

27.08.21

Talofa lava Mr Chair, and Panel Members of Te Arotake i te Anamata mō Ngā Kaunihera,

My best wishes for the complexity of what you are working on, in the added challenges of Alert Level 4. I see from your webpages on the DIA site you have an upcoming interim report to the Minister signalling the intended direction of your mahi. I wanted to raise an area of opportunity that I ask is please included in this vision and your future work.

I was one of the Panel Members of Oranga Tāngata, Oranga Whānau (the Government Inquiry into Mental Health and Addiction, 2018). In our report we highlighted a vision for Pacific peoples wellbeing 'Vai Niu' drawing on the metaphor of nourishing coconut water.<sup>1</sup> There is an aspect of Vai Niu that I would like to specifically raise in the context of your review:

“To achieve equity for Pacific peoples, barriers of stigma, discrimination, institutional racism and unconscious bias must be eliminated and access to services improved. All people, including Pacific Rainbow communities, will be embraced for who they are... Greater recognition of the peoples of the Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau and those nations' constitutional agreements with New Zealand is essential.”

In my view most Local Government entities in Aotearoa minimally demonstrate that Aotearoa is a Pacific country, and further, I do not see that our national constitutional relationships and obligations translate into a standard of how Local Government operate. There is a greater need for people of Aotearoa and Local Government entities to understand and deepen Pacific ways of being, and Pacific relationships being picked up in the everyday such as a focus on Realm regions of partnership rather than Sister Cities alone which sit further away and which we don't have constitutional obligations to.

It is important to me that my letter here is understood to not undermine Te Tiriti, rather as our constitutional foundation, these relationships sit alongside it. In my view these responsibilities are enhanced by tangata whenua and their journeying from the Pacific, and so instead we have this

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<sup>1</sup> <https://mentalhealth.inquiry.govt.nz/inquiry-report/he-ara-oranga/chapter-3-what-we-think/3-5-vai-niu-pacific-health-and-wellbeing/>

need that these relationships are not foreign affairs and we nationally shift to whangatanga affairs. Here is a summarised timeline of the constitutional Pacific relationships Aotearoa holds, that in my view deserve a national Local Government approach to.

	Cook Islands	Niue	Tokelau	Samoa
Annexed into New Zealand.	1901	1901		
Ruled by New Zealand.			1926 (From Britain), fully incorporated in 1948	1914 (Took from Germany)
Now 'In free association' <sup>2</sup>	4 August 1965	19 October 1974	-	-
Independence				1962
Apology from NZ Crown				2002

I know of one example of a Local Government entity hearing what has been missing and is attempting to address this. The Christchurch City Council in their most recent Communities Strategy review which is going out for consultation on September 10<sup>th</sup> is intending to address this gap.<sup>3</sup>

“It is also important to ensure that the refreshed strategy aligns with the Pacific world view of wellbeing and community. Consideration should also be made of the constitutional responsibility Aotearoa has to the realm of New Zealand Countries – The Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau.” (Page 14)<sup>4</sup>

The Realm was also raised in the persuasive Waka Kotahi sponsored report “The relationship between transport and mental health in Aotearoa New Zealand”

“We are reminded of the special relationships Aotearoa has with our Pacific neighbours as well as the Treaty of Waitangi, and that transport policy should reflect these partnerships.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/countries-and-regions/australia-and-pacific/cook-islands/new-zealand-high-commission-to-the-cook-islands/about-cook-islands/>

<sup>3</sup> Attached below is the submission I wrote including Pacific Peoples feedback to the CCC over 8 years to support you seeing some of the desires of my communities here raised.

<sup>4</sup> <https://ccc.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Consultation/2021/08-August/Strengthening-Communities-Strategy-Refresh-Community-Engagement-Report-.pdf>

“Transport policy also has to be cognisant of our constitutional relationships and the realm of New Zealand and the Treaty of Friendship with Samoa, not just the Treaty of Waitangi and the partnership that guarantees. And I think in all our policies that’s the second part that yeah that’s the ‘poor cousin’ of the Treaty.” (Page 41)<sup>5</sup>

Outside of this need we are seeing some good examples of shift happening but unfortunately not systemically enough including in the work of the Climate Change Commission.<sup>6</sup>

As you can see I have big hopes for the future of Local Government, and your review. I very much want your work to succeed and if I can support in any way I am available to provide more evidence, link you to others in our communities, zoom, or meet in person when the levels enable that.

Thank you for your service to Aotearoa.

Soifua la manuia,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JT' with a flourish.

