

WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Pacific Advisory Group Meeting on 16 September 2009

Present:

Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako (Chairperson - Samoa)
Kolovula Murphy (Deputy – Tonga)
Mailigi Hetutu (Niue)
Mafi Katoa (Tonga)
Brenda Cottingham (Niue)
Malakai Jiko (Fiji)
Martha Ahmed (Tokelau)
Danny Kauraka (Cook Islands)
Lopati Tefoto (Tuvalu)
Ana To'o (Samoa)
Tina McNicholas (Fiji)
Avia Liai (Tuvalu)

Councillor Leonie Gill
Marie Retimanu-Pule
Bessie Fepulea'i
Trudy Jenkins
Sgt Bud Butler (Observer from the Police)

Welcome:

- Warm pacific greetings and welcome from the Chairperson who thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Opening Prayer:

- Avia Liai

Apologies:

- Deputy Mayor Ian McKinnon (who is attending the Wellington Airport Community Awards) and Councillor Iona Pannett
- It was noted that Kelisiana Alefaio had not sent in her apologies for the meeting and has also not been in attendance for three consecutive meetings nor sent in her apologies. It was agreed that in accordance with the Terms of Reference a letter would be sent to her stating that she could no longer be a member of the Pacific Advisory Group as she has breached the Terms of Reference.

PRESENTATION – Colin Tukuitonga, CEO, Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs

- Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako welcomed Colin Tukuitonga to the meeting and gave a quick introduction.
- Colin Tukuitonga said that the strategic direction of the Ministry was to assist Pacific people to be as successful as they can be. They do not deliver services on the ground and have been a policy only agency from the late 1990's. Their focus is on achieving two things, to increase the economic and living standards and more cohesive families in the Pacific communities. They have 40 people in the Ministry and their roles include supporting the Minister of Pacific Island Affairs, working with Pacific communities, a large part of their work is working with other Government agencies and they have flagship projects that they work on. He then gave a presentation on the following:

Outcome Areas

Improve economic wellbeing and living standards

Education and skills, employment, economic development, business health and housing (mainly in Auckland)

Cohesive and resilient Pacific families and communities

Languages, cultures, family and sexual violence, Pacific NGOs.

Current Work

Auckland strategy

Pacific economic action plan review

Remittances – www.sendmoneypacific.org

Pasifika education plan

Housing – HNZ Strategy, Tamaki ownership options

Health Plan

Talent and leadership development programme – public servants

Modern apprenticeship scheme

Youth opportunities package

Entitlements – not many Pacific people are aware of what they are entitled to

Pacific language strategy

MPIA nominations database (community support)

Starmap – www.pacificstarmap.com

Wellington Pacific Communities – these are groups that have received support from MPIA

Tokelau – Gagana Tokelau, bible translations

Niue – Niue arts and cultural festival, Vagahau Niue

Cook Islands – MYL website

Samoa – Samoan language competition

Fiji – Immigration, PSE

Tonga – homeownership, Vahefonua expo

General – Turama PacWel and Tu Tangata

Questions & Comments:

It was suggested that every quarter MPIA be invited to talk to the PAG so that there is ongoing communication between these two entities.

There are still some concerns about what MPIA is doing for the Pacific people. With regard to the home ownership scheme, we have not heard about this before but have attended a presentation from Housing NZ who are delivering this service for communities. *The home ownership scheme is running up in Auckland between banks and churches. We have been looking at this for Wellington but need to think about creative ways to do this.*

Would MPIA become a service role and provider? *This is not the Government's outlook for this department.*

What is the Ministry doing about child care centres and increasing the number of centres? *These are child care education centres. There are places in Porirua but families are not attending these centres and in Auckland there are not enough centres. The requirements are demanding to set up these centres and the Ministry are asking the Pacific Business Trust to help these centres run.*

With regard to the remittances, who can you complain to if people are charging too much? *The best way to do this is to just use the cheapest or best option for you. You can also look at the website for current rates. The other option is to contact Consumer Affairs.*

How are the community made aware of the work that the Ministry is doing and how do you get your information out to the community? *We have a regional office in Christchurch and one in Auckland, we hold meetings, we produce a newsletter and information can be obtained from our website. We do not have this capacity in Wellington yet but are looking to recruit a person to work with communities in the Wellington region.*

What about the community reference group? *This group was not very effective but we are looking to see how else we might re-establish relationships with the communities. This group had a purpose and value at the time but we have moved on from there. We need to think about how we develop relationships with the community again.*

Do you have a relationship with Local Government and how do you interact with them? *We are a department of the Government of NZ and therefore can only give advice. We have limitations as a political body and we have to work under these. We do not have a relationship with Wellington City Council as we do not have the capacity to do this.*

PRESENTATION – Beth Taylor, Researcher, Mary Potter Hospice

- Beth Taylor handed out copies of the eating related distress survey she is carrying out for Mary Potter Hospice. Currently 5-10% of people at the Hospice at Pacific with 5% Maori and 3% European. She needs feedback on her research study to make sure that it is culturally safe. She then went through her questionnaire. If anyone has any feedback please contact her at beth.taylor@marypotter.org.nz.

