

# Lynnfield College

## Pasifika Parents Talanoa Findings

Date of event: Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2019  
Venue: Lynnfield College  
No. people: 80 approx. in attendance  
Facilitators: Jeremiah Tauti (Mana Connections)  
Fritz Evile (NZQA)  
Ross Asiata (NZQA)

### Purpose of Talanoa

- To further develop stronger connections and effective collaboration between the school and its Pasifika families and community.
- Talanoa about the challenges around the future aspirations of our Pasifika students and their families
- What does success look like for Pasifika students and their families at Lynnfield College
- Insight into future career pathways provided by NZQA

### Methodology

Talanoa is a traditional form of communication and common across the island nations of the South Pacific underpinned by a number of entrenched values and aspirations.  
(Prescott, 2009).

The essence of talanoa is laced with cultural protocols and is carried out in an environment of trust, respect, cooperation and a willingness to establish and strengthen relationships, as well as reach a status of understanding in the context of the conversation (Halapua, 2013)

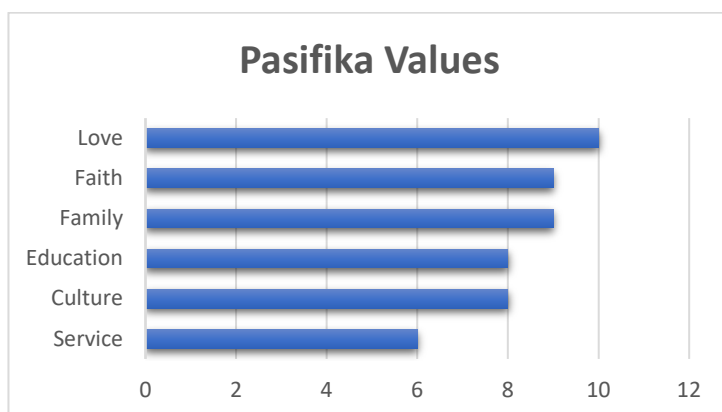
### Data

The data is qualitative in nature with parents via discussion groups, providing narratives in relation to their values and their experiences with their child/ren and interactions with the school.

Prescott, S.M. (2009). *Pacific Business Sustainability in New Zealand*. Auckland, New Zealand

Halapua, S. (2013). *Talanoa in Building Democracy and Governance* (A paper prepared for the Conference of "Future Leaders of the Pacific"). Pago Pago, American Samoa

## Pacific Values Data and Insights



- Eight groups of 6-8 parents made up the discussion groups.
- From a list of 12 common values, groups were asked to identify their top 6.
- Groups identified their chosen values from their cultural context and communicated how this shaped their worldview, way of life and social interactions.

**Value list:** Career, Communication, Culture, Education, Faith, Family, Leadership, Love, Religion, Respect, Service and Wealth.

The following six values were identified as the most prominent; Love (10), Faith (9), Family (9), Education (8), Culture (7), Service (6). Each group provided insight into their chosen values which the essence of their feedback has been captured in the table below.

Love (10)	Family (9)	Faith (9)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Love underpins the notion of sacrifice which became the main driver for past generations migrating to Aotearoa for better education and career opportunities</li> <li>• The defining quality that keeps families accountable to one another</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Important discussions and decisions concerning the wellbeing of the family or its individuals are made as a collective</li> <li>• Extended Family play a vital part in terms of support</li> <li>• Love, Respect, Humility and Unity underpin this notion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spirituality plays an essential role in wellbeing for most Pasifika families</li> <li>• Church is a gathering place of spiritual encouragement and communal support</li> <li>• Is a cornerstone principle of all Pacific nations</li> </ul>
Education (8)	Culture (7)	Service (6)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents often share their sacrifices and challenges they've faced as motivation for their children to do well in the realms of education</li> <li>• Parents see education as the vehicle that will provide better future prospects for the next generation and thus a strong emphasis is placed on children succeeding in this realm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consists of two components which are identity &amp; language</li> <li>• Culture is a vital component in heritage and lineage and links families back to their origins</li> <li>• Learning your <i>reo</i> (language) further strengthens ones cultural identity and belonging and thus is encouraged</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pasifika work together well in collective settings.</li> <li>• Service is a significant part of Pasifika families whether at home, church, school or in the community there is a willingness to serve</li> <li>• Effective communication in cultural context points to the need for cherishing, nurturing and respecting the <i>Va</i> (Relational Space)</li> </ul>