Josiah Tualamali'i

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/assets/resources/research/reports/675/675-the-relationship-between-transport-and-mental-health-in-aotearoa.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> Please see attached letter.

02.09.20

Talofa lava Christchurch City Council,

## Re: Revisiting of the CCC Strengthening Communities Strategy

Thank you for the opportunity to submit. I was unaware of the 2007 Strategy, back then I was at the end of primary school, so it was quite the throwback thinking of that time haha. It was helpful to be able to look at the Community Research Reports and previous strategy for CCC. I was glad to see that in the 2008 Community Wellbeing Research Review, Council acknowledged that significantly more work was needed to include Pacific People's voices, understand our literature and sources of evidence.

### Our population

As you will know since 2008 the Pacific population in Christchurch has grown, as has our voice and participation across our city, and the Council's activities.

	2006	2013	2018
General Population in Christchurch	337,392	330,645	358,062
Pacific Population in Christchurch	9,378	10,011	14,028

- (Stats NZ 2018 – It is likely this does not capture the full number of Pacific people living here)

### Our voices

A meaningful decision that could be made with the updated strategy is to reflect what Pacific communities have said to Council in a number of formats since the last review; particularly in the context that a number of community recommendations have not been carried out, or sustained. I have pulled together key submissions summaries, quotes and other insights I am aware of to support Pacific people's voices being embedded in this updated strategy - please find these below.

Additionally, I think it is essential for Council to implant in this strategy is the vision for Pacific Wellbeing 'Vai Niu' that Dr Jemaima Tiatia-Seath and I co-wrote into the Government Inquiry into Mental Health and Addiction Report, 2018.<sup>7</sup> Council journeying alongside 'Vai Niu' in its context

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<sup>7</sup> Pages 86 – 88 - <https://mentalhealth.inquiry.govt.nz/assets/Summary-reports/He-Ara-Oranga.pdf>

would ensure that strategic choices would be in line with our national approaches to enable our country, and our city to be a place of belongingness and wellness for Pacific Peoples.

One specific area we mention in 'Vai Niu' is the constitutional responsibility Aotearoa has to the Realm of New Zealand countries the Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau. Christchurch manages to give significant and adequate visibility to the other part of the Realm, the Ross Sea Dependency, and yet the other parts of the Realm have very little, to no visibility formally in our city. The Council determining what honouring the spirit of the whole Realm in its work would be a significant and is an essential decision that may fit in this strategy, and more broadly across its work.

### **Other areas**

Included below is a comment from the Pacific Reference Group submission to CCC for a Pacific Strategy or Pacific plan following the approach that is taken on a national level.<sup>8</sup> This could take a number of forms and could be similar in approach to the plans local boards, and Auckland Council use.<sup>9</sup>

It has been good to see Pacific peoples distinctly distinguished as a strategic action area in Christchurch Arts Strategy, "Celebrate our heritage, arts leadership and connections with Te Moana-nui-a-Kiva -the Pacific." In an ongoing way it is essential that this strategy speaks to Christchurch being a city of the Pacific, and the distinctiveness of Pacific Peoples and our aspirations, and operationally having adequate staffing set aside to assist with deep Pacific engagement and action.

### **Final Comments**

It maybe that few Pacific Peoples of Christchurch will submit on this strategy review, but many will have shared with Council elements related to this topic in the years since the last review. A specific project delving into what has been heard in all the forms Council collects information from specific population groups that these processes do not well engage well with would likely assist this project having the deep, lasting outcomes for those often not well heard.

If I can assist further in any way please get in contact, la manuia,



Josiah Tualamali'i  
Ōtautahi Pacific Communities Advocate

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<sup>8</sup> See Page 5.

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/about-auckland-council/how-auckland-council-works/local-boards/all-local-boards/whau-local-board/Documents/whau-pacific-peoples-plan.pdf>

## **What are some of the things Pacific Peoples have said to Council and Councillors since the 2008 Review?**

### **A. iSPEAK on the Living Wage – 2013**

PYLAT hosted a discussion seminar on what the Living Wage was and as a result participants advocated which was sent to CCC Councillors at the time.

- a. “We also agree that government and local councils should pay a ‘Living Wage’ to its workers, however we would not support this to happen if it was at the expense of the government or local council having to cut one or any of its services.”

