutions, empowering us to strive for a brighter future.

To all the participants who attended and actively engaged in these important, and sometimes challenging, discussions we appreciate your care and commitment. Your presence and contributions enriched the talanoa and inspired collective action.

A special acknowledgement to our stallholders, who showcased innovative products and services that reflect the essence of Pacific creativity and entrepreneurship. Your contributions added a vibrant dimension to the conference and highlighted the importance of supporting local initiatives.

We are immensely grateful to our funders and sponsors, whose generous support made this conference possible. Your commitment to advancing Pacific wellbeing and nurturing community-driven solutions is truly appreciated. We look forward to continuing our collaborative journey.

Many thanks to Tiana Watkins for gifting our Global Pacific Solutions theme for 2025 – ‘It is the moana that binds us, it is the whenua that guides us.’ We held these words close to our hearts throughout the event, and they still resonate powerfully now.

Lastly, we recognise the importance of collaboration across sectors and systems, and we are grateful to all stakeholders who joined us in this endeavour. Together, we are building a future for our Pacific communities.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Fa’afetai lava. Malo ‘aupito. Meitaki ma’ata. Vinaka vakalevu. Kia kaha!

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wise group.

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# Foreword

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## “Kateira ma rabakaura bon kinaakira”

**Our culture and knowledge are our identity  
(Kiribati proverb).**

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Talofa lava, mālō e lelei, kia orana, bula vinaka, fakaalofa lahi atu, kia ora koutou, and warm Pacific greetings.

It is our privilege to present the highlights from our national Global Pacific Solutions GPS 2025 conference, and share with you the significant solutions our communities are bringing to the fore. Despite our current economic climate and some of the complexities our Pacific families are facing, the talanoa on key issues surrounding mental health, addiction, climate change, child sexual abuse, violence prevention, suicide prevention, disabilities and public health brought purposeful strengths-based approaches and actions for everyone to consider.

At Le Va, we are grounded in the approach that our culture and knowledge are our identity, as echoed in the Kiribati proverb, ‘Kateira ma rabakaura bon kinaakira.’ Our team works to weave Pacific values into every initiative, ensuring our people are at the heart of our solutions.

Le Va continues to create space for Pacific voices to lead sustainable change, demonstrating that solutions are inherent within our communities. GPS 2025 provided the perfect platform for collaboration and community empowerment.

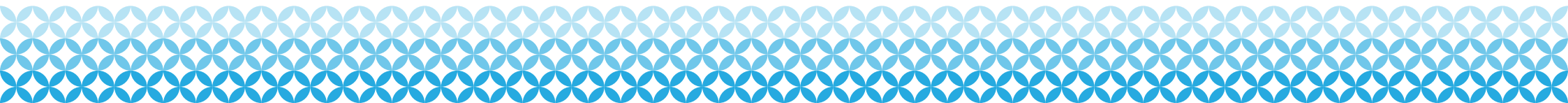
Throughout the two-day event we heard from community and youth leaders who inspired us to push boundaries, leading with alofa, ‘ofa and aroha, to embrace the wisdom of our ancestors and the fresh perspectives of the next generation. Together, we are carving paths towards brighter futures.

With gratitude, we acknowledge the dedication and resilience of each participant and partner involved in GPS 2025. You are the changemakers and champions of our collective vision. Thank you for your passion and commitment to uplifting Pacific communities.

Fa’afetai tele lava, mālō ‘aupito, meitaki ma’ata, fakafetai, fakaauue lahi, vinaka vakalevu.



**Denise Kingi-’Ulu’ave**  
Chief Executive, Le Va



# Executive summary

## Igniting community collaboration for wellbeing solutions

On 10 and 11 April 2025, Le Va's Global Pacific Solutions: GPS 2025 conference hosted close to 700 of the brightest minds and biggest hearts across Aotearoa and the globe, all committed to supporting Pacific people, families and communities to unleash their full potential.

Participants came with a range of lived, work and community experiences and expertise, all with a shared interest in seeking innovative ways to support Pacific wellbeing and bring our communities together.

**"Inspiring to see brown Pacific excellence all in one space – a truly uplifting experience."** GPS 2025 attendee

Through talanoa, breakout sessions and panel discussions, participants engaged in inspiring and often challenging conversations to understand the realities and possibilities for people in Aotearoa and across the wider Pacific region. They explored how to reclaim our Pacific narratives, bring communities together and dream beyond limits.

Participants engaged in thought-provoking plenary sessions tackling tough topics such as child sexual abuse and trafficking, the impacts of climate change on wellbeing, decolonisation and the need to challenge cultural norms that do not serve or protect us.

The conference's four breakout streams were designed to take a deeper dive into the real challenges our Pacific communities and workforce are facing. The four workstreams were:

**Tu Tonu:** Centring on mental health and addiction, aiming to support Pacific practitioners and reimagine care models that best serve the community.

**Fonua to Moana:** Focused on violence prevention through culturally relevant approaches, this stream explored how community mobilisation and collective leadership can create sustainable solutions.

**End Game:** Aimed at changing narratives in disability support and public health, End Game encouraged participants to speak loudly, advocate for change and prioritise children's wellbeing.

**Roots of Resilience:** Highlighting ancestral insights and community leadership as keys to suicide prevention, reinforcing the strength found in cultural heritage and collective efforts.

Through the four workstreams and plenary sessions, clear calls to action emerged. These included the need for better and greater collaboration, and for Pacific-led solutions which are family and community centred.

GPS 2025 nurtured a space where stories, experiences and expertise were openly shared. Participants left feeling empowered, connected and motivated to drive positive change. A significant 94% reported feeling inspired to rethink their personal or professional approaches because of attending GPS 2025.

Further outcomes included increased connections, with more than 79% of participants feeling more linked to their communities or work environments post-conference.

Additionally, 82% experienced heightened motivation to remain engaged in their respective sectors, while 87% felt a renewed sense of purpose in their roles.

GPS 2025 didn't just inspire intention, it ignited action, achieving a remarkable 96% follow-through rate that places it among the world's most impactful conferences for meaningful behaviour change.

**"I loved it from the first panel all the way to the closing speakers. Beautiful vagahau and messages of hope and strength I will take with me to work. My cup has been filled."** GPS 2025 attendee



# GPS 2025 reach

Le Va’s Global Pacific Solutions 2025 conference brought the village together. 691 participants came from across Aotearoa, and some from across our Pacific oceans, to participate in the GPS 2025 conference. Attendees came from the distant shores of Hawaii and the Northern Mariana Islands and from closer shores across Aotearoa.

The largest ethnicity represented by attendees was Samoan (36.20%) followed by Tongan (18.00%) and NZ European (11.30%). Other notable ethnicities included Māori (10.00%), Cook Islands (7.10%), Niuean (5.60%) and Fijian (5.40%). Other ethnicities represented included Australian, Greek, and Italian, Asian, Tuvalu, Rotuman, Chamorro, Fijian Indian and Kiribati.

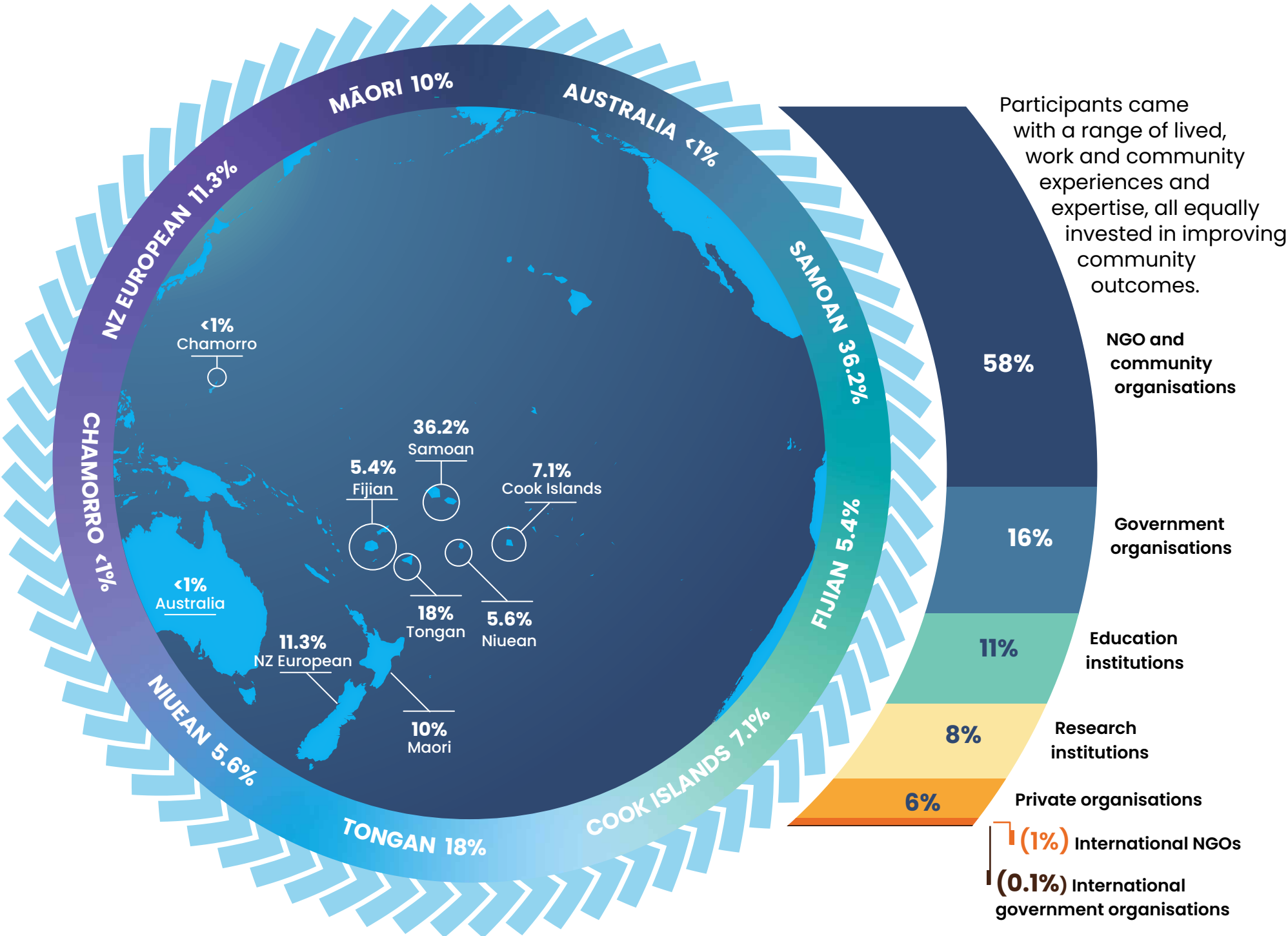
GPS 2025 brought together changemakers, visionaries, leaders and experts tackling critical issues affecting our Pacific communities.

