

Pacific Advisory Group

Annual Report 2019

Chair's Introduction

Talofa Lava, Noa'ia, Malo ni, Mauri, Fakaalofa lahi atu, Ni Sa Bula Vinaka, Kia orana, Malo e lelei, Kia ora.

Warm Pacific Greetings from the Pacific Advisory Group (PAG).

This past year marked many turning points for PAG. Global events are continuing to impact on our communities in unprecedented ways, resulting in many changes and challenges we are facing head on as a country, a city and as communities. This season highlights the responsibility on PAG to fulfil our role as representatives of our Pacific communities, providing at all times a Pacific perspective to Wellington City Council (WCC). The need for robust relationships and an expansive network in Council is crucial. We aim to agree in principle to achieve well-being and success for our communities in our Wellington, our city, our home. Hence why we continue to emphasise a preferred strategy of early engagement of PAG when providing targeted advice to Council.

Our people are our biggest and most valuable asset. Le va (the space between) for Pacific peoples represents the relationships that co-exist between people and our environment. The value of those connections and the benefits it brings is the platform on which we aim to do all things. Maintaining that balance helps make our advisory role to Council and on behalf of our Pacific communities continuous and efficient. It enables us to provide advice that is ongoing, robust and invaluable.

As the Pacific eyes and voices within the Council, the value of our words and our genuine consultation as the voice of Pacific peoples is of utmost importance. We aim to encourage partnerships that promote the right kind of development especially in areas where Pacific residents are high and needs are targeted. This also highlights the importance of having accurate and up to date Pacific ethnicity data in our consultations with Council. We are acutely aware of the many critical projects and policies that identify evidence and solutions that take into account the wider needs, issues and views of our communities. We endeavour to provide advice of a specific perspective towards strategies and programs that are developed to reflect the needs of a growing Pacific people in our great city.

Jocelyn Kua, Chair Pacific Advisory Group



1. Membership

Jocelyn Kua	Tokelau	Chair
Anthony Carter	Samoa	Deputy Chair
Merio Marsters	Cook Islands	
Dr Alvin Mitikulena	Niue	
Ofania Ikiua	Niue	
Kira Hundleby	Melanesia (Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea)	
Sai Lealea MNZM	Fiji	
Aseri Kua	Fiji	
Mino Cleverley	Samoa	
Natalia Fareti	Samoa	
Dr Sunia Foliaki	Tonga	
Lisa Pouvalu	Tonga	

Vacancies (as at year end 2019):

Cook Islands – 1

Micronesia – 1

Tokelau – 1

Tuvalu – 2

2. Pacific Advisory Group: Priorities

PAG remains committed to contributing meaningfully to Council's priorities. Here is how our work matched up against the priorities in the Long-term Plan 2018-28.

2.1 Resilience and Environment - *Te manahau me te taiao*

There is a need for PAG to strengthen its relationship with the Environmental Reference Group.

PAG has provided feedback on Our City Tomorrow - Planning for Growth, with a focus on its impact on the Pacific communities in Wellington.

Climate change in the Pacific and its links into our Pacific community in Wellington, has the potential to inform other advisory groups and Council work in this area.

2.2 Housing - *Ngā kāinga*

With an increasing Pacific population in certain parts of Wellington, PAG's feedback into the City Housing - Growth and Urban Planning is critical. Having Pacific communities' perspectives included, on aspects such as urban amenities in different neighbourhoods and speed limits, is important. This is so that the ongoing development and provision of Council Housing services reflect the needs of its tenants. For instance, the intergenerational structure of many Pacific households means that housing layouts would need to take into account different demographic needs, such as rails in bathrooms for the elderly.

In 2019 PAG gave feedback on housing design and planning as part of a presentation made to the Accessibility Advisory Group.



2.3 Transport - Ngā waka haere

PAG has provided feedback on the following:

- Let's Get Wellington Moving
- Cycling Master Plan
- Accessible Parking around the City
- Parking policy Review

2.4 Sustainable Growth - Te kauneke tauwhiro

PAG supports Council policies and initiatives that seek to boost sustainable economic growth. In particular, those that can help increase the number of Pacific people getting into jobs, progress in their careers, and that encourage more Pacific people to get into business. PAG were invited to attend a presentation by the Embassy of Indonesia, about a planned Pan-Pacific business expo in Auckland in late 2019. PAG is a strong advocate of the Living Wage.

Empowering Young Pasifika for the Future

PAG partnered with the Wellington Central Branch of national organisation P.A.C.I.F.I.C.A Inc. to host a youth focused event targeted at sharing insights, tips and learnings on multiple topics. These topics included wellbeing, networking, financial literacy, knowing your niche, and practical tips for transition into the workforce.

