

## 2022 Match Summary

Name of Match: **Building links between leaders from Pacific Nations for Well-Being**

Location of Match: Auckland, New Zealand

1. Describe the **purpose** of the match: (Maximum 500 words)

The purpose of the match was to connect Pacific mental health, addiction and disability service leaders through rich talanoa or sharing of experiences, bright spots, challenges, opportunities and innovation with the aim to identify future opportunities for collaboration that can lead to improvements in the quality of service delivery of mental health, addiction and disability services.

A virtual meeting was held 6 months earlier with the Pacific sector leaders to discuss areas of interest to help the host organisation put together a programme that will be meaningful to all participants. Areas of key interest including Youth community services, drug and alcohol (addiction services) and Pacific community provider services.

The two-day face to face exchange provided an opportunity to visit a range of community services including Pacific NGO providers delivering addictions, housing and mental health services working in partnership with specialist mental health, addiction and disability services publicly funded in New Zealand.

2. Describe the **leaders** who participated in the match (for example, were some of them peers, youth, family/caregivers, practitioners, policy makers, clinicians? Were they from community settings, government, NGOs, clinical settings?) (Maximum 500 words)

The participant group were made up of clinical leaders and heads of departments from across eight Pacific Island nations. Participants were from the following 8 Pacific countries - Vanuatu, Samoa, Fiji, Tuvalu, Tonga, New Zealand, Niue and Kiribati. There was a small group of Pacific leaders attending from Auckland New Zealand (host).

Many were clinical leaders from publicly funded health organisations and some local NGO services in the Pacific. One participant was a Member of Parliament from the island of Tuvalu. Clinical specialty was represented in this group including nursing, clinical psychology, nursing and operational managers or policy makers.

3. What do you see as the **game changer** for this match topic? (Game changer is defined as a newly introduced element or factor that changes an existing situation or activity in a significant way) (Max 500 words)

The exchange included site visits to community Pacific NGO providers delivering housing and wellbeing support services in South and West Auckland. Le Va, the Pacific workforce centre presented on the second day with a tour of Auckland's new state of the art Adult Inpatient Unit Tiaho Mai was also included.

The group were generously hosted by the CEOs and leadership staff of these organisations. The group were welcomed by each organisation in the customary Pacific way which help set the stage for rich exchange of ideas and talanoa.

The group visited a community detox unit and received presentation from both the Youth community addiction service (Altered High) and Auckland's newly refurbished Adult community detox service.

The two day programme concluded with a dinner hosted by the Hauora team within Price Water House at their Auckland City Office.

Aotearoa New Zealand's focus on building community solutions and increasing primary mental health and addictions services was something the group found inspirational and aspirational. However, the smaller Island Nations also acknowledged the challenges in having these funded.

4. How will the match **support inclusion, resilience and growth** for this match topic and for the leaders who attended: (Maximum 500 words)

For the first time this year IIMHL has opened the door for sector clinical leaders and policy makers from Pacific countries to attend and share and learn from other international leaders of Mental Health, Addiction Disability services. The match programme was built on Pacific values of respect, reciprocity and collectivism.

Great examples of inclusion, resilience and growth were shared by the Pacific NGO providers which gave reassurance, encouragement and motivation to Pacific leaders in ways they can make a difference in the services they lead.

Through Pacific values, the exchange of ideas and knowledge and probably more importantly the connection and relationships established among the Pacific participants will support ongoing exchanges ideas and experiences into the future.