



PACIFIC
WOMEN
LEAD



Pacific
Community
Communauté
du Pacifique

Gender Transformative Programming

Pacific Girl and Tok Save Gender Research portal



Pacific Girl – from, for & by Pacific girls

- Achieving gender equality is complex
- Only regional programme focused on adolescent girls

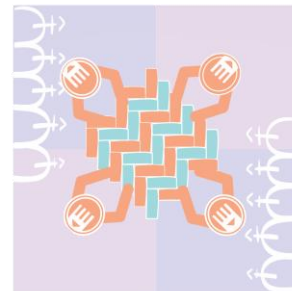
“Nothing about
us, without us!”





How do we do this?

- Technical and financial support
- Embedded learning and sharing
- **Changing structures and systems** that discriminate against adolescent girls.
- **Providing opportunities for girls to have their own say** in their lives and what they want to see change.



What works for Pacific girls?

- Starting with 6 countries, now 4 funded partners, the initial phase focused on scaling up locally-developed and integrated initiatives.
- Early learning (2018-2021):
 - Build and maintain an ecosystem that supports girls' participation by working with parents and communities.
 - Provide safe and dedicated spaces, and tailor activities to meet the needs, interests, abilities and ages of girls
 - Provide pathways and support girls to transition from learners to leaders.
- Partners convening to validate mid-term review findings next week, sharing the key messages in a girl-led hybrid event on Friday 23 June.





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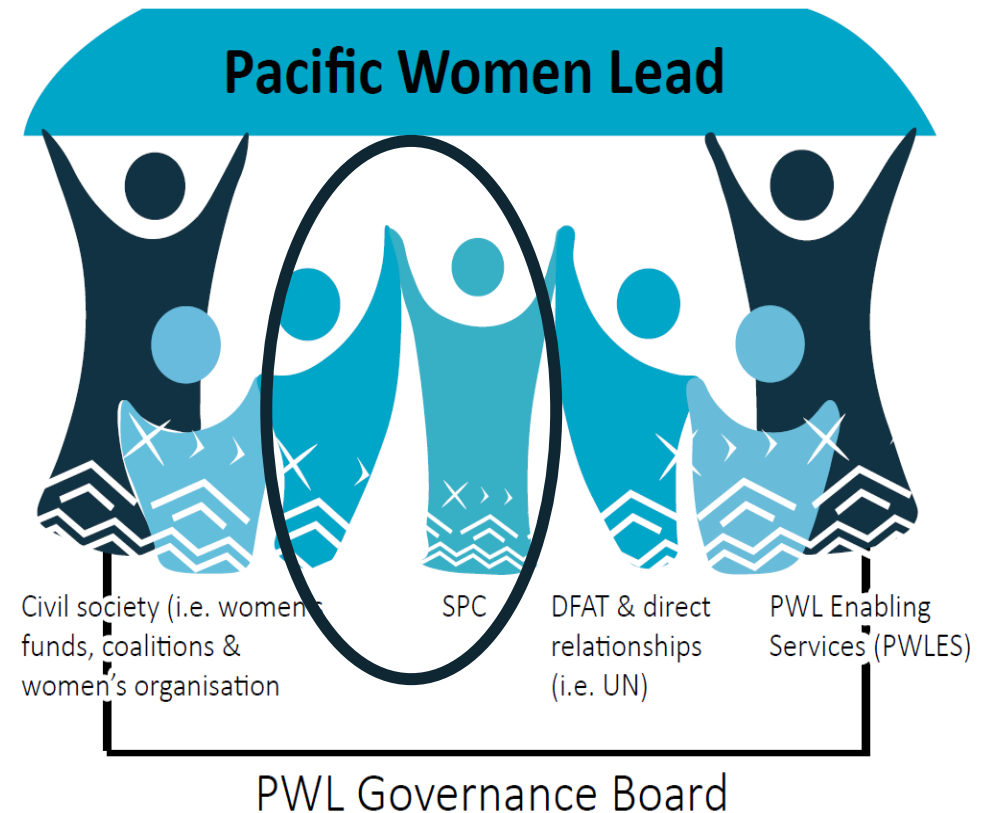


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Pacific Women Lead at SPC programme

SPC is the key implementing partner

- Embedded within the region
- Intergovernmental agency
- Applying a people-centred approach to science, research and technology across all of the Sustainable Development Goals
- Stewardship for gender equality investments that are partner-focused and needs driven.



