

Feb 20 2014 pfd

**To: The CEDAW Shadow Report Committee**

**From: President PACIFICA Inc.**

**Re Pacific priorities for the NZ CEDAW Shadow report committee**

## Introduction

The PACIFICA report on the Status of Pacific Women in New Zealand is in draft. Drawing on report findings to date and setting these against materials such as CEDAW, the UN Report back to NZ and priorities expressed by Pacifica members at the AGM (2013) and branch programs, three priority Pacific areas for consideration are presented, subject to PACIFICA AGM feedback. These are:

- A Family violence
- B ECE - from the perspective of Pacific children's right to cultural and language security
- C Maternal MCH

Each of these three priority impact on the security of Pacific families and family members. Each also relate back to how Pacific women are positioned in New Zealand as a migrant/ minority group. Third, while each is underpinned by a human rights stand, these are also grounded in Pacific cultural values and beliefs and, solutions.

For this paper the term Pacific is used, recognising the many diverse faces and experiences of 'being Pacific' For example, NZ data shows over 60% Pacific peoples are now New Zealand born, increased multi-ethnicity, a significant numbers of third and fourth generation families and also, as will be seen, changes to the composition of Pacific families in NZ today (Ref )

### ACTION for each of the three priority areas

#### \*Data

Available data should be reviewed for relevance of context, design and translation for linguistically diverse populations. Interpretation of data must be contextualised with an in-depth understanding of the perspectives, values, world views and cultural beliefs of the group being assessed. For culturally diverse and vulnerable mothers, this information is best attained through qualitative research based on cultural and other methodologies appropriate for the diverse population groups (see Pacific perspectives Report 2014)

\*Programmes tailored to the data.

The concept of Family violence is directly contrary to Pacific valuing of the family systems.

Data on the extent and nature of violence generally in New Zealand and within Pacific families is growing. Most often the very little data available is set against a number of provisos. For example the NZ Police data notes:

The figures are sourced from official crime statistics – recorded and resolved offences and apprehensions – for the years 2000 to 2006 and from the Police Family Violence Database for 2006. It is likely that family-violence related offending is significantly under-reported to Police. It is important that inferences about trends in such offending should not be made from these statistics alone as they may simply be reflecting changes in inclination to report. In 2005, Police changed their IT system to the National Intelligence Application (NIA). This system change is likely to have resulted in an increase in recorded domestic violence over time and a particular step-increase in mid-2005. [p.12]

#### Available data

##### 1 Apprehensions for family-violence-related offences (NZ Police data Source: ....p12)

- Family-violence-related offences increased by 69% from 17, 552 in 2000 to 29, 708 in 2006
- Family-related violent offences increased by 63% from 10,503 in 2000 to 17,128 in 2006.
- Of all apprehensions for family-violence-related offences in 2006: females 12% and males 86%; age-wise, 45% were aged under 30 years old; ethnically, Pacific peoples accounted for 12%, compared with 40% NZ Europeans ('Caucasians').
- Males accounted for almost all apprehensions for violent sexual offences against family members.

##### 2 The Family Violence Database, 2006 <sup>1</sup>:

###### *Male against Female:*

- Majority of offenders recorded were males (81%) and majority of victims were females (81%)
- Ethnically: Pacific accounted for 12% of all offenders and 10% of all victims; and Caucasians, 36% and 38% respectively.
- 12% of men convicted of male-assaults-female offences were of Pacific ethnicity, 29% NZ European, 53% Maori and 3% of other ethnicity.
- Of men convicted of M-A-F offences: 7% were in their teens, 37% were aged 20-29 years, 33% were aged 30-39 years, and 25% were aged 40 years or over.

###### *Assault on a child:*

- 24% of persons convicted of assaulting a child were female; 76% were male
- 19% of men convicted were Pacific, 29% NZ European, 47% Maori, 1% other ethnicity.
- 1% of persons convicted were in their teens, 23% were aged 20-29 years, 35% were aged 40 years and over, and 40% was aged 30-39 years.
- Pacific children accounted for 12% of all children and young people found to have experienced sexual abuse, 44% were European and 33% were Maori.
- Young people appeared to be more psychologically abused than other age groups, in particular, young males.
- Pacific peoples were abused more often. As well as those living in the most deprived fifth (20%) of NZ.