### **B. Local Body Elections and CCC District Plan Review Submission**

- a. “Pacific youth believe the current postal voting system is out dated and no longer engages the community sufficiently to stimulate participation in Local government politics. Internet voting should be used for the next Local Body election, information about voting and why you should vote needs to be more prominent and there needs to be educational activities to make people understand why voting is crucial. With the introduction of online voting, consideration needs to be made about how to engage our elderly and those without access to the internet. For our community, using our churches is the best means to engage us and we believe election officials should collaborate with our churches to ensure widespread voter turnout.”
- b. Said that it has been hard for Pacific young people post-quake, there have not been adequate space for Pacific people to participate in the rebuild of the city. To address this, they said “We strongly recommend that all relevant organizations begin engaging our people through churches and community groups to ensure effective communication with Pacific people.”

### **C. Mayor in the Chair – 2015**

The PYLAT Chair reiterated the *iSPEAK on the Living Wage* data and the following comments are from the PYLAT speech notes:

- a. “At the Pasifika community Fono [in 2015] it was recorded that we want more support for Pasifika cultural intelligence across council, Pasifika staff to be well supported and all staff to have the ability to be recognised for their work. I want there to be diversity awards for the community of which there are some set aside for staff.”
- b. “In our discussion on the last Christchurch Local Body Elections our youth said that they supported a city centre where there were less cars and more bikes. Both in this discussion and at the Pasifika community Fono on the Long Term Plan on Monday want a Pacific Village space or place for Pacific people to have a “permanent, visible, Pacific space for Pacific people to meet, teach, and share culture and art with others. We also want to see more happening out in the Eastern Suburbs, with New Brighton being recognized once more and redeveloped into a valuable city asset.

- c. Christchurch was set up as a planned city in 1850, with churches and institutional buildings in defined places but there's never been a clearly defined place for Pacific or Maori people in the landscape, so in changing this the CCC would challenge other decision makers across NZ to support in their communities.
- d. Part of ensuring Pacific people have a permanent visible place in the city was discussed at the community fono and I am going to finish with these recommendations which will be sent in as a submission.
  - 1. The Council should consistently support SPACPAC Polyfest
  - 2. The Council should have a representative on the Christchurch Pasifika Network
  - 3. The Council should reinstate a Pasifika reference group identifying that Pasifika community engagement is different from Maori and other ethnicities and to support the Council efforts to work with our community."

**D. Turning the Tables – 2015**

The four Pacific youth participants in Turning the Tables event which debated the top 5 issues alongside other participants stated:

- a. There needs to be more inclusive support for young Pacific people and people experiencing mental health challenges, training for those who want to speak about mental health and support others.
- b. "Developing a two-way conversation [with Council] is key. Having our say is important to us, and so is being genuinely listened to. Unless you're an engaged young person it can be difficult to have your say in CCC matters. Youth Councils do a lot to get the voices of young people heard but decision-makers need to be willing to listen."
- c. It was voted by Pacific and all participants that Turning the Tables become an annual event.

Broader than just four Pacific participants five deliverables were set:

"A working party met and discussed the following with CCC representatives as a way of moving forward with the suggestions and ideas discussed at 'Turning the Tables':

CCC Website	CCC will hire a person to do some research and make recommendations to the IT team on making the 'have your say' aspect of the website more youth friendly and easier to engage with.
Annual Plan	Working with CCC to plan youth engagement in the Annual Plan.
Youth Strategy	Working party would like to encourage CCC to develop a Youth Strategy.
Multicultural Working Group	Support the multicultural working group to engage with young people for their feedback on strategy.

## Pre-Election Debate

Hold a pre-election debate with the Mayor and Councillors to debate important youth issues.

This led to a discussion about wanting to engage more young people to vote in the next local election – selling it as something that matters and is interesting and relevant.

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### E. Multicultural Strategy Review Submissions Feedback - 2016

In this feedback was two submissions from Pacific collectives. A Pacific youth led submission, and a health leader’s submission:

#### a. PYLAT

On behalf of 30 young people, and 10 adults the Pacific Youth Leadership and Transformation Trust collated their voices together saying a number of things:

- i. Greater sharing and celebration of Pacific and other ethnic community stories as part of the Christchurch story
- ii. Deeper involvement of Christchurch’s Pacific communities in decision making and the life of the city.
- iii. There was a feeling that Council did not have good ways of acknowledging their feelings and perspectives, and there was limited outcomes for Pacific peoples.
- iv. Racism was raised as a significant problem
  1. “my culture and ethnicity is both frowned upon and looked down on because of social media and stereotypes.”
  2. “I wish I felt comfortable in all parts of the city. Places like Ballantynes, Merivale, etc. do nothing to be inclusive. The times I have been there I get treated like I’m not supposed to be there.”