What does gender transformative mean?

- Reshaping gender norms
- Creating more equitable relationships
- Making visible and change the underlying conditions of gender inequities.
- Rao and Kelleher Framework for understanding to how change occurs.



PWL at SPC – streams of work



Pacific-led innovation for gender equality

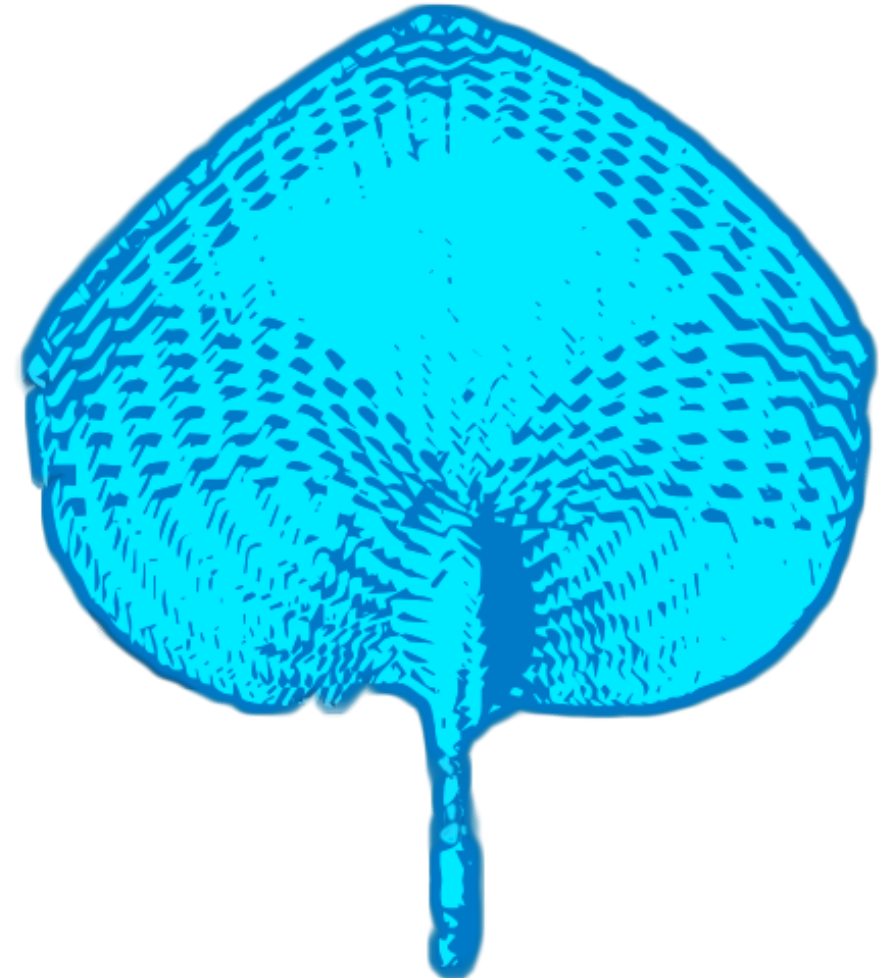
Programme learning and convening

Partnerships for gender equality

- Key mechanisms include: grants and research.

