**Dr Jean Mitaera** on professionalism (from Whanau Manaaki conference 2015)

Being professional is more than being qualified. It means being professional 24/7, not just in work hours. It means taking ownership for your own leadership, continuing to hone your expertise and to grow. Being professional means being trustworthy and accountable, and being loyal to your employer and colleagues. It involves sharing knowledge and skills with colleagues, being prepared to do more than what is expected of you, and keeping confidences. A professional teacher can articulate their practice, and also does what they say they do. Their practice is planned, they are not ’winging it’. The number one priority is the safety of children. It is also important to hold the right attitude in your heart. A professional carries their profession with honour and dignity, is mindful, confident and competent. Dr Jean Mitaera is Cook Islands Mᾱori and is the leader of the social work programme at Whitireia. She has a background as a researcher, educator, trainer and facilitator. Her current research involves success for Pacific tertiary students.

**PACIFICA INC National Executive Members under Jeans leadership as National President**

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| National President | Jean Mitaera | Feb - 2001 AGM | Newtown, Wellington | 2 x Terms  | 4 yrs |
| Vice President, Northern Region | Seiuli Moera Walker | Feb - 2001 AGM | Newtown, Wellington | 2 x Terms  | 4 yrs |
| Vice President, Central Region | Rowena Sutton | Feb - 2001 AGM | Newtown, Wellington | 2 x Terms  | 4 yrs |
| Vice President, Southern Region | Misa Emma Kesha | Feb - 2001 AGM | Newtown, Wellington | 2 x Terms  | Plus 2 x Terms |
| National Secretary | Josephine Bartley | Feb - 2001 AGM | Newtown, Wellington | 2 x Terms  | Plus 2 x Terms |
| Assistant National Secretary | Poko Tuaiti | Feb - 2001 AGM | Newtown, Wellington | part Term | resigned Sep '01 |
| Assistant National Secretary | Anne Moefa'auo | Oct - 2001 | Appointed by National Exec | part Term |
| National Treasurer | Debra Kesha-Lloyd | Feb - 2001 AGM | Newtown, Wellington | 4 x Terms | 8 yrs |
| National Assistant Treasurer | Sally Dalhousie | Feb - 2001 AGM | Newtown, Wellington | 2 x Terms  | 4 yrs |
| Young PACIFICA |  |  |  |  |  |