#### b. The Pacific Reference Group

Canterbury-wide health leadership collective including Pegasus, the DHB, Pacific health providers and advocates.

- i. “Each ethnic group has its own unique values cultures, traditions and ways of being. As a result, there is the potential for the uniqueness of our Pacific community to become lost within a multicultural strategy.”

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<sup>10</sup> Copied from the *Turning the Tables Report* – By Christchurch Youth Council, PYLAT, CCC and Youth Voice Canterbury



- ii. “Pacific people form a vital part of New Zealand’s identity and have a special relationship with New Zealand. This relationship is based on New Zealand’s constitutional obligations with the Cook Islands, Tokelau and Niue and a Treaty of Friendship with Samoa. It is also seen in the longstanding migration of Pacific communities to New Zealand for a better life, our ever growing New Zealand born Pacific population, and most importantly, New Zealand’s place as a Pacific nation. In recognition of the special relationship that exists between the New Zealand and the Pacific Islands, the PRG recommends that Council consider developing a separate Pacific Strategy.”
- iii. “As this is a Council Strategy and in order to be truly effective, the Action Plan must reflect that meeting the targets is the collective responsibility of Council at all levels i.e. from governance to operational.”

**c. Multicultural Strategy Sub-Committee Draft – 2016**

The Committee in their draft implementation plan recognised that for Pacific Peoples the following should take place. Unfortunately, none of these Pacific community aspirations were included in the CCC implementation plan.

- i. “Fund, organize and support events and initiatives for the maintenance and exchange of cultures and languages in Christchurch, including Language weeks, resource Libraries Diversity and Pacific Plan.”
- ii. “CCC enables culturally diverse staff to create platforms for strengthening their point of view within the organization, e.g. Pasifika staff fono, multicultural staff forum, communities of practice”
- iii. “Work with culturally diverse communities to explore widening the reach of the culturally diverse events and improve their quality (e.g. develop a high quality city wide multicultural event and a high profile Pasifika event)”
- iv. “Fund a new full time Pasifika Advisor position as part of the Metropolitan Community support team”

**F. PYLAT Submission to the Housing Subcommittee - 2018**

Presented data from their research with Pacific youth about home ownership and asked Committee and Council to do the following

- a. For CCC to reflect on the number of bedrooms in the social housing stock & for CCC to do a warrant of fitness on the home in their stock.
- b. Consider a city wide programme to assist more Pacific People owning homes.
- c. Consider the trust issue many Pacific people have with decision makers and whether this is a problem affecting help seeking around housing, and whether another arrangement could make reaching out for help easier in Otautahi.

**G. Videos – 2018**

Pacific youth and families have shared their thoughts in Council Communications videos

- a. Mena and Maria – encouraging an increase in recreation and community facilities. Including youth and elderly spaces. <sup>11</sup>
- b. Tualamali'i family – “I want to live in a city that looks after its people, where there's no homelessness, I want a city where we care for our young, our elderly – everyone.” Spaces to hang out and be, and loving our natural environment and not polluting it. <sup>12</sup>

#### **H. Canterbury Arena Investment Case Feedback – 2019**

It was raised with CCC in February 2019 that there should be a specific Pacific community talanoa around this work. It was later mutually agreed to not happen at this time with the context of the Mosque Terror Attacks. Council did affirm that due to the significance of the site culturally to St Paul's Trinity Pacific Congregation and Pacific people in Christchurch that Pacific People would be a stakeholder in the work going forward.

When the Investment Case report was put to CCC in December 2019 there was no mention in the report of this significance to Pacific peoples and there had been no further discussions. This was raised directly with the highest levels at Council, and it was affirmed this would not happen again -I hope it does not.

#### **I. Te Pae Pikari – 2020**

When Council decided to set up a Youth Standing Committee the Christchurch Youth Council as the leading youth voice in the city asked the CCC to include PYLAT as a partner alongside them in this mahi.

I am proud this is happening, and if my understanding is correct this will be first time we have a Pacific person who will be part of a formal Council Subcommittee. This will be an important space to grow the connection of Pacific youth voice and connections for Pacific people with Council more closely.

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<sup>11</sup> <https://ccc.govt.nz/the-council/plans-strategies-policies-and-bylaws/plans/long-term-plan-and-annual-plans/ltp/meet-our-people/community/>

<sup>12</sup> <https://ccc.govt.nz/assets/Documents/The-Council/Plans-Strategies-Policies-Bylaws/Plans/Long-Term-Plan/2018-2028/Long-Term-Plan-2018-2028-Consultation-Document.pdf> (Page 47)