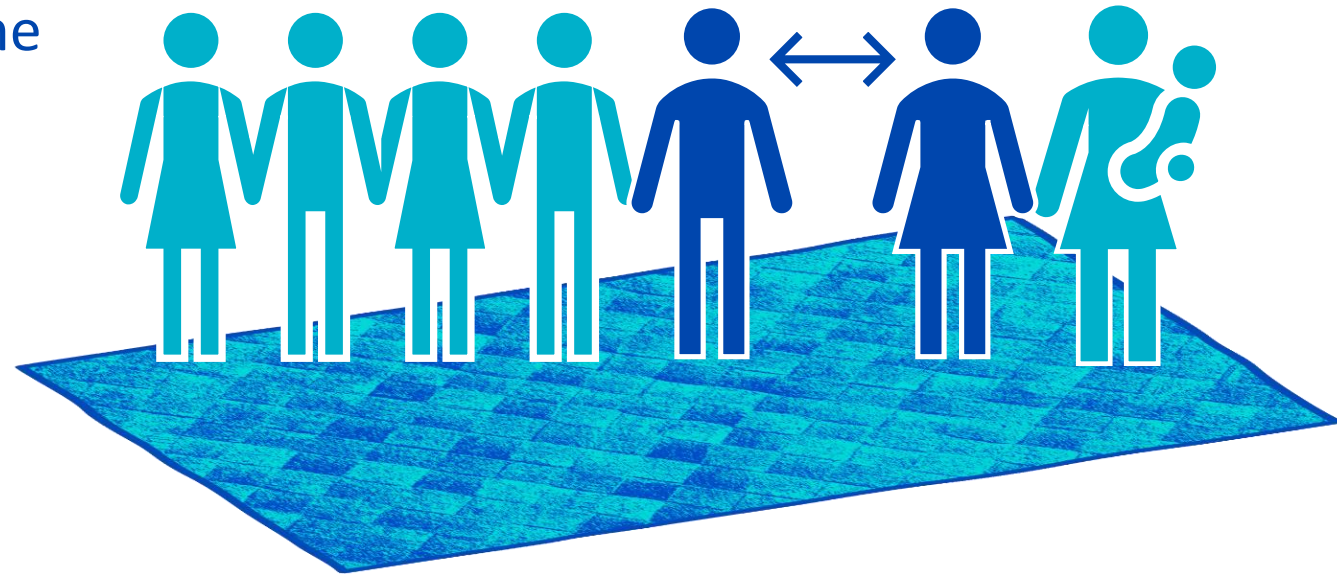
What does this look like?

- Pacific-led innovation:
 - Supporting crisis centres – gender-based violence services
 - Women United Together Marshall Islands (WUTMI) Weto in Mour (WiM) and Chuuk Women's Council (CWC) Tongen Inepwineu Counseling Centre (TICC)
- Looking ahead:
 - Grants to PICTs and other partners
 - Reflecting implementation of Triennial outcomes and other regional priorities



What does this look like?

- Learning and convening:
 - Pacific Girl – only regional funding programme in the Pacific
 - Learning network and programme reference group modalities
- Looking ahead:
 - Cybersafety and online violence



What does this look like?

- Partnerships for gender equality:
 - Within SPC – strengthening gender initiatives and networks.
 - Gender Flagship
- Looking ahead:
 - Transitioning management to SPC - TokSave gender research portal
 - Pacific gender research





Toksave: The Home of OUR Pacific Gender Stories

Margaret Mishra

School of Law and Social Sciences, The University of the South Pacific

A Brief History of Toksave

- 2014: a group of gender specialists met at USP to discuss how to strengthen gender-responsive policy development in the Pacific and build research capacity in the region.
- 2016: a Pacific Gender Research Symposium and Workshop of about 100 gender specialists from around the region was held at USP to consider the results of a scoping study on gender research.
- Recommendation: to establish a 'dynamic research portal'.
- The Symposium also supported the establishment of a group to advise Pacific Woman Shaping Pacific Development (*Pacific Women*).
- 2018: the **Advisory Group on Research** (AGR) was established.
- The AGR began developing a Research Strategy and an ethics process.

- Middle of 2020: *Pacific Women* and the Australian National University signed an agreement to develop the portal.
- A **Pacific Gender Research Portal Reference Group** was established which included many of the earlier members of the AGR.

