

compassion
dedication
lead
courage
change
tauitua
achieve



work that matters

rewarding careers in the disability sector

Further information

There are a variety of Ministry of Health funded disability support services. If you are interested in working for one of these services and would like further information, please visit:

- www.moh.govt.nz/disability
- www.leva.co.nz

If you are working in a Ministry of Health disability support service, you may be eligible for a training grant. For more information please visit:

- www.disabilityworkforce.co.nz
- www.pacificawards.health.nz

Work that matters – rewarding careers in the disability sector

September 2010.

Produced by Le Va on behalf of the Ministry of Health,
as part of Faiva Ora, The National Pasifika Disability Plan.

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We wish to thank the people and organisations profiled in this booklet who willingly contributed to this project.

**Talofa lava,
malo e lelei,
kia orana,
ni sa bula vinaka,
fakaalofa lahi atu,
halo olaketa,
kam na mauri,
taloha ni,
kia ora koutou,
warm Pacific
greetings!**





**“Whatever
you do, work
at it with all
your heart”
Colossians 3:23.**

There is no greater calling than to serve your own community and, for people of the Pacific, it’s a fundamental part of our culture.

New Zealand’s disability sector needs more Pacific people to get involved, to ensure our cultures are represented and to complement the rich diversity of the existing workforce.

The Ministry of Health Pasifika Disability Plan (Faiva Ora) recognises the need to encourage Pacific people into the disability workforce, and this booklet was developed to highlight the options available.

Within the disability sector, there are many different career pathways and options to suit the talents you have – ranging from hands-on roles such as community support to strategic and operational management roles.

This booklet celebrates the commitment and dedication shown by Pacific people working in the disability sector. It also celebrates the joy and fulfilment they find in their work.

We hope these stories inspire you to consider a career in

what is both a challenging and deeply rewarding sector. If you are already working in the sector, we hope these stories inspire you to consider other career options available to you within the disability sector.

However you may choose to apply your skills, you’ll always know you’re making a significant and positive difference to the individuals and communities you support.

As carers, family and people with disabilities we cannot emphasise how important it is to have a strong workforce. There are more than 25,000 Pacific people with disabilities in New Zealand who want to live a fulfilling and rewarding life – with your support, they can.

Tunumafono Ava Fa’amoe

Chairperson
Faiva Ora National
Leadership Group

Dr Monique Faleafa

(DClinPsy)
National Manager
Le Va

Christine Guttenbeil

- * Occupational Therapist
- * Quality Rehabilitation Services (QRS)

Christine had no idea what she wanted to do as a career, but being awarded a three year scholarship to AUT in Year 13 “was where my career options all began”. Her passion for sport and the human body led her to study health science, majoring in occupational therapy.

Christine takes a holistic approach to rehabilitation, realising that the effects of a disability or injury can go beyond the physical and also impact a person’s spirituality, self-esteem and self-worth.

Born and raised in Whangarei, then Auckland, with her four older brothers, Christine enjoyed playing a wide range of sports such as touch and netball. Christine’s father is of Tongan/German descent and her mother is Maori.

Favourite inspirational quote

**“Shoot for the moon.
Even if you miss it you
will land among the
stars.”** Les Brown.



empowering

Describe your job

I work in the community assisting people who have had an injury return to their pre-injury roles, for example, getting people back to work, determining the amount of home help hours people are entitled to, home modifications and productivity assessments.

What do you do on an average day?

My day is never the same and that is why I love my job. Working in the community I will go to the person – this may be in the workplace or the home environment. I will review their symptom or functional capacity and determine what services are required.

What do you love about your job?

I love the variety in working with different types of injuries. I also enjoy the ongoing learning and support and making a positive difference to individual lives.

What opportunities does your job offer?

Building up my knowledge allows me to have a variety of opportunities. For example, I could work in the health care sector or health insurance or I could eventually be self employed and contract my Occupational Therapy (OT) services to a variety of sources. Working as an OT there are endless opportunities.

What skills, training, education or past experiences helped you secure your job?

I completed a Bachelor of Health Science, majoring in Occupational Therapy. Once I graduated I worked for a private company (Pacifica Plus/Concussions Specialist) focussing on head injuries within the community, which gave me an excellent foundation to build my OT skills and competencies.

Why did you want to work in the disability sector?

I wanted to make a difference in the lives of individuals by doing something that I was passionate about and enjoyed. OT takes a holistic approach to rehabilitation, encompassing the person, environment and occupations.

How does your role impact or help Pacific people with disabilities and their families?

It identifies what the person's goals are, therefore the rehabilitation is client-centred. It's my role to help the person gain increased independence around the home and within the community.

What advice do you have for anyone wanting to work in the disability sector?

If you are a passionate person and enjoy giving one hundred per cent, working in the disability sector is very rewarding.