Participants came with a range of lived, work and community experiences and expertise, representing NGO and community organisations (52.5%), government organisations (15.5%), education institutions (13.9%), research institutions (11.6%), private organisations (5.6%), international NGOs (1%) and international government organisations (0.10%).

United and invested in improving community outcomes, participants represented the sectors of mental health and addiction, suicide prevention, disability and violence prevention.

Together, they engaged in bold conversations, discovered solutions and inspired one another to take action.

“When the coconut tree bears fruit, the village is nourished, and the children will flourish.”



Overall conference themes

**Mental health and addiction**

- Nurture Pacific practitioners
- Reimagine models of care

**Violence prevention**

- Education starts at home
- Our words matter
- Solutions lie within our community

**Suicide prevention**

- Our ancestors hold the answers
- Community is key

**Public health**

- It starts with our children
- Speak up and speak loud

**Disability**

- Cultural connection is protection
- We own our stories (and our data)
- Igniting innovation through investment

**Overall takeaways – participant insights**

- Feelings of empowerment
- Connection – to others, to the kaupapa and to culture

Call to action	Plenary	Tu Tonu: Mental health & addiction	Roots of Resilience: Suicide prevention	End Game: Disability support & public health	Fonua to Moana: Sexual violence prevention
Pacific-led solutions	Reclaim our narratives and integrate our ancestral intelligence and Pasifika values that we all carry, into our contemporary solutions that we execute every day.	Double down on provision of ‘by Pacific, for Pacific’ services and models of service delivery, but take time to reimagine what those look like in the future, with young people leading the way.	Advocate for cultural epistemologies in knowledge systems.	Data sovereignty is key to utilising the right data and investing in what works for Pasifika communities.	Pasifika challenges have unique causes that require unique, responsive solutions.
Family and community centred	Call for a Pacific charter on child protection – a truly Pacific framework, authentically developed within a Pacific context, incorporating the wisdom of survivors, cultural truths and legal teeth.	Make sure services and approaches stay family centred.	We know we can prevent suicide from within our own communities, so let’s focus more on community-led approaches.	Pacific child wellbeing will have the greatest intergenerational impact for Pasifika communities in the future so let’s take the long view and focus on it now.	Our strength as a community grows when we are informed, equipped and united.
The future is collaboration	Collectively advocate for support for our Pacific Islands nations in their race against time to prevent and adapt to climate change.	Work with funders and providers to build a workforce that meets the unique needs of Pacific peoples accessing mental health and addiction services.	Reaching and engaging people where they are at means working together on creative and digital approaches to preventing suicide.	Work together to prioritise those with lived experience in decision making, service design and delivery.	We all need to take a radically collaborative approach to sexual violence prevention.

Measure our collective impact that contributes to an agreed overarching outcomes framework





# It is the moana that binds us, it is the whenua that defines us

The GPS conference theme for 2025 reflects the unique relationship between tangata whenua and tangata moana. It speaks to the interconnectedness of Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa and to how the deep-rooted ties to our own Indigenous lands shape our cultural identity, worldview and sense of wellbeing. Nurturing our cultural identity within the context of life in Aotearoa is vital to Pasifika wellbeing.

As tangata moana living in Aotearoa, we acknowledge tangata whenua as Indigenous to Aotearoa. We also acknowledge our historical connections and recall the ancient whakatauki:

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**“E kore au e ngaro,  
he kākano i ruia mai i Rangiātea.  
I will never be lost,  
for I am a seed sown in Rangiātea.”**

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## Cultural opening

To open GPS 2025, Whaea Tuahana Clark (Waikato, Ngaati Aamaru) delivered a powerful karanga, calling everyone into the space. This was followed by a pōwhiri led by Keri Opai (Te Atiawa, Ngāti Ruanui, Waiohūa, Ngāti Te Ata, Ngāti Porou) and Rewiri Waaka (Waikato, Te Arawa and Ngāti Porou), who elevated the mana of the occasion with their oratory to welcome all manuhiri and participants to officially open the event.

Reverend Uesifili Unasa, Le Va Board member, flanked by a traditional Tongan honour guard or ongo ‘apa’apa, then gave a warm welcome and led a lotu (prayer) to bless the space.

These opening moments created a safe space for the conversations that followed, grounded in culture, steeped in tradition and a shared purpose to maintain the molumalu or reverence and dignity of the occasion. These are the moments that define the purpose and set the tone through our connections in the Va, the space that relates. After all, as the great Tupua Tamasese so brilliantly said:

**“I am not an individual; I am an integral part of the cosmos. I share divinity with my ancestors, the land, the seas and the skies. I am not an individual, because I share a tofi (inheritance) with my family, my village and my nation. I belong to my family and my family belongs to me. I belong to my village and my village belongs to me. I belong to my nation and my nation belongs to me. This is the essence of my sense of belonging.”**



# Part 1 – Plenary sessions insights

## Addressing child sexual abuse and child trafficking

### Plenary Panel 1: Nurturing our children

**Keynote:** Moeapulu Frances Tagaloa, Pacific leader for Aotearoa's Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in State and Faith-based Care

**Panel:** Convened by Denise Kingi-'Ulu'ave with Her Honour Judge Ida Malosi, Jane Searle, Reverend Uesifili Unasa and 'Ofa Guttenbeil-Likiliki.

**"This is a conversation that demands our full attention, our collective expertise and, most importantly, our unwavering commitment to action. The Pacific is home to diverse and resilient communities, but it is not immune to the global crises of child sexual exploitation and trafficking."**

Denise Kingi-'Ulu'ave

A common thread throughout all solutions presented in relation to child sexual abuse was the need for collective action against silence. It takes a village to work together to make a change, and solutions focused on collective expertise to tackle these issues with a sense of urgency.

**"The biggest accomplice (to child abuse) is silence. Silence is not passive; it is protection for the wrong person... Cultural silence is not cultural pride; it is cultural betrayal."**

'Ofa Guttenbeil-Likiliki

The presenters proposed solutions that simultaneously represent some of our most significant challenges:

- ▶ Faith leaders must choose – is it about prioritising image or upholding integrity? If your faith is built on protecting predators, it is time to rebuild your faith.
- ▶ Protection must be rooted in the vā – rather than entangled in bureaucratic processes.
- ▶ Train the frontlines or step aside. Train our workforce in trauma-informed and cultural approaches.
- ▶ Survivor-led is key. Survivors should not be seen as broken; they are the blueprint.
- ▶ There is an urgent need for a Pacific charter on child protection – a truly Pacific framework, authentically developed within a Pacific context, incorporating the wisdom of survivors, cultural truths and legal teeth.

**"We can't always hide behind theology. We ought to speak up and challenge and contest."** Rev. Uesifili Unasa

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**"Faith leaders must choose – is it about prioritising image or upholding integrity? If your faith is built on protecting predators, it is time to rebuild your faith."**

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# Indigenous knowledge into practice

## Plenary Panel 2: Moana Dreaming

Convened by Dr Elizabeth Mati with Prof. Waikaremoana Waitoki, Dr Emalani Case and Prof. Jioji Ravulo.

**“Hope is a cultural practice. Dreaming is a cultural practice. We had profits and poets, people who would sing and chant our futures into being and I think that is something we have to continue to engage in. When we are standing on the frontlines, on the whenua, standing for climate change and for decolonisation, it’s us hoping for a better future. This is something we need to reclaim.”** Dr Emalani Case

This inspirational panel explored how to reimagine a better future for all indigenous peoples by learning and reclaiming traditional cultural knowledge and applying it in practice.

- ▶ Integrating Indigenous knowledge and traditional ways of being into research, methodologies and everyday practice is part of the solution to overcoming barriers to unleashing potential for Pasifika academics, practitioners, families and communities.
- ▶ Ancestral intelligence is part of a person’s DNA and can be honoured and harnessed to bring new thinking to contemporary solutions.

**“...The challenge is the ethical remembering of our histories. If we don’t seek truth, then we are going to remember the wrong thing.”**  
Prof. Waikaremoana Waitoki

# Climate change impacts our wellbeing

## Plenary Panel 3: The Shifting Tides

Convened by Dr Monique Faleafa with Dr Evangelene Daniela-Wong, James Arriola and Prof. Jemaima Tiatia-Siau.