A Reference Group oversees Toksave and includes representatives from universities and regional organisations in the Pacific. The current members are:



Associate Professor
Susana Tauaa
National University of
Samoa



Professor Betty Lovai
University of Papua New
Guinea



Dr Margaret Mishra
University of the South
Pacific



Associate Professor
Yvonne Underhill-Sem
University of Auckland



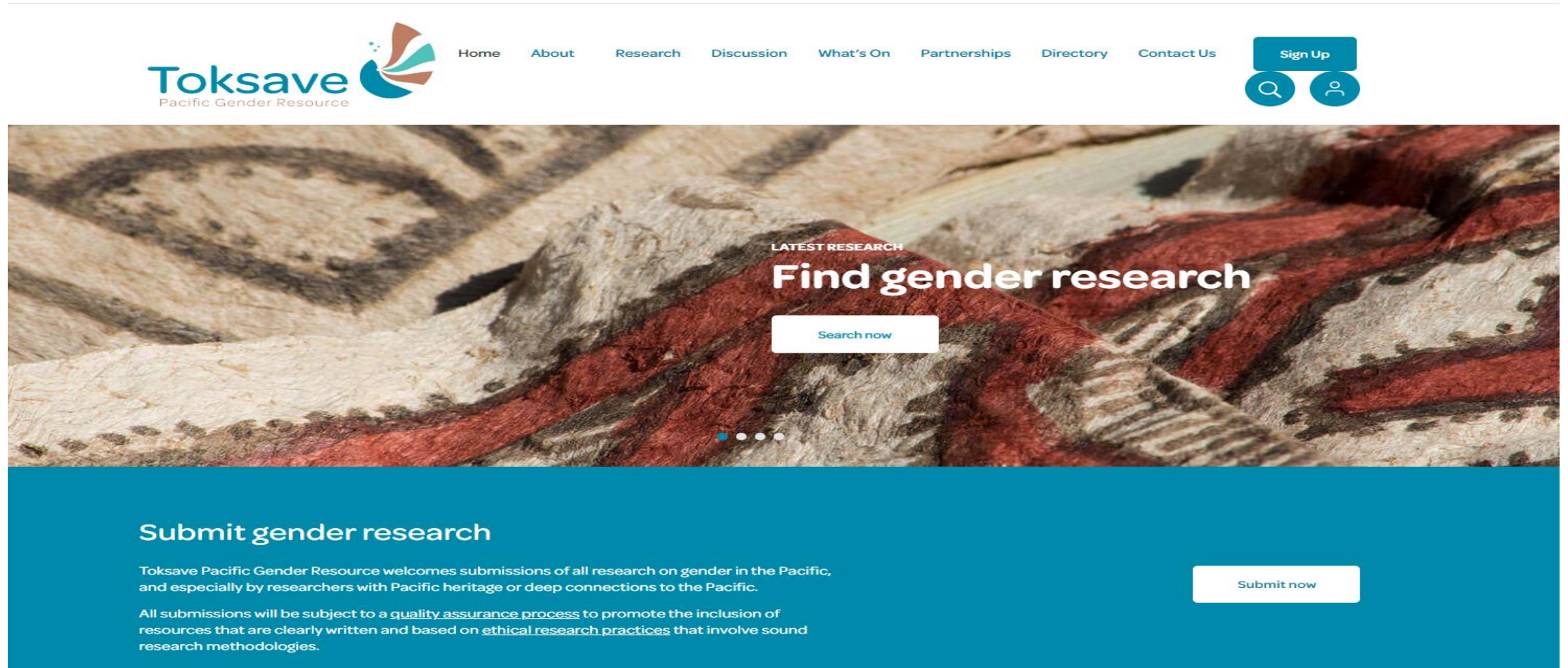
Professor Nicole Haley
Australian National
University



Kim Robertson
The Pacific Community

Launch of the Portal

- Toksave was launched virtually in 2021 (in the middle of a pandemic).



Partner Organisations

- The University of the South Pacific
- National University of Samoa
- University of Papua New Guinea
- Australian National University (Department of Pacific Affairs)
- University of Auckland
- Massey University
- The Pacific Community (SPC) where the portal is now housed

Toksave as a Gender Transformative Resource

- To address gender inequality in the Pacific by ensuring quality Pacific research and knowledge is discoverable and accessible
- “The Toksave Pacific Gender Resource hosts a wide range of research that aims to advance gender equality in the Pacific. We take a broad approach to ‘research’ that includes original research based on the analysis of primary or secondary data; policy and evaluation oriented research; research based on creative and performing arts; and completed high level degree theses. We are particularly interested in research that is based on Pacific research methodologies and methods, involves Pacific-centred subject matter and impacts on Pacific communities”.