## Talanoa Insights

Information obtained from the discussion groups have been captured, synthesised and themed as follows;

CULTURE & IDENTITY	COMMUNICATION	CHALLENGES	PARENTS & COMMUNITIES
<p>Parents and students felt a lack of recognition of Pacific language and culture within the school.</p> <p>Identity. Language and Culture must be more visible and valued within school walls some ideas of this could potentially be;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More Pasifika students in prefects</li> <li>• Celebration of Pacific language weeks</li> <li>• More Pasifika teachers, teacher aid, mentors</li> <li>• Having Pacific language classes</li> <li>• Polyfest group</li> </ul>	<p>The majority of parents felt valued and respected with the Talanoa evening event and expressed a desire to see this continue in order to establish stronger connections with the school</p> <p>School to provide more up to date information about events and happenings in the school to families and community.</p> <p>Parents acknowledged there must be more open communication and transparency between families and schools but was dependent on relationships. Emphasis needs to be placed on building the relationship.</p>	<p>Too many subjects that are not applicable to student career path.</p> <p>Influences on young people have changed parents need to make time to better understand the challenges their students are facing.</p> <p>Students Procrastinating, distracted, facing peer pressure, high expectation from parents, too involved with extracurricular activities.</p> <p>Access to education is not free, cost of uniforms, school lunches, internet, devices – A focus must be made on accessibility so that families are not disadvantaged.</p>	<p>Parents have a desire to support their child's learning and to learn alongside them with the involvement of the school, the church and the wider community</p> <p>Parents want an opportunity to support the school to collaboratively build cultural competence.</p> <p>Support for parents with English as second language to communicate with teachers.</p> <p>Parents and families wanted to upskill and learn about ways to support their child's learning i.e. Portal</p>
TEACHING & LEARNING	SUCCESS	WELLBEING	Statements
<p>More Pacific teachers are needed to reflect the Pacific learner population and to help sustain the culture, language and identity of Pacific students.</p> <p>Teachers need to be more responsive to the learning styles, strengths, struggles, culture, language and interests of Pasifika students and use these to make learning more relevant and interesting.</p> <p>Students felt that some bias and racism from teaching staff which created tension</p> <p>Students felt some of the classroom conditions needed to be upgraded and conducive for learning.</p>	<p>Students need to have high expectations for themselves and not be satisfied with just 'good grades'.</p> <p>More visible Pacific role models within the school helps students to visualise success and have something to aspire to.</p> <p>More Pacific student representation in School prefects.</p> <p>Pacific students need to have high expectation of themselves and this must be reciprocated by teachers and supported by parents.</p> <p>Career pathways conversation needs to be more frequent with students and families to enable them to make informed choices.</p>	<p>Some students are facing peer pressure, high expectation from parents and are too involved with extracurricular activities parents must have more courageous conversations with their child to understand these pressures.</p> <p>The roles, responsibilities and high expectations on Pacific young people in their communities is both a source of motivation and pressure that can negatively affect wellbeing. More talanoa about some of these unique pressures how this impacts mental health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Idea to have well-being mentoring programme for Pasifika students that is relevant and responsive to their way of life.</p>	<p><i>"Our fale (values) are adaptable and what makes us who we are" (Parent)</i></p> <p><i>"Tonight's talanoa has allowed us to come together and create a stronger bond with one another" (Parent)</i></p> <p><i>"Influences have changed and our students are faced with more challenges us parents need to communicate with them to understand" (Parent)</i></p> <p><i>"Us parents need a better understanding of the career pathways to better support our children in their future choices" (Parent)</i></p> <p><i>"I love my family and want to make them proud, I just need them to understand..." (Student)</i></p>