**“The climate crisis is disproportionately affecting our vulnerable and low-lying Pacific islands, which in turn impacts the wellbeing of our people. We are in a race against time to prevent and adapt to climate change.”** Dr Monique Faleafa

The challenges posed by climate change in the Pacific region are significant, with land loss and ecosystem degradation intricately linked to cultural identity, mental health and wellbeing, indigenous sovereignty, food security and homeland security.

The panel discussions emphasised that the complex nature of the causal factors contributing to the decline in wellbeing due to climate change, necessitates a comprehensive and multifaceted approach to both prevention and adaptation solutions.

Recognising this complexity, the panel proposed several solutions to address mental health and wellbeing in the context of climate change:

- ▶ Human and environmental solutions should include spirituality, be faith-centred and incorporate contemporary spiritual beliefs.
- ▶ Mental health and wellbeing interventions are

deeply rooted in cultural practices and people’s intrinsic connection to the land. Solutions need to include familial structures that are in the context of village and community-based care systems.

- ▶ Data sovereignty should be prioritised to sustain positive outcomes, facilitating the exchange of successful strategies and fostering mutual learning across the Pacific.
- ▶ Preventative measures need to be the focus, leveraging the existing knowledge and resources of local populations to navigate the challenges posed by environmental changes.
- ▶ We need to promote indigenous innovation, emphasising collaborative efforts underpinned by open-mindedness.

**“Systems that are Pacific informed, indigenous informed are for everyone – because when we create, we make space for everyone, for reciprocity of love is already in our ways of doing and working.”**  
James Arriola

# Celebrating next-generation changemakers

## Plenary Panel 4: Global Pacific Solutions

John-Paul Foliaki (artist) and Mea Motu (professional boxer).

**“The arts are a powerful resource we are not using enough. If we can sing, dance, laugh and celebrate as a community, I believe we can heal as one.”**  
John-Paul Foliaki

Influential emerging changemakers are pivotal in shaping the future of Pacific communities in Aotearoa through bold ideas and fresh perspectives. Young people who overcome adversity, connect to their culture and find their purpose can redefine prevailing narratives and actively instigate transformative change.

Several overarching themes emerged as integral to unlocking the potential of tomorrow’s leaders:

- ▶ Connect to culture to strengthen cultural identity. This in turn supports healing and enhances our mental health and wellbeing.
- ▶ Leverage the creative arts and sports as vehicles to connect and collaborate towards social change for Pacific families and communities.
- ▶ Share stories of resilience and transformation to serve as role models and inspire others.

**“I’m so proud to be Māori now. What makes us special is our identity, our culture – that’s what helped me regain my strength.”** Mea Motu



## A call to action as solutions: Voice, values, vision

1. **Reclaim our narratives and integrate our ancestral intelligence and Pasifika values that we all carry, into our contemporary solutions that we execute every day.**

"We draw strength from knowing who we are and staying connected to our cultural identity. When we carry the wisdom of our ancestors and stay true to our Pasifika values, we honour our story and shape futures where our people will thrive and feel seen."

Dr Elizabeth Mati

2. **Advocate for support for our vulnerable Pacific Islands nations in their race against time to prevent and adapt to climate change.**

"With climate change the stakes are high. There is no time to lose for all of us to take action. We want to make sure that when the tide comes in, our vakas are strong, resilient and can adapt to the changing tides so that all our boats rise together."

Dr Monique Faleafa

## Distinguished guest dinner speakers

More than 400 guests gathered for a truly uplifting evening, enriched by the wisdom, heart and mana of our distinguished speakers.

The evening began with a warm and powerful welcome from our gifted Le Va Board Director, Taito Eddie Tuiavii, who paid tribute to the "bright minds and big hearts" in the room. In an evocative address to our Futures That Work scholarship recipients, he reminded them: "You are a pebble thrown into a mighty pool – the ripples of your impact are only just beginning."

We were honoured to be joined by New Zealand rugby legend Sir Wayne 'Buck' Shelford and Lady Jo Shelford, a respected Mātanga Rongoā, holistic aromatherapist and Māori cultural advisor. Together, they moved the audience with their shared dedication to wellbeing, their advocacy for culturally grounded approaches, and their leadership through Te Kiwi Māia Charitable Trust.

Megan Mashali, co-founder of Te Kiwi Māia, continued this heartfelt kaupapa, sharing the Trust's vital work in providing care, recovery and respite for our frontline heroes, first responders and defence personnel, who give so much in service of Aotearoa.

We were also privileged to hear from esteemed Pasifika leader and former Le Va Board member Caren Rangi, alongside social enterprise changemaker Gen 'Ilolahia. Together, they inspired the room with stories of bold Pacific leadership – shaping systems, reimagining support services and amplifying Indigenous knowledge on a global stage.

Throughout the evening guests were also treated to the beautiful music of Island Vibes.



## Tomorrow's mental health and addiction workforce is part of the solution

Building the capacity and capability of the Pacific mental health and addiction workforce is a critical part of the solution for addressing the unmet needs of Pacific communities.

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GPS 2025 was an opportunity to celebrate more than 100 Pacific students who were awarded Le Va's 'Futures that Work' mental health and addiction scholarships in 2025.

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# Part 2 – Stream sessions insights

## Tu Tonu stream: Mental health and addiction

### Stand true, stand firm

Tu Tonu means to stand true, stand firm. This workstream showcased mental health and addiction work that enables tangata moana to reach their potential, maintain strength and stand tall in the face of challenges.

### Drivers for this stream

In Aotearoa, Pacific people experience inequities in access to mental health and addiction support and outcomes. Pacific people have higher rates of mental illness and mental distress, substance abuse and suicide attempts, coupled with more severe and higher needs compared to the general population. Compounding these inequities are lower and later access rates to services, leading to overall poorer health outcomes.

### Key themes

These sessions explored Pacific mental health and addiction through the lens of hope, resilience and cultural strength. Panel speakers and audience talanoa highlighted the workforce needs, the realities of addiction in our communities and homelands, and the urgent need for solutions grounded in ancestral knowledge and lived experience. Across all sessions, there was a strong call to uplift Pacific voices, support the workforce and recentre cultural wisdom as a pathway to healing and transformation.

While there were many common themes, two key solutions were presented:

#### Nurture Pacific practitioners

There is an urgent need to grow and sustain a Pacific-led mental health and addiction workforce, with a strong emphasis on lived experience, cultural identity and leadership pathways.

Discussions called for better resourcing and recognition, pay equity and culturally grounded support structures, such as peer mentoring and cultural supervision, to protect and empower Pacific practitioners. At its heart, Tu Tonu empowered workers to stand firm in their identity, drawing on Pacific values, the concept of vā, and the practice of talanoa. It also encouraged self-kindness and mindfulness to help sustain wellbeing while navigating complex systems.

#### Reimagine models of care

Presenters spoke about addiction as a response to disconnection, intergenerational trauma and structural disadvantage, and how shame continues to be a barrier preventing people from seeking help.

Current services are often reactive and crisis-oriented, failing to provide healing or culturally grounded support. This brought to light the urgent need for Pacific-led solutions, which were framed as essential, not optional. Models of care must be designed by Pacific people, rooted in kinship, culture, spirituality and healing traditions. Models of care must be transformed to meet the needs of future generations, be strengths based and include creativity and digital fluency.

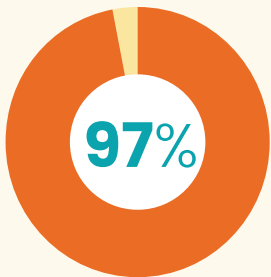
Traditional practices, like those presented by Musuiaiga Neil Tapu Sitagata, were a highlight for many Tu Tonu participants. Musu presented culturally rooted concepts like matimati le magālafu (tending the fire/deconstructing barriers) and talanoa fogāfala (informal conversations held before sleep) as Samoan methods of engaging in talanoa, a process of storytelling and open dialogue. These traditional practices play a key role in reawakening and nurturing the “Mauli – a life force, a vital essence, a special nature inherent in all living things,” as one participant defined the concept.

### Survey insights

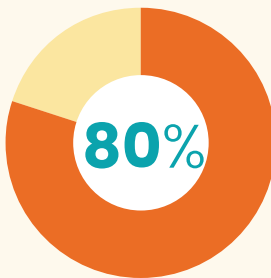


1120  
estimated  
attendees

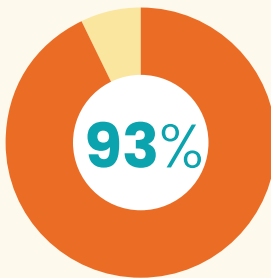
Of those who  
responded  
to the survey



97% felt  
inspired and  
uplifted in  
their work in  
purpose.



80% built  
meaningful  
connections  
and/or  
discovered new  
opportunities for  
collaboration.



93% gained  
new knowledge  
and skills that  
are relevant to  
their work.



## Calls to action as solutions: Reimagining recovery

### **1 Double down on provision of ‘by Pacific, for Pacific’ services and models of service delivery, but take time to reimagine what those look like in the future**

For services to be effective for all, Pacific values and approaches need to be incorporated into the way mental health and addiction services are funded, designed and delivered.

This includes reimagining what an expanded view of recovery looks like that includes housing, cultural connection and whānau.