“the disability sector is very rewarding”

Lolomanaia Filiai

- * **Disability Information and Advisory Coordinator**
- * **Vaka Tautua Ltd**

Lolomanaia was a forestry worker until a 1998 car accident left him a paraplegic. The youngest of six children born on the Island of Eua, Tonga, Lolomanaia and his family struggled to accept the accident and the stigma that is sometimes associated with disabilities within Pacific families and communities. Lolomanaia was on an emotional roller coaster, wondering why this happened to him – did he do something wrong?

Perseverance paid off for Lolomanaia when he was granted a New Zealand visa in 2000. He became a permanent New Zealand resident in 2001. Life continued to improve with the Pacific Information and Advisory Support Services Trust (PIASS) offering Lolomanaia a job as Disability Coordinator in 2002. The following year he married his wife and they now have a son and daughter. Lolomanaia enjoys rugby union and rugby league as well as singing in a choir and conducting a brass band.

Favourite inspirational quote

"It is better to lead from behind and to put others in front." Nelson Mandela.



Courageous

Describe your job

I've worked for Vaka Tautua Ltd as Disability Information and Advisory Coordinator for nearly eight years.

What do you do on an average day?

Mainly assist people who need help to access support from disability support services.

What do you love about your job?

I love providing support and assistance to brothers and sisters living with any type of disability.



“try to stand in the shoes of a disabled person”

What opportunities does your job offer?

I've had the opportunity to gain a scholarship from AUT University to study for a Bachelor in Business and to be more independent through access to support via the Ministry of Health. I've been able to create more understanding within the Pacific disability community and I'm proud to be a disabled person who has joined the workforce like other New Zealanders.

What skills, training, education or past experiences helped you secure your job?

I've completed a Diploma in New Zealand Business from AUT University and I'm one semester away from completing my Bachelor in Business, majoring in management. I'm also completing a certificate in Disability Support Services through Careerforce.

Why did you want to work in the disability sector?

Because I am disabled, I want to share my experiences and knowledge with people with disabilities, their families and whanau.

How does your role impact or help Pacific people with disabilities and their families?

As a Pacific person working with Pacific people, I guess I narrow down the isolation barrier.

What advice do you have for anyone wanting to work in the disability sector?

Be patient, reliable and try to stand in the shoes of a disabled person.

Jordan Salesa

- * **Physiotherapist and Manager/
co-owner of 12 physiotherapy
clinics**
- * **Physio Rehab Group**
- * **Physiotherapist – NZ Academy of
Sport**

Family is very important to Jordan and he credits his family with “both challenging and supporting me, furnishing me with an intimate understanding of sharing, communication, tolerance and experience. My strengths emerge from my family, to whom they return”.

A Samoan New Zealander, Jordan enjoys being part of an extremely close-knit and high-achieving family. Jordan and his Hungarian-born wife Dora, a secondary school PE teacher, are busy raising their four children. Raised by his Samoan father and palagi mother, Jordan is also proud of his siblings’, including Rhode scholar younger brother Damon.

Jordan’s experience has taught him that “people can achieve anything despite the many obstacles they have to overcome”.

Favourite inspirational quote

“Just do it!”
Nike.



Describe your job

I contract directly to the New Zealand Academy of Sport (NZASNI) where I work within the high performance support team looking after elite New Zealand athletes – (from swimming, yachting and athletics to triathletes and para olympians). My main roles are to develop strategies that minimise risk and prevent injury, assess and treat injuries and generally help maintain elite athletes to train at very high levels.

What do you do on an average day?

At NZASNI Rehab Centre, I see specific athletes, including those with disabilities, to maintain or review and treat their injuries, ensure paper work is complete and communicate with athletes, coaches, strength and conditioner trainers, performance planners, parents, high performance managers, doctors, surgeons and so on. And...see more athletes!

What do you love about your job?

It’s human endeavour at its best. Working with people who are dedicated to achieving great things for themselves, their families and their country. I like being involved with and seeing the background stuff – the hard work!

What opportunities does your job offer?

Too big to list! The world is your oyster, possibilities are endless. I have been all over the world and seen some of the best sporting moments in New Zealand and Samoan sporting history. I've been to many great events including three Olympics, two Commonwealth Games and two Rugby World Cups. The thing that resonates with me is the people I have met and the experiences brought through meeting them.

What skills, training, education or past experiences have helped you in secure your job?

My upbringing, *afakasi* (half-caste Samoan/New Zealander), has given me a very rounded perspective to life and culture. I understand the importance of striving to achieve something that you want to do. Being good with people also helps.

Why did you want to work in the disability sector?

