

# What will we do today:

1

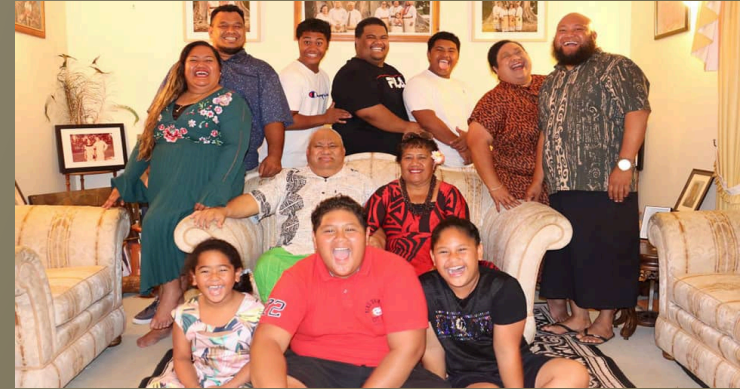
- ❑ Background context of Pasifika health in Australia
- ❑ Overview of my Doctorate of Education studies.
- ❑ The importance of using Pasifika Indigenous methodologies
  - Teu le vā, Talanoa, Fala methodology.
  - Village Connect Ltd a Holistic Pasifika solution from the ground up.

# My Health Talanoa (Story)

2

- ? Tongan cultural hierarchy is matriarchal.
- ? I am the eldest and only daughter = #QUEEN #BOSS
- ? “Big is beautiful, skinny is SICK!”.
- ? Multicultural Co-Ordinator of Good Start Qld Health.
- ? My health talanoa, weighed in at 150kg+, pre-diabetic.
- ? Mum has diabetes, her sister, Finau’s leg was amputated due to diabetes and she died at 59. My uncle has his leg amputated from diabetes. This is our family norm.
- ? What health problem??

Manu-Sione immediate family



Fainga’a immediate family



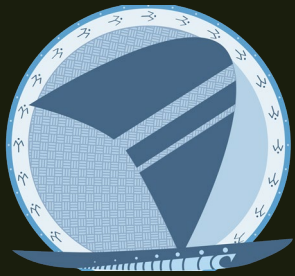
# Our people are dying before their time

3

- ❓ In Qld, Samoans are seven times more likely to be hospitalised for diabetes-related conditions than the general population (Qld Health, 2011; Hardt et al., 2020).
- ❓ In the past three decades, obesity and diabetes has risen faster in Pasifika communities in Australia, America, New Zealand, and the Pacific nations, in contrast to the rest of the world (Matenga-ikihele et al., 2021).



Tongan coffin/funeral



# Māori and Pasifika Communities in Australia

<b>Total</b>	<b>445602</b>
<b>Māori</b>	<b>170057</b>
<b>Samoan</b>	<b>98021</b>
<b>Fijian</b>	<b>48318</b>
<b>Tongan</b>	<b>43459</b>
<b>Cook Islander</b>	<b>27494</b>
<b>Papua New Guinean</b>	<b>22660</b>
<b>Niuean</b>	<b>6216</b>

2021 ABS  
Census Data



# Research questions

5

- ? What factors influence the health choices for Pasifika communities in Southeast Qld?
- ? How and why do these factors influence health choices?
- ? What are the implications of the findings for developing healthier lives and greater longevity in Pasifika communities?





# Methodology

❑ Talanoa methodology & Constructivist Grounded Theory

However key tensions led to the development of the Fala Methodology.

# Samoaan Indigenous methodologies



Teu le vā: Nurturing social and sacred relationships  
(Anae, 2019)

Talanoa: Unconcealed storytelling (Vaioleti, 2006).



# health.

## 5 factors influencing Pasifika wellness




Pasifika Context of Wellness	Western Context of Health
Faith & Spirituality	Scientific & Secular
The Power of Church	Medical & Medication
Food in abundance	Food in moderation
Culture	Clinical
Family and I	Individual
Prosperity	Prosperity