**“Pacific have much to learn from Māori in how we can organise and reclaim our matakauranga.”**

### **2 Target workforce investment to specifically meet the unique needs of tāngata whaiora accessing mental health and addiction services.**

Le Va urges the reallocation of workforce investments to grow and support the size and skills of Pacific practitioners in areas that will address unmet need for Pacific families.

Emphasising pathways for Pacific practitioners, leadership development and integrating those with lived experience is vital for an effective and culturally safe workforce. To achieve this will require adequate resourcing, career progression and support systems that include cultural supervision and peer mentoring. Ensuring pay equity and fostering a work environment that honours Pacific ways of being, like vā and talanoa, will help safeguard the wellbeing of our workforce, empowering them to stand firm and meet community needs while preventing burnout.

### **3 Make sure services and approaches stay family centred**

For most Pacific peoples, āiga, kāinga, magafaoa, kōpū tangata, vuvale, fāmili, family is most valued and central to a resilient community and way of life.

As one of the cornerstones of Pacific wellbeing, and identified as playing a critical role for Pacific people in recovery, services should be able to provide options for including whānau (where appropriate) to support their loved one’s journey towards recovery and the family’s recovery.



# Fonua to Moana stream: Sexual violence prevention

## Mobilising communities, safeguarding futures

Fonua to Moana connects us from where we stand (the fonua), to the communities that we wish to reach (the moana). This stream focused on mobilising communities and safeguarding futures to prevent violence. Together, attendees explored key risk and protective factors related to violence in our communities, with a focus on sexual violence prevention.

## Drivers for this stream

Aotearoa has one of the highest reported rates of family violence and sexual violence in the developed world. We know Pasifika populations are under-reported in this data, yet we are still overrepresented in the statistics. This has a devastating ripple effect and contributes to an intergenerational cycle of harm within our families and communities.

Cultural stigma, shame, and fear often prevent individuals and families from seeking help to escape violence or change harmful behaviours. Combined with limited investment in culturally appropriate and responsive prevention programmes and poor Pasifika representation in mainstream services, these factors create significant barriers to the meaningful reform our communities need.

## Key themes

### Solutions lie within our community

**“It’s not achievable if the voices are not from our community.”** Participant feedback

Long-term, sustainable impact is more achievable when we work together as a system and as a community. Upstanders – people who take safe, proactive steps to challenge harmful behaviours or support those affected – play a crucial role in addressing sexual violence.

By connecting across the system – in government agencies, churches, sports clubs, schools, companies and organisations – and investing at the top of the cliff, we can increase the reach and impact of our work with a collective impact approach.

Sporting and community leaders Jerry Seuseu and PJ King spoke about the key role men play as coaches and role models. They highlighted how men can support boys to develop important skills such as emotional regulation, an understanding of gender norms, and other key protective factors.

**“A whole community approach is much needed. we need to start working together and not against each other.”**

**“...we are all responsible...the aiga approach works best.”**

**“We know that we don’t achieve anything when we work in silos. The system keeps us in boxes because at a contractual level they set us up to compete against each other on who can be the best.”**

**“Masculinity needs to be addressed first by men.”**

### Education starts at home – Brave conversations for a safer future

This theme highlighted the urgent need to have open, honest conversations about consent, sexuality and safety, beginning at home. Youth leaders made a powerful call:

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**“Your silence doesn’t protect us – your conversations do.”**

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They spoke of the risks of silence, where the internet becomes the default educator and cultural norms, when left unexamined, can perpetuate harm.

The panel encouraged families to reframe cultural values like alofa, respect and service through love and understanding rather than fear. They urged adults to lead with courage and humility, to start early, ask questions even when uncertain, and embrace curiosity over silence in guiding the next generation.

**“What I take away from this session is, if I am the first that an individual disclosed to, do not rush to gain support for the individual. Instead provide a safe space for the individual and let them direct where to go with their story.”** Participant feedback



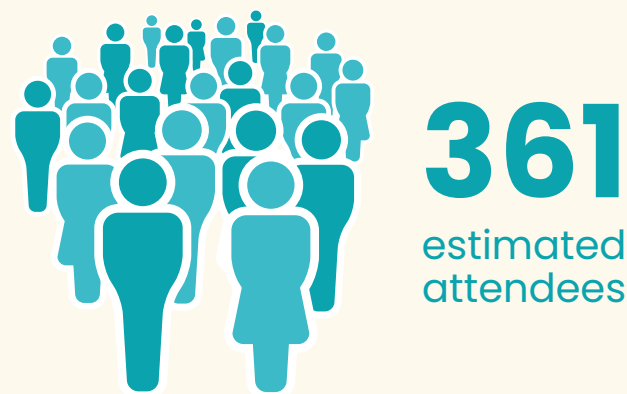
**Our words matter – Language as a tool for connecting and healing**

This theme underscored the power of language in shaping respectful, safe and effective engagement. Speakers highlighted how commonly used sector terms like perpetrator, victim or even survivor can feel alienating or imposed, disconnecting people from the support they need. Instead, using community-informed language, such as referring to men as “Bros”, can foster trust and strengthen identity.

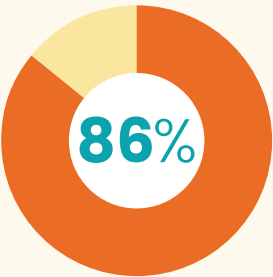
The message was clear – listen deeply, co-create language and honour community voices to create more responsive and inclusive pathways for healing – especially when supporting Pacific men affected by sexual violence.

**“Men tend to disclose info in the car and with food. Terms like “survivor” or “victim” are not terms men use. Bro is the term used as norm.”** Participant feedback

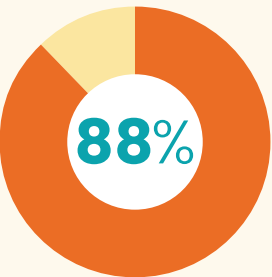
**Survey insights**



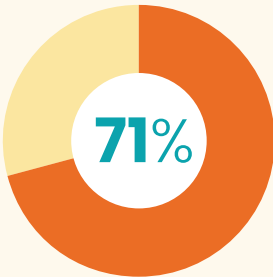
Of those who responded to the survey



gained new knowledge & insights about preventing sexual violence in this session.



feel confident to implement new learning & insights in their community and work.



believed they had opportunities to connect or network with other participants during the session.



# Calls to action as solutions: Empowering communities, collaborating for change

## 1 Vigorously champion community-driven violence prevention efforts

Prevention is most effective when driven by those most impacted, including men, youth, Rainbow communities, women and disabled people. Empowering communities to define and lead their own solutions is essential.

“Tautai fono i le va’a”

The captain listens to those on the boat (Tokelauan proverb).

## 2 Support Pacific self-determination and agency to enable Pacific solutions, especially for young people

True progress requires enhancing Pacific agency and leadership, especially for young people, while recognising the diversity within and across Pacific communities. Culturally anchored and flexible approaches are key to effective and sustainable initiatives.

## 3 Commit to radical collaboration to prevent sexual violence

No single organisation can solve sexual violence alone. Because of the multiple complexities in contributing risk and protective factors for sexual violence, many organisations and leaders will need to work together better and in new ways to intervene at multiple levels in a coordinated way. Evidence-informed programmes that take a systems approach and include community mobilisation are more effective when we work together.

## 4 Measure what matters, together

Develop a shared outcomes framework that reflects whānau voices, aligns collective efforts and tracks progress. This will provide strategic clarity, build trust and ensure accountability across the sector.



# Roots of Resilience stream: Suicide prevention

## Ancestral insights for preventing suicide

The Roots of Resilience stream drew on Māori and Pacific ancestral knowledge for preventing suicide. Supported by Le Va's LifeKeepers and FLO: Pasifika for Life programmes, speakers empowered and equipped participants, and therefore their communities, with culturally relevant knowledge and tools to prevent suicide and respond safely and effectively when a suicide occurs.

This kaupapa was shaped by aroha, identity and hope.

In the arms of our ancestors – reflecting on our past,  
standing in the present, and looking to the future  
in our collective efforts to prevent suicide.

## Drivers for this stream

Every year, far too many New Zealanders die by suicide. Data shows that Pacific people are over-represented in attempting suicide, and Māori deaths by suicide are unacceptably high. We all agree that one death by suicide is one too many. Suicide is preventable and it is complex. We must focus on reducing the right risk factors and enhancing the right protective factors that are most relevant for people of the moana, their families and communities.

## Key themes

Together, the speakers for our Roots of Resilience stream embodied resilience in action – a reminder that suicide prevention is not just a programme, but a movement grounded in aroha, culture and community.

## Our ancestors hold the answers

This theme emphasised that the tools to prevent suicide are already present within Indigenous ancestral knowledge. Presenters encouraged the use of pūrākau (traditional stories), whakapapa (genealogy), and cultural practices such as tangihanga to help communities process grief, understand emotional pain and support healing. The message 'connection is protection' underscored the idea that cultural identity and relationships are lifelines. Participants were reminded that Indigenous knowledge is not only supplementary to Western models – it is valid, evolving and foundational to wellbeing.

**"That Indigenous ways of knowing and being are not just supplementary to Western knowledge systems. Indigenous epistemologies are ever evolving, and are valid in their own right, as a flourishing knowledge system."**

**"That our ancestors have already provided a compass to navigate our wellbeing. We need to start from this position and mediate any other knowledge we wish to add to our kete."**



Community is key

A strong call was made for community-led, culturally grounded solutions. Presenters stressed the importance of having whānau voices and Pacific values embedded in service design, and shared pathways for integrating Pacific values into systems of care.

