

Title: Le Ala

Presenters: Magila Annandale / Dr Ieti Lima
Moana Solomona / Dr Helen Warren

Abstract 1: Narrative Story Telling Transforming Pacific Communities

Narrative therapy is the clinical application of a growing body of ideas and practices that locates peoples' problems in their sociocultural context. Whilst the researchers have made it clear that this is not a clinically-based project and makes no attempt at therapy in the classic sense of the word, narrative approaches provide a theoretical structure through which life-stories or narratives can be examined. Self-narrative structures, 'storying' the past to shape the future, have traditionally been part of 'recovery' strategies. A synthesis of past and present create a space for cultural communities to maintain the essence of their stories and traditions and apply them to modern contexts and challenges. The narrative approach is flexible and inclusive and can be used by individuals, families or communities. It generates solutions aimed at minimising harm from alcohol, gleaned from narrative identity and interpreted through the 'cultural eye'.

This presentation brings to life the stories of the participants who have created a platform for moving forward into the future with a new vision and a new range of possibilities.

Abstract 2: Developing a Narrative Toolkit

Following the success of the project "Searching for Pacific Solutions – a community-based intervention project to minimise harm from alcohol use" the Le Ala group is keen to construct a 'toolkit' other groups can use. We are looking for your ideas and feedback in order to develop it further. This is a workshop designed to put forward some of the concepts and strategies used in the research project. We will present the methods and approaches the researchers took in piloting narrative story telling as a community intervention. We think this is an exciting alternative that will add to the range of options Pacific communities have in dealing with their alcohol and drug problems in a uniquely cultural way. We need your help in bringing it to life for others.