### 3 Plunket client referrals to other services:

- Referrals to other services to address family violence concerns: Pacific 18%, NZ European 39% and Maori 33%.
- Referrals to other service to address child protection concerns: 9% Pacific, 39% NZ European and 43% Maori.

#### *Family member abuse:*

- Family members responsible for elder abuse: 35% were women and 65% men.
- Of those whose ethnicity was known: 2% Pacific, 2% Asian, 3% other European, 13% Maori and 80% NZ European.
- Of those whose age was known: 19% were aged 35-44 years or 55-64 years, 25

### 4 Police Statistics 2010/2011

- About half of all homicides in New Zealand are family violence
    - On average 14 women, 7 men and 8 children are killed by a member of their family every year
    - From 2002-2008 there were 186 family violence deaths
      - 100 partner homicides; 49 child homicides; 37 other family homicides
      - most perpetrators of all family violence homicides are male (86% of partner
      - 11% of victims were Pacific, 39% Maori, 34% Pakeha, 11% Asian, 1% other
      -
  - *Partner Abuse:*
    - 1 in 3 women experience physical or sexual violence from a partner in their lifetime
    - 78% of partner homicides in NZ are men killing their current or ex female partner; 9% are men killing their ex-partner's new boyfriend
    - 2% are women killing their male partner
    - 29% of women and 9% of men experience unwanted and distressing sexual contact over their lifetime
- [Source: Campaign Against Family Violence (2009)]

### 5 *Sexual abuse*

Around 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 10 boys in New Zealand have experienced sexual abuse.

#### *Sexual Violence: (NZHRC 2012, p8).*

- The gender of victims of sexual violence is between 92-95% female
- Most at risk are young women, women who have been victimised before and people with disabilities.
- Young women between 16 and 30 years of age comprise 66-70% of victims.
- Approximately 10% are Pacific, 30% Maori and 50% are NZ European, under a third

There is a gap in service provision of culturally appropriate services for diverse populations (including Pacific people)

### **PACIFIC AND ABUSE**

- Evidence suggests that Pacific women suffer severe consequences from partner violence but are often reluctant to report abuse. Improving the situation for Pacific women is also likely to have a positive impact on Pacific children.
- The Pacific Islands Families study suggests that Pacific women are also perpetrators in some situations.
- A Crime Survey (Mayhew and Reilly 2007) concludes that Pacific peoples have risks about one-fifth higher than the average of criminal victimisation, including family violence. **Pacific women who have experienced family violence report that it is often severe and ongoing, with a high impact on**

**children.** Some studies have shown that female victims would rather protect their male partners (and perpetrators) than seek medical help for physical injuries (Koloto 2003).

- Pacific peoples accounted for 12.1% of all apprehensions by the Police for family violence over the 2006/07 financial year. This is almost double the proportion of Pacific peoples in the total New Zealand population at the 2006 census. Almost half (43.8%) of apprehensions of Pacific peoples took place in Counties Manukau. (pg. 21).
- Intimate partner violence (IPV): Anecdotal evidence suggests that Pacific women are reluctant to report abuse or injury and, when they do, their situation is usually more severe or urgent.
- From the Ministry of Justice data based on the NZ Crime & Safety Survey 2006: Pacific people were more likely to report that they were very worried about victimisation than people of other ethnicities; and women in the 'other' ethnic category (includes both Pacific & Asian women) were most likely to report that fear of crime had a high impact on their quality of life (18%).

Source:

MSD TAVF (2009), and MoJ stats (NZ Crime & Safety Survey 2006, 15yrs & over) in MWA (2008, Ind 4 Change).