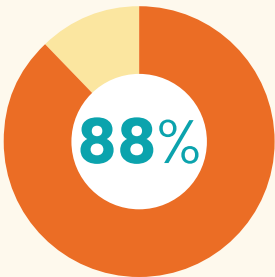
Programmes and initiatives such as Le Va’s FLO: Pasifika for Life suicide prevention programme programme and Aunty Dee problem solving tool, and the NZRL Wellbeing Waka community funded project illustrate how important it is to empower communities to lead their own suicide prevention efforts results to gain far-reaching and meaningful impact. Through the Pacific Suicide Prevention Community Fund, more than 590,000 people were engaged through 41 groups. These initiatives show the transformative power of collective action, cultural integrity and hope in preventing suicide.

Survey insights

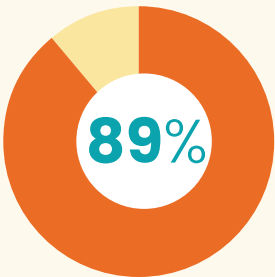
Stream 4:  
Roots of Resilience

283  
estimated attendees

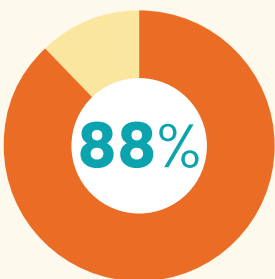
Of those who responded to the survey



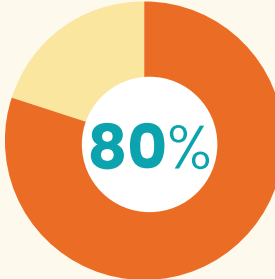
agreed the session enhanced their awareness or knowledge of effective suicide prevention strategies.



agreed the session strengthened their understanding of the roles and contributions different individuals and organisations play in suicide prevention.



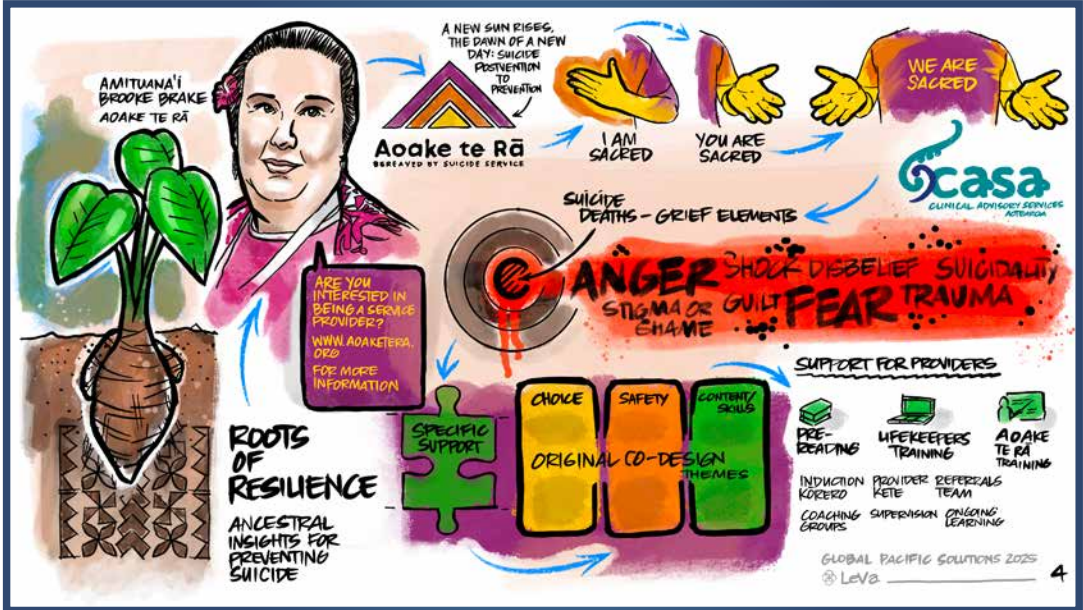
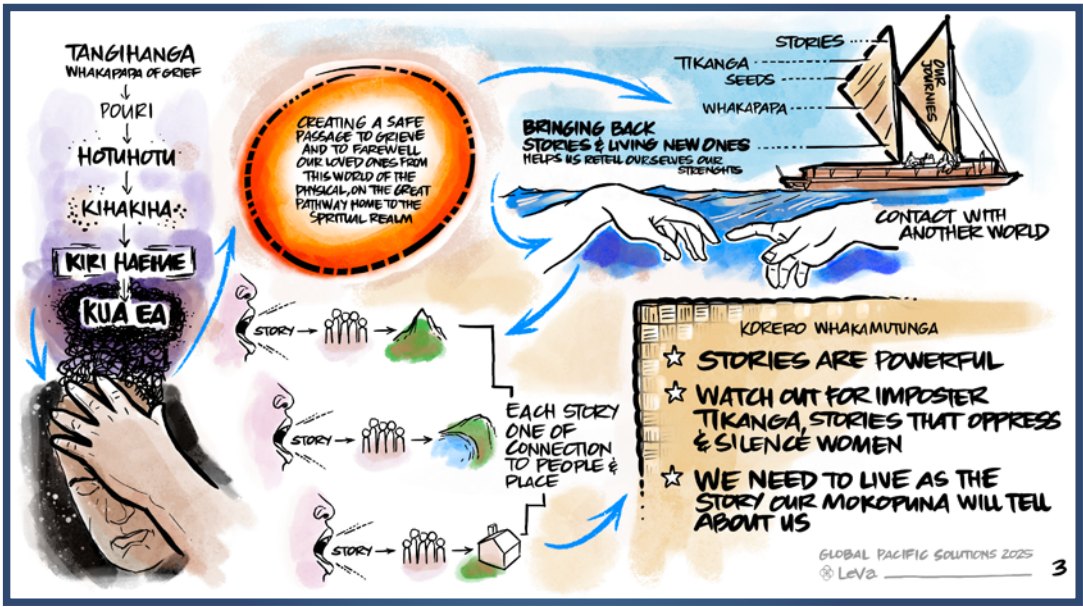
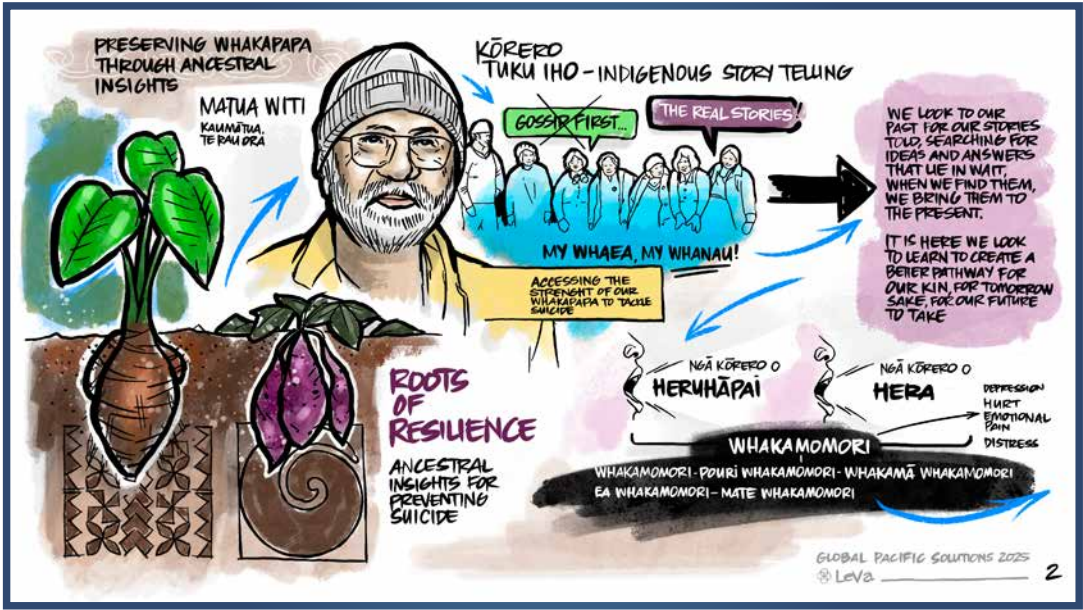
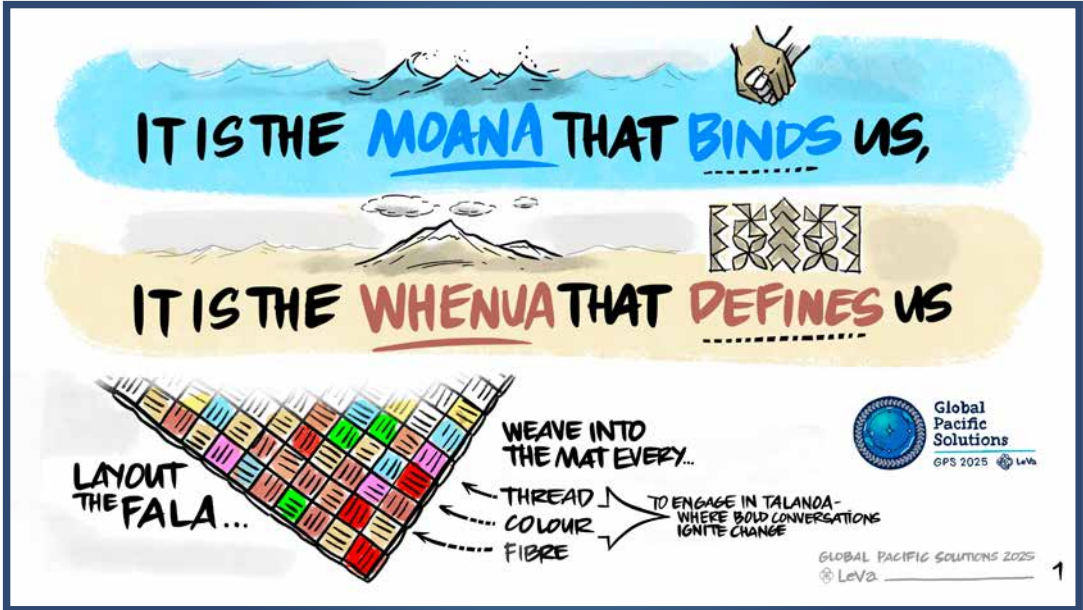
agreed the session encouraged them to reflect on their own cultural lens and biases in suicide prevention work.



built meaningful connections and/or discovered new opportunities for collaboration during the session.