2.5 Arts and Culture - Ngā toi me te ahurea

PAG celebrates and reinforces that Pacific communities offer a huge contribution to the New Zealand cultural fabric, whether that be in our social, societal, educational, spiritual, and economic spheres. It is the thread of fibre on the tapa that together creates and pulls together a powerful union of intelligent and strong people within our communities of Aotearoa. PAG understands and supports Poneke (Wellington) as an arts and cultural hub in New Zealand, where Pacific Artists thrive and connect their stories through their craft in storytelling through music, dance, visual art, theatre and film from the many diverse cultures that make up our Pacific nations within Aotearoa. This rich and connective bond make our communities a strong and colourful ta'ovala woven and brought together by a vibrant and colourful people.

Wellington Pasifika Festival

PAG recognises Wellington as a significant city for Pacific peoples to thrive:

- Wellington is a centre for world class Pasifika arts and cultural performances
- Traditional Pasifika art forms and cultural activities are preserved and protected
- Pasifika businesses, arts organisations and communities are strong, vibrant and active

PAG would like to see the Wellington Pasifika Festival grow and expand into other areas such as:

- Increasing the number of Pasifika cultural performances within Wellington (both traditional and contemporary)
- Increasing local business sponsorship and government agency participation at the Wellington Pasifika Festival
- Increasing the presence within the arts and cultural interface within Wellington and nationally



- Expanding on partnerships to diversify business networks and opportunities within New Zealand and into the Pacific
- Being open to and encouraging new activities associated with the Wellington Pasifika Festival as part of a regional festival programme, for example including tertiary institutions, universities, schools, and Pacific Language weeks

The Wellington Pasifika Festival needs to retain its Pasifika integrity and reflect the heart of the Pacific community in Wellington.

Fale Malae

The Fale Malae dream has been long in the making. It originally was a collective idea of PAG and Pacific communities. It has been a shared project, currently lead by the Honourable Luamanuvao Dame Winnie Laban DNZM QSO, Assistant Vice Chancellor (Pasifika) of Victoria University, as a member of the Fale Malae Trust, along with Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington, Central Government, and Pacific communities.

PAG fully supports the vision and building of the Fale Malae project and has supported in areas such as:

- Inviting the Honourable Luamanuvao Dame Winnie Laban to speak at PAG meetings to update us and our Pacific communities
- PAG attending meetings and presentations at various locations on the Fale Malae project in support of the Fale Malae Trust and other stakeholders
- PAG wrote a letter of support together with various Pacific community groups in support of the Fale Malae

3. PAG Consultations, Presentations and Feedback

PAG has provided feedback and consultation on the following:

- Let's Get Wellington Moving
- Smoke-free Wellington Action Plan
- Our City Tomorrow – Planning for Growth
- Alcohol Control Bylaw Review – Kilbirnie and Kelburn
- Parking Policy Review
- Review of WCC Advisory Groups

4. External Presentations and Programs

We continue to increase our awareness and engagement beyond WCC, re-iterating the principle of Le va (the space between) – strengthening relationships and remaining connected to our environment. PAG has achieved this with the following initiatives:

- Pasifika Financial Literacy Program
- Empowering Young Pasifika for the Future – P.A.C.I.F.I.C.A Inc. Event – Victoria University
- Pacific Heritage Arts Fono 2019
- Ministry for Pacific Peoples and WCC - Utilising Kapasa: The Pacific Policy Tool
- Palliative Care Amongst Pacific People in Aotearoa - Massey University (Dr Sunia Foliaki)
- 531PI Radio Interview – Local Authority Elections 2019
- Fale Malae Proposal
- Pacific Language Programs. Encouraging WCC to promote the use of Pacific languages.



Acknowledgements

PAG would like to acknowledge and farewell our following members - champions of our Pacific communities who have respectfully concluded their tremendous service to PAG and also those who will be outgoing following their second term. They have carried faithfully with great conviction the heart and desires of our Pacific people to Wellington City Council. We are in gratitude for their strength of mind, strength of character and firmness of purpose.

- Samson Samasoni – Tokelau (left 2019)
- Anne Allan-Moetaua - Cook Islands (left 2019)
- Dr Alvin Mitikulena – Niue (outgoing)
- Merio Marsters - Cook Islands (outgoing)
- Sai Lealea MNZM – Fiji (outgoing)

We would like to acknowledge and give thanks for the support and advocacy of our past and current Councillors Reverend Brian Dawson, Sarah Free, Jill Day, Rebecca Matthews and Teri O'Neill.

To Sean Johnson our Democracy Advisor and the team at Strategy and Governance; faafetai tele lava, vinaka vakalevu for your excellent service and support during this time.

Faafetai lava, Malo 'aupito, Fakaauae lahi, Meitaki maata, Vinaka vakalevu, Fakafetai, Tangiu tumas,
Fāiāk se'ea, Ngā mihi nui.