Questions & Comments:

Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako said that she would contact Beth Taylor and give her contact information on behalf of the PAG. She noted that a consent form should be included when conducting this survey.

Will this research only be conducted in Wellington? *Mary Potter Hospice only serves this DHB.*

Beth Taylor said that she requires a letter from the PAG to say that she has consulted with this group. Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako said that she would do this on behalf of the PAG.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

- The Minutes from the previous meeting were moved as a correct record by Malakai Jiko and seconded by Mailigi Hetutu.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- Bessie Fepulea'i will be having a meeting shortly with Asotasi Va'a Makisi from the Department of Labour. She will arrange for copies of his handouts to be sent out to members of the PAG.
- **Kilbirnie Meeting** – Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako noted that she attended the recent Kilbirnie Town Centre meeting.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako presented her report. At this time she noted that Deputy Mayor Ian McKinnon had come down earlier to the PAG meeting to greet members before attending the Wellington Airport Community Awards.

REPORT FROM COMMUNITY GROUPS

- **Samoa** – the Samoan representatives presented a written report from their recent community meeting. They noted that they had discussed what Grants are available via the Council and they would be discussing

disaster awareness with a presentation from WEMO and the Pasifika Festival at their next meeting.

- **Tuvalu** – are currently working with the Immigration Department regarding overstayers in Wellington. There are currently about nine families with overstayers and they are working on options for these families to apply to stay in New Zealand. Their National Day is on 3 October and celebrations will be held in Paremata.
- **Niue** – are currently looking at holding a constitution thanksgiving dinner. One of their groups has been nominated for the Wellington Airport Community Awards and their White Sunday was a successful event. They will be holding a Niue Language Fono from 2-6 November that will also be part of their constitution celebrations. Air New Zealand have offered 20 free seats to Niue to encourage business people to go to Niue and start up businesses.
- **Fiji** – will be celebrating Fiji Day on 10 October with a celebration being held at Frank Kitts Park. There will also be a Fiji Youth Forum held in November.
- **Tonga** – had a meeting on 7 September with a guest speaker from Housing New Zealand (a hard copy of meeting notes will be distributed to PAG members). They have also been discussing their performance and costumes for the Pasifika Festival and have raised over \$100,000 in fundraising for the Tongan boat sinking.
- **Cook Islands** – thanked members for their help with the fundraising radiothon held recently. They suggested that PAG should recommend to Council that there should be a relationship between Wellington City Council and Access Radio whereby there is a \$1 for \$1 subsidy arrangement. This idea was seconded by Kolovula Murphy. They also queried what the Council subsidise in terms of media. Bessie Fepulea'i said that she would look into this and report back to members.

There will also be a Cook Island Day on 26 September to be held in the Cook Island Hall in Cannons Creek. They are encouraging people to go on walks and have received funding from Pacific Health for this programme. They are also hoping to be able to organise a youth night.

- **Tokelau** – there will be a Tokelau Day in November and the acts have been finalised for this event. The information about this day will be available at the next PAG meeting. They have also organised their acts and crafts for the Pasifika Festival.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- Sgt Bud Butler introduced himself to the meeting and explained that he is the Cultural Liaison Officer with the Police. This is a newly created role in the Police Department. It was suggested that Sgt Butler give a presentation to the PAG on his new role. Bessie will liaise with Sgt Butler and organise this.
- **Pasifika Festival** – the festival map has now been prepared. There will be 14 food stalls this year with the food being required to be prepared in commercial kitchens by church community groups. The use of biodegradable food containers has also been discussed for the festival. It was decided that these containers not be used for the 2010 festival but they would be required by the 2011 festival.

The application forms are currently being prepared and will be ready for the next PAG meeting. These will also be handed out to churches, youth groups, mothers groups, fathers groups, etc. There will be a screening process for the applications by Bessie Fepulea'i, Marie Retimanu-Pule and the health inspectors.

Questions & Comments

It was noted that two stalls would not be enough for the Samoan community. *There is not enough room at Waitangi Park as this park is not big enough to have larger tents and the food stalls this year were too tight.*

There is no officially licensed kitchen for the Cook Island community to prepare their food in.

It was noted that there is a concern that with the requirement of food having to be prepared in licensed kitchens that the stalls will be allocated to businesses rather than the community. *It was noted that Council will be happy to work with groups to get their kitchens licensed.*

The next PAG meeting will be concentrated on organising for the Pasifika Festival.

- **2040 Feedback** – members were encouraged to make submissions, to attend feedback meetings and to encourage communities to also take part in this feedback.
- **Health, Wealth & Wellbeing Expo** – PAG members should encourage their communities to attend this upcoming expo on 1 October. Members should encourage their communities to look into the energywise subsidy for insulation as heating is a key issue for elderly people especially.

- **Tu Tangata** – communities were encouraged to attend the upcoming Tu Tangata event 24 September.
- **Events** – two upcoming events were noted and posters handed out – Miss Pacific and Turamafest.

Closing Prayer:

- Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako

Next Meeting: 21 October 2009

Meeting Closed: 8:20pm