Talanoa in this stream was brought to life by the talented Bryan Nimo, transforming evaluation insights into vibrant visuals.



“Pacific peoples are a resource and should be in spaces to create systems of change.”

Participant feedback





## Calls to action as solutions: Anchoring suicide prevention in culture, community and creativity.

Together, these themes affirm that our ancestors have given us the compass, and our communities have the power to steer the course towards healing and life.

### **1 Reaffirm the importance of cultural knowledge systems**

Acknowledge and elevate Indigenous ways of knowing as dynamic, valid and essential, not supplementary to Western systems. These knowledge systems must continue to be actively woven into educational and community health programmes.

Suicide prevention efforts should steadfastly follow the compass of our ancestors, integrating emerging knowledge with deep respect to enrich our kete of understanding.

In suicide postvention, ancestral wisdom can continue to guide the acknowledgement and healing of emotions such as anger, guilt, trauma and fear following suicide loss. Supporting culturally grounded postvention practices like Indigenous storytelling honours grief with empathy and compassion.

**“Ancient remedies for contemporary ills.” – Participant comment**

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### **2 Strengthen community-led approaches to preventing suicide**

Reaffirm and expand the empowerment of Indigenous communities to lead their own suicide prevention initiatives, fostering meaningful connections and collaboration.

Sustain efforts to promote diverse participation and address cultural biases, creating spaces where innovative, community-grounded solutions can thrive. This involves embedding whānau voices and Pacific values in the design and delivery of services and care systems.

Continue to equip communities, especially Māori and Pacific families, with culturally rooted, family-centred and sustainable approaches to enhance wellbeing, as demonstrated through initiatives like Le Va’s FLO: Pasifika for Life and Mana Restore.

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### **3 Reinforce creative and digital pathways to engage communities where they are**

Acknowledge the value of creativity and digital technology as established and evolving avenues for connecting with indigenous communities, enhancing engagement and improving accessibility.

Collectively, we must continue to develop culturally resonant digital platforms offering accessible resources and tailored support, meeting indigenous peoples where they are to foster deeper engagement in suicide prevention efforts.

Utilise creative mediums such as digital storytelling that incorporate traditional Indigenous narratives and art forms, and build culturally and linguistically resonant social media campaigns to strengthen connections and reach.



# End Game stream: Disability support & public health

## Changing the narrative

'End Game: Changing the narrative' focused on two workstreams – disability support and public health. The stream provided participants with vision and direction to navigate changing tides, build a thriving workforce and achieve equitable health outcomes for tangata moana.

Day one spotlighted Pacific public health leadership and solutions, while day two explored community leadership, funding models that work for Pacific people with disabilities, and the power of data and innovations within the Pacific disability space.

## Drivers for this stream

Public health is about population groups – looking beyond health care services to the aspects of society, environment, culture, economy and community that shape the health status of populations. Pacific people in Aotearoa continue to have poorer health status than the general population, with lower life expectancy and higher rates of mortality and hospitalisations for conditions that could have been avoided, given timely access to effective healthcare.

Pacific people also experience disproportionately high rates of disability, even with under-reporting, but have been traditionally lower users of funded disability support services in Aotearoa. Negative stigma associated with disability, combined with low health literacy, has contributed to lower rates of access to services for Pacific people in the past.

## Key themes for public health

### It starts with our children

Speakers reminded us that child wellbeing is the foundation of a thriving health system. Prioritising the next generation requires community-led, culturally grounded solutions, with families and aiga at the centre. The Vā o Tamaiti resilience framework, developed by Malaetogia Dr Jacinta Faalili-Fidow, reinforced the need to recognise and name the innate strength of Pacific children, shaping services that honour their agency, relationships and cultural identity. The message was clear – invest in our children and we invest in the future.

**"Don't fall in love with your business cards or the organisations you work for, fall in love with the children."** Dame Teuila Percival

### Speak up and speak loud

Another key theme was the power of advocacy and ownership, especially over our stories and data. Pacific communities were called to lead the collection, interpretation and storytelling of their data to avoid stigma and drive systemic change. Participants were urged to challenge the status quo, speak with courage and empower the growing Pacific workforce to lead with purpose and conviction.

As Sir Collin Tukuitonga stated, **"Speak up, speak out! Support one another, repeat the messages – speak up, speak out!"**



# Key themes for disability support

## Cultural connection is protection

The theme of Pacific cultural identity as central to wellbeing was reinforced, especially for disabled communities. Speakers called for bold advocacy to embed Pacific voices and values into policy and service design. Community-led projects funded by Le Va’s Faiva Ora Community Innovation Fund showcased the power of grassroots innovation, proving that when communities are resourced and trusted, the solutions already exist within our villages.

**“Ensuring we prioritise and uphold our Pacific cultural practices and values in all spaces!”**

## We own our stories (and our data)

Participants were reminded that data and storytelling are forms of power. Insights from Le Va’s national talanoa series with disabled people challenged systems to go beyond consultation and into co-design, ensuring Pacific voices are shaping the blueprint, not just approving it. The message was clear: **“If we don’t hold the pen, it’s not our story.”**

**“When you return to your policy meetings, your boardrooms ask yourself, are Pacific voices designing the blueprint, or just signing off on it?”** Nalei Taufa

## Igniting innovation through investment

A major theme was the importance of equitable, long-term investment in Pacific disability initiatives. Access to dedicated funding and clear education on funding models empowers communities to build sustainable, culturally relevant support systems.

**“It’s not just about co-design, it’s also about co accountability – calling to account those with the \$ to keep funding beyond the lifetime of the project.”** Participant feedback

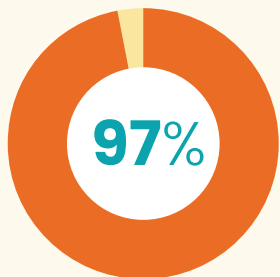
Day two of GPS 2025 also showcased what can be achieved when Pacific voices are represented and the right resourcing is provided. When both are present, Pacific communities do not have to wait for a seat at the table, we can carve our own. We can create equitable and effective support systems for Pacific people with disabilities. The solution now is to invest in what is working, amplify Pacific voices, and continue driving meaningful, equity focused transformation.

**“The flow of the programme was well-executed. The session held space for reflection, emotion, laughter, and shared understanding. It created an environment that empowered many of us to reflect deeply and left a lasting sense of responsibility to do more for our disabled community.”** Participant reflection

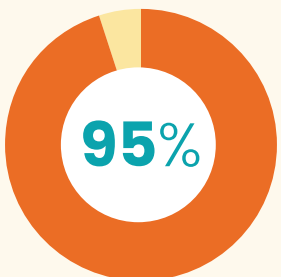
### Survey insights

**495**  
estimated  
attendees

Of those who responded to the survey



were encouraged  
to reflect on their  
own cultural lens  
and biases in their work.



felt better  
connected to people  
who can support  
their professional or  
personal goals.



felt more informed  
to engage with  
Pacific people  
with disabilities and  
their families.



**Calls to action as solutions: Hold the pen, write our future**

**1 Prioritise Pacific child wellbeing for long-term intergenerational impact**

Our speakers were loud and clear: “We must prioritise Pacific child wellbeing as the foundation of a thriving health system.”

Investing in the wellbeing of Pacific children offers profound intergenerational benefits for the health of Pacific communities. By prioritising their wellbeing today, we safeguard the future of Pacific communities.

**“When the coconut tree bears fruit, the village is nourished and the children will flourish.”**

**2 Data sovereignty is key to utilising the right data and investing in what works for Pacific communities**

Pacific communities must own and lead the analysis of their own data. This enables accurate storytelling, stigma reduction and informed decision-making that reflects lived realities. The goal is not just to collect data, but to act on it with Pacific voices defining the blueprint.

**3 Elevate lived experience in decision making, service design and delivery**

Our speakers challenged us to confront stigma, while elevating the strengths, resilience and aspirations of our Pacific disabled communities. Lived experience is a powerful catalyst for authentic and impactful change, particularly for Pacific people living with disabilities. It is essential to place their voices at the core of decision-making processes, ensuring that their insights shape the design and delivery of services.

As we prioritise their stories, we advocate for a future where people with disabilities are not stigmatised, but recognised as giving unique contributions to the rich tapestry of Pacific communities.

**4 Culturally grounded solutions**

The future of Pacific public health and disability lies in Pacific-led, culturally grounded and evidence informed solutions, and that future is already in motion.

Presenters consistently linked cultural identity, collective resilience, bold advocacy and empowered community leadership as essential to sustainable systems change.