Access Research



Categories

- ☐ Arts
- ☐ Communication
- ☐ Culture
- ☐ Development
- ☐ Economy
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Environment
- ☐ Health
- ☐ History
- ☐ Identity
- ☐ Justice
- ☐ Politics
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Research Methodology
- ☐ Security
- ☐ Sport

Examples of Research on Toksave 1



Research | [Open Access](#) | Published: 23 March 2023

Exposure to interparental violence and justification of intimate partner violence among women in Papua New Guinea

[Richard Gyan Aboagye](#), [Bernard Yeboah-Asiamah Asare](#), [Collins Adu](#), [Abdul Cadri](#), [Abdul-Aziz Seidu](#), [Bright Opoku Ahinkorah](#) & [Sanni Yaya](#)

BMC Women's Health **23**, Article number: 122 (2023) | [Cite this article](#)

549 Accesses | 1 Altmetric | [Metrics](#)



SEPTEMBER 2020



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development Papua New Guinea Country Plan Summary

Examples of Research on Toksave 2


Original Articles

The Emergence of Feminism in Fiji ¹

Margaret Mishra 

Pages 39-55 | Published online: 20 Dec 2007

Download citation <https://doi.org/10.1080/09612020701447582>

 Full Article

 Figures & data

 Citations

 Metrics

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DOUBLE DIALOGUES

vs

Mawlee's Murder A Minor Historical Event

Margaret Mishra

The University of the South Pacific



Journal of International Women's Studies

Volume 22 | Issue 5

Article 11

June 2021

'Emancipated Women': The Adis of Fiji and their 'Native Sisters'

Margaret Mishra

Submit Research

Submit gender research

We welcome submissions of all research on gender in the Pacific, and especially by researchers with Pacific heritage or deep connections to the Pacific.

[Submit now](#)

What is the role of research in addressing gender inequalities in the Pacific?

- **Research** (interviews, policy and evaluation documents, oral histories, archival records, stories, poems, book chapters and journal articles) can play a critical role in addressing gender inequalities in the Pacific.
- When we talk or *tok* about our lived experiences, we can generate **awareness** and foster **dialogue** around gender issues that may be specific to the Pacific

Toksave as a Gender Transformative Resource

- Toksave brings together research that studies the production, reproduction and resistance to norms that produce inequality between all genders
- *Not just a portal about women*
- By having **access to resources** about women, men and LGBTQI communities, we can understand how gender is performed and woven into our everyday lives
- When we are **informed** through research that is relevant to our lives, we are in a better position to critique the structures/practices that contribute to our oppression/s.
- The **qualitative** and **quantitative** research outputs uploaded on Toksave can help us to advocate for changes to existing policies and laws.
- We can also learn about **methodologies** used in the Pacific to improve research processes and enhance outputs.

High Quality Research/Outputs/Stories

- High quality research that is **ethical** can stand up to scrutiny and be used to inform laws and policies that relate to gender.
- When quality research is easily accessible, it can promote **capacity building** and provide opportunities for **communities of practice** to emerge in the Pacific.
- When we **share** our work in one place, other researchers, practitioners and policy makers can quickly access knowledge and information that is regionally and internationally relevant.




Discussion

- To offer a **safe space** to critically evaluate inequalities highlighted through our research
- Through these dialogues, we can bring about change in our homes, communities, countries, the region and the world
- Encourage contributions to this part of the portal

Network and Collaborate

Upcoming Events

What's On

 Month ▼ Year ▼

Submit an event

Toksav members are invited to submit events that might be of interest to our Pacific Gender research community. Event submissions are moderated and will not appear instantly.

[Submit now](#)



04

July
TUESDAY

5th Conference of the
Pacific Islands
Universities Research
Network (PIURN)

[Learn more](#)

2023-07-04

Rarotonga, Cook Islands

3 days



17

July
MONDAY

Women Deliver 2023
Conference

[Learn more](#)

Kigali, Rwanda



Claiming and Growing Toksave

- Taking ownership of the portal – keeping Toksave alive
- Encouraging a diversity of voices through the discussion forum
- Sharing Research
- Accessing Research
- Raising awareness on gender related events
- Sign up!





The Suspicious Death of Depot Baby 7480: 'Maternal Negligence' in Fiji

By Margaret Mishra

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