#### *A yet unexplored question*

The Families Commission: Report One: Pacific Families now and in the future: changing pacific household composition and wellbeing (1981 – 2006) notes that in the 1981- 2006 period there has been changes in the household composition for Pacific households in Auckland - a) increase in shared household b) decrease in nuclear c) increase in solo headed households Table 2.8

**TABLE 2.8: Distribution of household categories for Pacific households in Auckland**

Household composition	1981 (%)	1986 (%)	1991 (%)	1996 (%)	2001 (%)	2006 (%)
Couples without children	1,311 (9.5)	1,572 (9.1)	2,034 (8.6)	2,637 (8.9)	3,060 (9.7)	3,564 (9.6)
Single-parent families	1,116 (8.1)	1,563 (9.0)	3,444 (14.6)	3,708 (12.6)	4,185 (13.3)	5,079 (13.7)
Other one-family households	10,287 (74.4)	11,895 (68.9)	15,234 (64.5)	17,808 (60.3)	19,020 (60.5)	21,705 (58.4)
Multi-family households	1,116 (8.1)	2,241 (13.0)	2,907 (12.3)	5,376 (18.2)	5,184 (16.5)	6,789 (18.3)

In many cases a relationship between solo headed households, increased 'stress' lack of protection through the extended family systems is proposed.

Recommendations from numerous reports have been that adequate data be collected on the prevalence, causes and consequences of violence to serve as a basis for comprehensive and targeted interventions.

The importance of ECE is noted in the NZ National Educational strategy (MOE) and, as one of the three pillars in the MOE PEP strategy.

Pacificans seek to remind:

That language and cultural security are at the heart of self-concept and identity and, that there is a positive relationship between self-concept and academic achievement.

The importance of culture and language to identity, self-concept and also to educational achievement (references) (SEE unesco convention...)

And so, the importance of Pacific languages and culture within the national ECE provisions in a) as in the Pacific specific ECE provisions such as the Aoga Amata but also b) within the mainstream provisions.

### New Zealand Pasifika Community Language Competencies 1996-2006

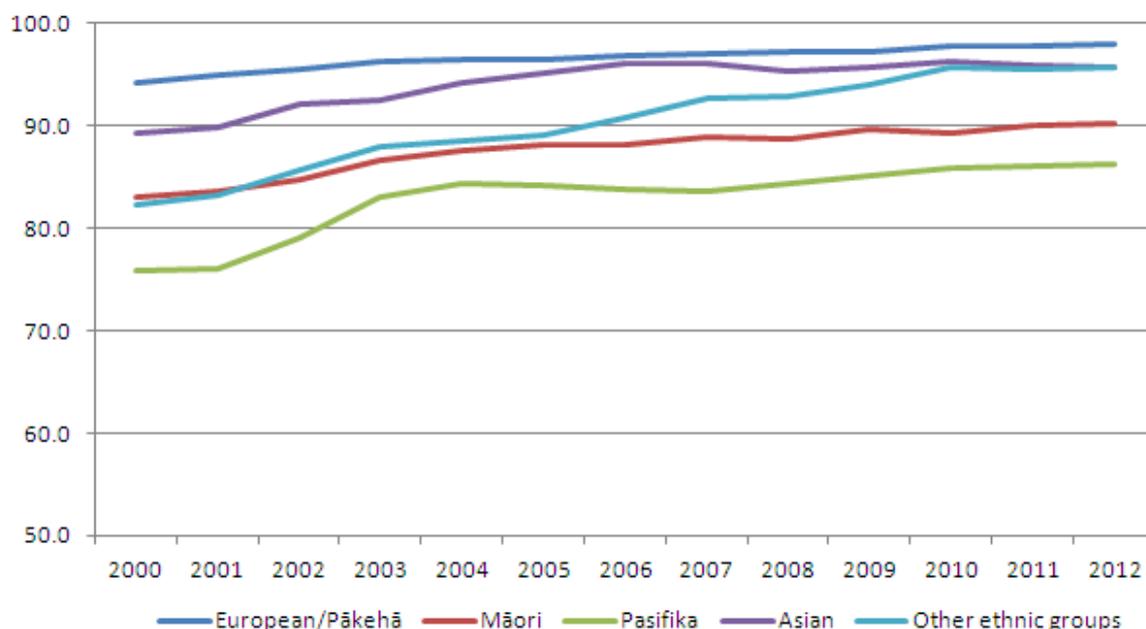
Language	Population 2006	Median age	Percentage of the Population speaking the language		
			1996	2001	2006
Cook Island Māori	58,011	19yrs	20%	18%	16%
Fijian	9861	24yrs	26%	28%	29%
Niuean	22,473	20 yrs	34%	28%	25%
Samoan	131,100	21yrs	68%	67%	63%
Tokelauan	6819	19yrs	56%	44%	40%
Tongan	50,478	19yrs	63%	60%	61%
Tuvaluan	2625	20yrs	Not available	72%	71%
n=	265,974				

Sources: Statistics New Zealand (2006, 2001, 1996) Pacific Profiles, Population Characteristics.