# Part 3 – Impact survey findings

## Overarching impact achieved through Global Pacific Solutions 2025

“I loved it from the first panel all the way to the closing speakers. Beautiful vagahau and messages of hope and strength I will take with me to work. My cup has been filled.”

Out of 691 participants, 66 people responded to the GPS highlights survey undertaken at conference closure, and a further 139 participants responded to the impact survey, sent four weeks post-conference. The insights shared by participants through both surveys are shared within this section.

Le Va would like to thank the participants who took time to provide us with their learnings, feedback and insights from the conference. From survey responses it was clear that participants walked away from the conference with feelings of connection and empowerment.

### Connection

An overwhelming 97% of respondents felt that GPS 2025 provided them with valuable opportunities to forge or strengthen relationships. The sense of community and shared cultural pride was palpable:

**“Just being surrounded by my people. People of the Moana; our Pacific people. So much pride I feel not in a selfish way but a proud and emotional way.”**

Additionally, 83.83% regarded GPS 2025 as an excellent networking platform, with 80.88% affirming that they enriched their networks or relationships during the event.

Participants felt a resonant connection with the speakers at GPS 2025, with an impressive 91.18% expressing inspiration drawn from the leaders they encountered. The impactful messages and authentic engagement left a lasting impression:

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**“Our sea of blue Pasefika tools and resources from our own and very best speakers of the Pasefika. How each reminded us of who we are.”**

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**“The ‘real talk’ talanoa from the speakers.”**

In addition, participants were able to make a deeper connection with their pride for Pacific culture. Participants shared that their takeaway from GPS 2025 was:

**“To be great be Pacific.”**

**“Bold Brown and Beautiful – a lot of Pacific people working across the country in a variety of roles making a huge difference.”**

Beyond deepening cultural ties, GPS 2025 fostered community and workforce connections, with 79% of participants feeling more integrated into their professional networks or communities.

Impressively, 82% felt a surge in motivation to remain engaged in their sector, while 86% experienced a heightened sense of purpose in their work or studies. Post-conference, 58% of attendees have maintained connections with individuals they met at the event. Participants shared the value of these connections:

**“I connected with a lady who works at Te Whatu Ora, and we shared experiences and resources, almost like supervision sessions. It’s really helpful to talk to someone who understands the field I work in.”**

**“I’ve just been able to stay in touch with other students like me via Instagram. It’s cool to know others that are going through the same kinds of psychology programmes, and who are also passionate about mental health.”**

**“Creating meaningful connections with other Pacific support services that can bridge the gap and barriers for our Pacific people who may need our collaborative support.”**

People also mentioned that time and distance post-conference were potential barriers to connecting, indicating the need for ongoing events and activities to facilitate connections.



# Empowerment

GPS 2025 left participants with a profound sense of empowerment. A striking 87.50% found the conference content both informative and useful, while 83.82% reported gaining new knowledge or skills. Attendees departed ready to apply what they learned, feeling reinvigorated and driven.

“There are so many of us working to make a change. Each of us makes a significant impact in our own way. We are resilient. We can do this. Positive individual solutions are the answer.”

“I am a seed of greatness.”

“These people reconfirmed why I am serving my people; they recharged my superpowers to go back out and stronger. I wish their speeches were recorded – I would watch it as a daily routine to empower my day so that I can do better for my people.”

The concept of empowerment through Indigenous knowledge also emerged as a significant takeaway from the conference. Ancestral intelligence was acknowledged as a powerful tool to address challenges, serving as both a complement and an alternative to Western thought.

“Generative Ancestral Intelligence. We have the solutions.”

“Indigenous solutions to Indigenous barriers because if it is Pacific Māori that are falling through the gaps then it is Pacific Māori that should provide the solutions not the Western systems.”

“I carry AI – Ancestral Intelligence – and I stand as part of a large, connected community of indigenous peoples linked by the Moana.”

An emphasis on collective action highlights that community empowerment is enabled when we work together towards a common goal. Participants shared takeaways such as:

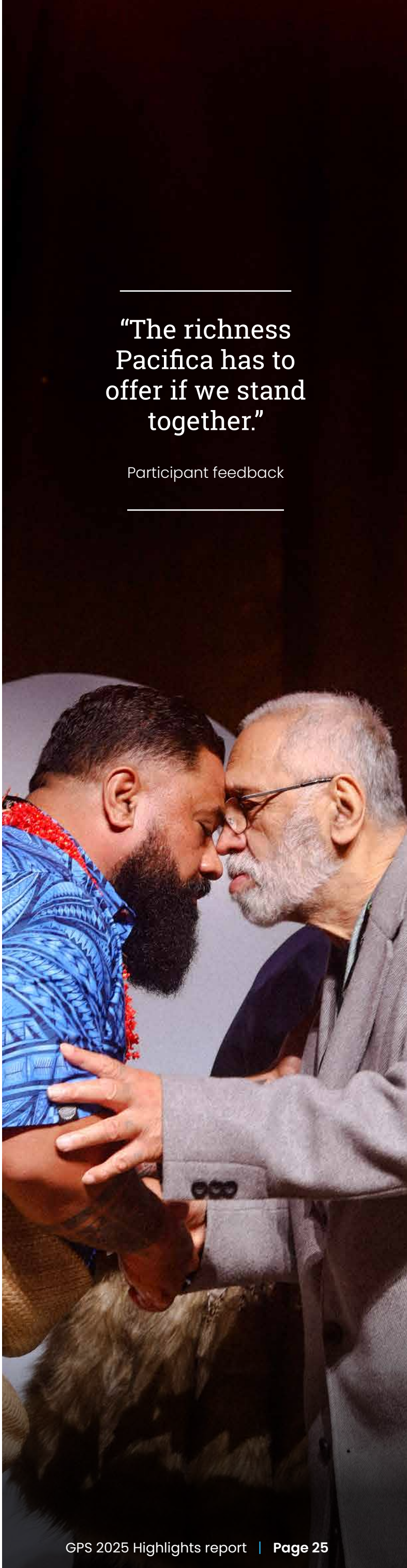
“We are strong when we are together, we need to talanoa more, our people need our voice to impact changes now.”

“The richness Pacifica has to offer if we stand together.”

“Knowing you are not alone in this field and feeling assured about the collaboration in the collective, there is power there.”

“The richness Pacifica has to offer if we stand together.”

Participant feedback







**GPS 2025 didn't just inspire intention, it ignited action, achieving a remarkable 96% follow-through rate that places it among the world's most impactful conferences for meaningful behaviour change.**

For those who had made changes, examples include:

**"It is challenging working with decision makers in the current environment, the conference reenergised me to continue to provide quantitative and qualitative data, keep sharing the impact and evidence for funding to be allocated equitably."**

**"It sparked a desire in me to embrace my identity as a Pacific woman, inspiring me to research our Pacific ancestors and their migration."**

**"More inclusion of our Pacific ways of being in the way I work, and programmes develop."**

**"I had shared some of the experiences I learnt from GPS with my work colleagues and in the youth spaces, we have adapted some of the core values."**

**"I approach my work with greater seriousness and purpose, recognising that we are all part of a larger mechanism working to support not only Pacific communities, but all communities across Aotearoa."**

**"Since attending the Le Va GPS Conference 2025, I've made several meaningful changes in how I approach my role as a support worker. One of the biggest shifts has been the way I integrate cultural frameworks into my everyday practice. For example, I now intentionally use Talanoa as a method of engagement — creating safe, open spaces for people to share their stories without judgement or pressure. This has helped build deeper trust and stronger relationships with the people and families I support."**

GPS 2025 was a catalyst for transformation, with an impressive 94% of attendees inspired to make significant changes in their mindset, work or lifestyle in the future. The conference profoundly uplifted participants, as highlighted in their heartfelt reflections:

**"All of it. My heart is full."**

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**"Inspiring to see brown Pacific excellence all in one space."**

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“Bold Brown and Beautiful -  
a lot of Pasifika people working  
across the country in a variety of  
roles making a huge difference.”

Participant feedback

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## Part 4 – Conclusion

### In conclusion

Le Va’s Global Pacific Solutions 2025 conference brought the village together. It was a special and powerful gathering of professionals, leaders and community members, all dedicated to uplifting the wellbeing of Pacific peoples.

Through plenary sessions, talanoa and keynote speeches, we explored tough issues, brainstormed ideas and ignited hope. Together, we engaged in enriching and sometimes challenging conversations that celebrated resilience and culture while exploring solutions grounded in Indigenous knowledge.

The stories and shared experiences showcased the brilliance of creativity and culture that will guide our journey forward. Our purpose is clear – to elevate Pacific wellbeing through innovative approaches and community-driven solutions. With a louder voice and a united front, we are creating meaningful connections and challenging cultural norms to better serve our people. The wisdom of our ancestors guides us, as does the enthusiasm of our young people.

The impact of GPS 2025 was powerful, leaving participants both inspired and equipped to make positive changes in their roles and communities. The event not only grew meaningful connections and strengthened networks but also sparked a collective ambition for genuine transformation. With a renewed commitment to weaving cultural values into their work, participants left with a full kete of tools and inspiration to approach their roles in serving people of the moana.

Looking ahead, the insights and relationships built at GPS 2025 will be vital in driving ongoing efforts to tackle the challenges faced by Pacific communities. Future GPS conferences can build on this strong foundation, offering even more interactive sessions and focusing deeply on practical solutions, while continuing to uplift, inspire and bring people together.