# Village Connect

 To see Pasifika Children  
and Families flourish within  
our communities

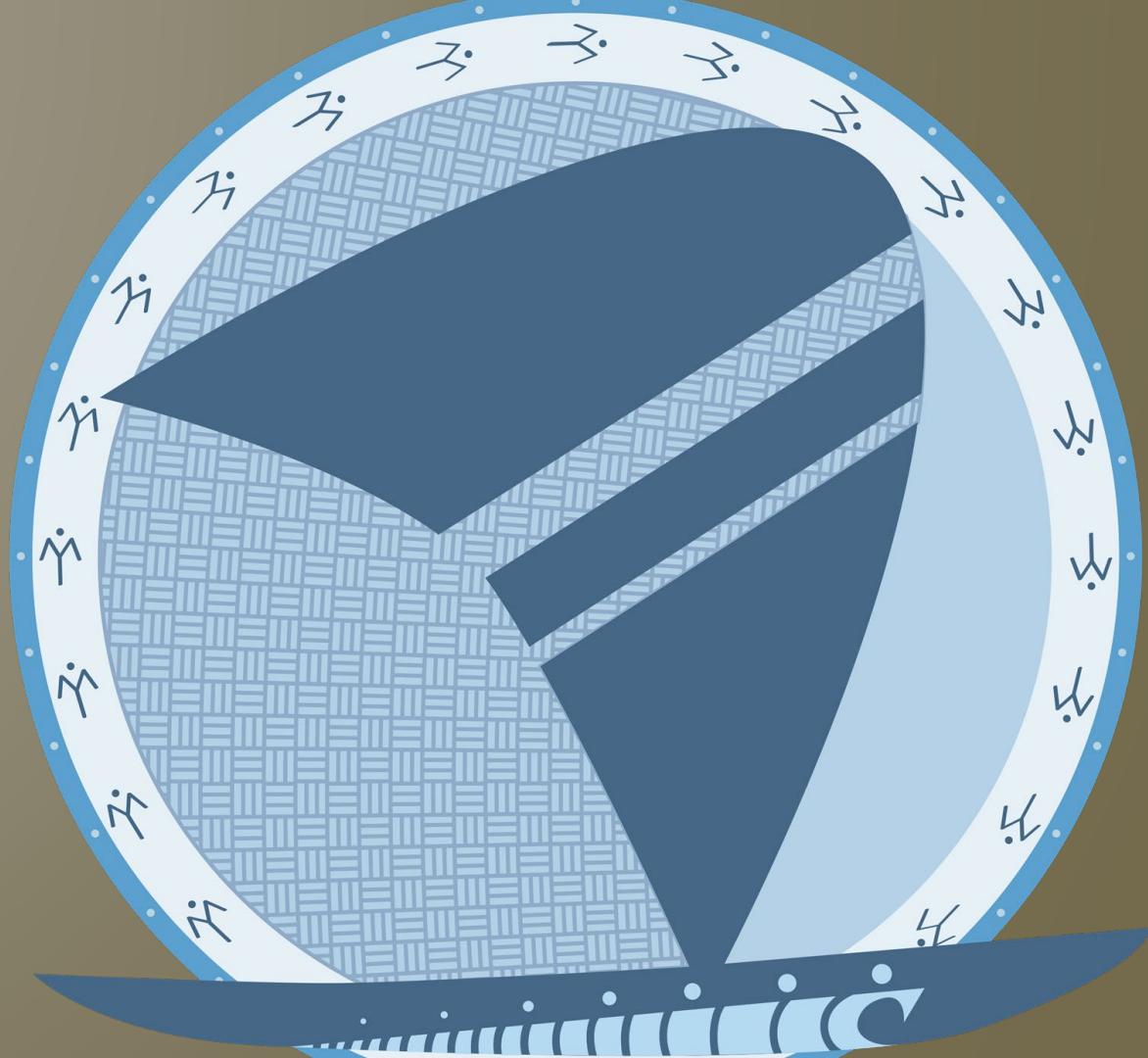
## Our Values

Loto Atoa – Commitment

Folauga – Self-  
determination

Fautasi – Wellbeing

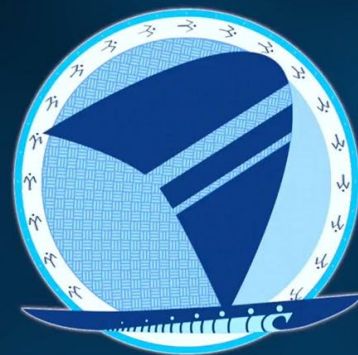
Measina – Treasure



# Village Connect Multi-disciplinary Holistic Hub

1. Holistic
2. Continuity of Care  
through Community  
Connectors
3. Culturally Safe
4. Family centred





Village Connect



# Pacific Framework **Ato o le Ola**







## LOWS

- ❓ **Talking change ideals is a different from actioning change**
- ❓ **Often Stuck**
- ❓ **Slow process getting commitment from govt, agencies, departments**
- ❓ **Lack of financial resources for start up**
- ❓ **People leave**
- ❓ **Government changes and funding changes**



## Highs

- ❑ **Someone was finally listening**
- ❑ **We had a voice**
- ❑ **Maintained regular contact with community engagement officers**
- ❑ **All sectors –govt, private, not for profit, agencies, community coming together**
- ❑ **Evidence based practice informed by Pasifika Methodologies.**



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Fala Methodology: Fainga'a-Manu Sione, Inez, 2023. The Fala methodology. *Waka Kuaka: Journal of the Polynesian Society* 132 (1).