#### *Pacific participation in ECE*

There have been steady rises in ECE participation between 2000 and 2012. Pasifika children continued to be the least likely to attend ECE, along with Maori, whilst European children were the most likely to attend ECE across the period with participation rates reaching 98.0 percent (Education Counts, 2012. See Figure ).

Figure xx: Prior participation in ECE of children starting school by ethnic group, 2000-2012



Note: Analysis uses prioritised ethnic groups from 2000 to 2009 while total response ethnic groups are used from 2009 onward.

**Pasifika Education Plan Target**

Increase by 2016, the number of Pasifika ECE Language Services teaching in a Pasifika language or culture over 50% of the time.

**Pasifika ECE Language Services teaching in a Pasifika language or culture over 50% of the time, and number of Pasifika enrolments by service classification**

Year	Services teaching in a Pasifika language or culture over 50% of the time		Number of Pasifika enrolments in Services teaching in a Pasifika language over 50% of the time	
	Number	% of all ECE services	Number	% of all Pasifika enrolments
2009	88	2.3%	2464	22.9%
2010	91	2.3%	2579	22.1%
2011	97	2.4%	2668	21.4%
2012	92	2.3%	2614	20.0%

By 2012, 86.8% of Pasifika children had participated in ECE before starting school, compared with 75.8%, in 2000. There were also two distinct periods of enrolment growth. The introduction of 20 Hours ECE in that year encouraged higher uptake of ECE across all groups of children and accounts for the increase. The ECE Participation Programme was introduced in 2010 to improve participation in ECE, by targeting specific local areas where participation is low. This Programme is made up of various projects that aim to support for example Pasifika and low-income families to enrol their children in ECE. In 2012, 96 percent of children in the Programme came from target groups; with about 44% of the participants being Pasifika children.

*ECE Teachers*

- In 2011 65.3% of Pasifika early childhood teachers were registered teachers. It is forecast that by 2012, the proportion of Pasifika teachers registered will be the same as non-Pasifika ECE teachers.
- The number of registered Pasifika ECE teachers in 2011 was 1,120. The target for registered Pasifika teachers in 2012 is 1,208. (MoE, 2013)

High perinatal mortality rates nationally:

For Pacific women, more than half of the excess deaths occurred in the Maternal Care period- should be the focus (for Maori and Asian the predominant risk period was maternal health)

The perinatal period ... a time for health messages such as strategies to reduce smoking in pregnant women, culturally appropriate nutritional interventions to reduce pregnancy obesity. That, mothers do not experience maternity health care in isolation from other health care services... their experiences here, will affect future engagement ....

#### *Findings*

That teen, young, Maori, Pacific and other vulnerable groups received poor service – in an environment characterised by ambiguity, uncertainty and chaos (p12)

#### *Data and strategies (as above)*

\*Patient satisfaction surveys and complaint mechanisms need to be reviewed for relevance of content, design and translation for linguistically diverse populations. Interpretation of data must be contextualised with an in-depth understanding of the perspectives, values, world views and cultural beliefs of the group being assessed. For culturally diverse and vulnerable mothers, this information is best attained through qualitative research based on cultural and other methodologies appropriate for the diverse population groups.

\*For Pacific families, a strategy to support improved health care literacy is required. Innovative initiatives and monitoring and evaluation for effectiveness to ensure improved community between Pacific mothers and health providers especially in the maternity care period. Specific topics post natal contraception information in Pacific languages (e.g. Tongan and Samoan)

\*review of mechanisms used for patient and consumer input including:

Expanding options and opportunities for teen, young, Pacific and vulnerable mothers to provide quality input to and participate in decision-making processes.

Putting in place a wider variety of feedback processes that allow increased 'real time' feedback from teen, young, Pacific, vulnerable mothers and for their family members about service experience

Continuing to undertake quantities research based on cultural and other methodologies appropriate for the diverse population groups

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