Let’s keep the momentum going. Together, we are making waves, advancing our communities and celebrating Pacific excellence. The future is bright, and it starts with us.



# Appendices

## GPS speakers

Meet the inspirational speakers and leaders of Global Pacific Solutions 2025 – sharing insights from around Aotearoa and the world.

### Day One GPS Conference opening



**Keri Opai**  
Wise Services Board member



**Whaea Tuahana Clark**  
Chairperson, Ngā Hua o te Rito Charitable Trust



**Rewiri Waaka**  
Te Ao Māori Lead, Workwise



**Reverend Uesifili Unasa**  
Reverend, Methodist Church of New Zealand  
Matua and Board member, Le Va



**Pakilau Manase Lua**  
Le Va Ringa Huti Punga – Pasifika Equity Lead



**Ben Tameifuna**  
Le Va Cultural Lead and Senior Manager – Disability & public health



**John Pulu**  
Master of ceremonies



# Nurturing our Children plenary panel

Lived experience stories and panel discussing child sexual abuse and child trafficking impacting Pasifika and Indigenous children across Aotearoa and Te-Moana-Nui-a-Kiwa.



**Denise Kingi-‘Ulu’ave**

Le Va Chief Executive  
Convenor



**Reverend Uesifili Unasa**

Reverend, Methodist Church  
of New Zealand  
Matua and Board member, Le Va



**Her Honour Judge Ida Malosi**

Her Honour Judge Ida Malosi,  
Principal Youth Court Judge



**Moeapulu Frances Tagaloa**

Chief of Staff, Global Operations  
& Fund Capacity



**Jane Searle**

Chief Executive, Child Matters



**‘Ofa Guttenbeil-Likiliki**

Director, Women & Children Crisis  
Centre – Tonga

# Moana Dreaming plenary panel

Visions of the future with cultural and academic experts who uplift Pacific and Indigenous knowledge and ways of being in their research, methodologies, and practice.



**Dr Elizabeth Mati**  
Le Va General Manager  
Convenor



**Prof. Waikaremoana Waitoki**  
Associate Professor,  
Te Pua Wānanga ki te Ao Faculty of  
Māori and Indigenous Studies



**Dr Emalani Case**  
Senior Lecturer -  
Māori and Pacific Studies, Waipapa  
Taumata Rau - The University of  
Auckland



**Prof. Jioji Ravulo**  
Professor and Chair of Social  
Work and Policy Studies,  
University of Sydney







# Conference dinner



**Taito Eddie Tuiavii**  
Principal Advisor Democracy and Engagement, Auckland Council  
Le Va Board member



**Sir Wayne 'Buck' Shelford and Lady Jo Shelford**  
Former All Black / Mātanga Rongoā (Rongoā Practitioner)



**Megan Mashali**  
Co-founder, Te Kiwi Māia Charitable Trust



**Caren Rangi**  
Chair, Pacific Homecare Services



**Gen 'Ilolahia**  
The Moanan, Pacific social enterprise



## Day Two

### GPS Conference opening



**Josiah Tualamali'i**

Children's Commissioner,  
Mana Mokopuna Children &  
Young People's Commission

Le Va Board Chair



**Moeapulu Frances Tagaloa**

Chief of Staff, Global Operations  
& Fund Capacity



**Roimata Prendergast**

Spoken word poet

## The Shifting Tides plenary panel

Discussion on the intersectionality of global issues, including climate change, how they relate to Indigenous sovereignty, and their impact on our mental health.



**Dr Monique Faleafa**

Partner, PwC

Founding chief executive of Le Va

Convenor



**Dr Evangelene Daniela-Wong**

Consultant Clinical Psychologist,  
Cook Islands Ministry of Health



**James Arriola**

Executive Director, Pacific  
Behavioral Health  
Collaborating Council



**Prof. Jemaima Tiatia-Siau**

Pro Vice Chancellor (Pacific),  
Waipapa Taumata Rau –  
The University of Auckland

# Global Pacific Solutions plenary panel

Harnessing creative solutions with next generation changemakers.



**John-Paul Foliaki**  
Artist



**Mea Motu**  
Professional Boxer

## Tu Tonu stream

### Mental health and addiction

Showcasing mental health and addiction work that enables tangata moana to reach their potential, maintaining strength and standing tall in the face of challenges.



**Dr MahMah Timoteo Tohoa Tetini**  
Environmental Anthropologist;  
Pacific Student Advisor,  
University of Canterbury



**Dr Siale Foliaki**  
Psychiatrist, Education Services NZ



**Dr Penni Wolfgramm**  
Clinical Psychologist, Village  
Collective; Pacific Rainbow+ Peoples  
Lead, Ministry for Pacific Peoples



**Markerita Poutasi**  
National Director –  
Pacific Health,  
Health NZ Te Whatu Ora



**Latayvia Tautai**  
Schools Partnerships Manager,  
World Vision



**Musu Tapu Sitagata**  
Samoan Language Lecturer,  
University of Auckland





**Tracey Potiki**

Kaiwhakahaere –  
Whare Tukutuku



**Terri Cassidy**

Senior Programme Manager,  
Te Rau Ora



**Sarah Helm**

Executive Director,  
NZ Drug Foundation



**Aaryn Niuapu**

Whaiora Whānau  
Lived Experience Director,  
Te Whatu Ora Te Toka Tūmai



**Pale Sauni**

MC Tu Tonu

## End Game stream

### Public health and disability support

Navigating challenging tides, building a thriving workforce, and empowering communities to achieve equitable health outcomes for Tangata Moana. “When the coconut tree bears fruit, the village is nourished, the children will flourish.”



**Ben Tameifuna**

Le Va Cultural Lead and Senior Manager – Disability & public health



**Pakilau Manase Lua**

Le Va Ringa Huti Punga – Pasifika Equity Lead



**Dame Teuila Percival**

Consultant Paediatrician and Associate Professor in Department Paediatrics, University of Auckland



**Sir Collin Tukuitonga**

Associate Dean Pacific, University of Auckland Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences



**Malaetogia Dr Jacinta Fa'alili-Fidow**

General Manager – Moana Research, Moana Connect



**Dr Corina Grey**

Deputy Secretary – Policy & Insights, Ministry for Pacific Peoples



**Dr Sione Faletau**

Arts & Culture Programmer, Auckland Council



**Leuluai'i Catherine Poutasi**

Director of Commissioning Disability Support services, MSD



**Nalei Taufa**

Research Operations Manager, Te Poutoko Ora a Kiwa – Research Centre for Pacific and Global Health





**Joshua Peauafi**  
Co-founder Potplant Studio



**Tara Aumalesulu**  
Student and Musical Artist



**Daniel Te'o**  
Specialist Advisor – Service  
Delivery Community &  
Engagement, Taikura Trust



**Tauti Jeremiah Tauti**  
Co-MC End Game



**Felicia Manase**  
Co-MC End Game

# Fonua to Moana stream

## Sexual violence prevention

Building a stronger community system to prevent sexual violence and child abuse, enabling thriving tangata moana.



**Taitu'uga Mirofora  
Mataafa-Komiti**  
Le Va Primary prevention  
manager



**Mariner Fagaiava**  
Journalist and Broadcaster



**Dr Jade Le Grice**  
Senior lecturer and Associate Dean  
Māori at the University of Auckland



**Peter-Jared (PJ) King**  
Director of Foundation Basketball  
Limited Founder of Kiwi Daddys  
Charitable Trust



**Serena Curtis**  
General Manager Pacific and  
Community Capability, MSD



**Liz Tanielu**  
Chief Advisor Te Puna Aonui



**Dr Alexander Stevens II**  
Senior Māori Lecturer, AUT &  
Indigenous healer



**Sylvia Yandall**  
Pasifika Services Manager HELP Akld  
Poutu Pasifika



**Kasi Valu**  
Actor, Writer, Producer, professional  
guesser





**Pelea Fruean**

Atu-Mai Youth Upstander



**Nele Kalolo**

Youth and Climate Change Advocate



**Jerry Seuseu**

Wellbeing and Education Manager, New Zealand Warriors



**Sati Ete**

MC Fonua to Moana

## Roots of Resilience stream

### Suicide prevention

In the arms of our ancestors – reflecting on our past, standing in the present, and looking to the future in our collective efforts to prevent suicide.



**Leilani Fina'i Clarke**

Le Va Senior manager suicide prevention – Pacific



**Tiana Watkins**

Le Va Senior manager suicide prevention – LifeKeepers



**Amituana'i Brooke Brake**

Clinical Manager CDS & 2IC  
Project Lead Aoake te Rā



**Matua Witi Ashby**

Kaumātua, Te Rau Ora



**Shaqaila Uelese**

Co-founder, Nevertheless Trust



**Chelsea Cuthers-Munro**

Short film maker



**Dr Melissa Cragg**

Manager – Service Commissioning  
Oranga Hinengaro, Hauora Māori  
Services Directorate, Te Whatu Ora –  
Health NZ



# Stallholders

Our GPS 2025 stallholders added to the vibrancy of the event by showcasing the creativity and innovation of our people.

From jewellery and baby essentials, to coffee and homeware, these services and incredible Pacific-owned and operated businesses added another dimension to the conference.

Many thanks to Moana Connect, Anapua, Casa NZ, Danika Cooper Jewellery, Four Shells Kava Lounge, Nevertheless, NZ Breast Cancer Foundation, One NZ Warriors, Pele Babies, Samāori, Under the Bird, Whenu Ataahua and all who joined Le Va at GPS 2025 to connect and support our communities.















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