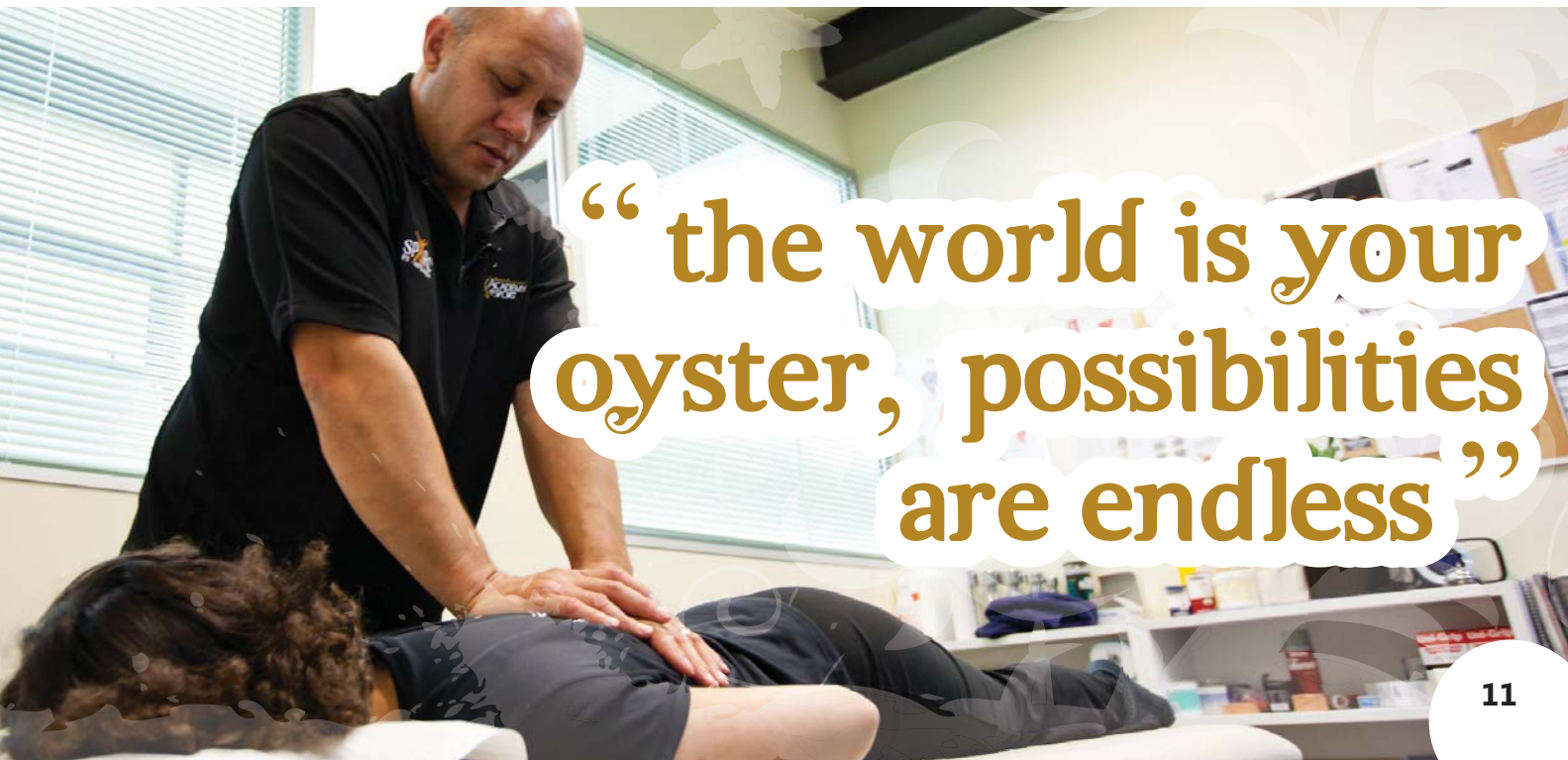
Physiotherapists play vital roles in helping people with disabilities. We are movement experts aiming to maximise movement for all people. This is particularly rewarding when dealing with people who have disabilities as any improvements in how they move has a huge impact on their lives and those around them.

How does your role impact or help Pacific people with disabilities and their families?

There are very few Pacific providers in my field of high performance sports. I certainly bring who I am into what I do – a New Zealand born Samoan who is very practical and very hands on. I know I bring a sense of relaxed calmness to what can sometimes be very tense or stressful situations.

What advice do you have for anyone wanting to work in the disability sector?

Often athletes with disabilities are very much "can do people" and an absolute delight to work with.



“the world is your oyster, possibilities are endless”

Saveatama Amerika Wilson

- * Regional Service Manager
- * Spectrum Care Trust Board

A huge Warriors fan, Saveatama enjoys rugby league, playing basketball and indoor netball, playing the guitar and singing. Born to Samoan parents, he was raised with his three brothers and two sisters in Onehunga.

During his 21 years working in the disability sector, Saveatama has learned a lot about himself and others – our differences, our similarities and our needs. Saveatama balances raising two teenage children with his ongoing education – he’s currently completing the New Zealand Business Excellence Foundations assessment criteria and “will continue to learn new ideas as long as it’s applicable to my role. You can never stop learning”. Saveatama is living his dream of supporting and advising national service providers and government on best practice in supporting Pacific people with disabilities and their families.

Favourite inspirational quote

“Paddle your own canoe, son.” My Dad.



inspirational

Describe your job

I manage the Auckland Central region, which hosts 20 residential homes for people with a disability. I support a team of five service coordinators, who manage four residential homes each. I ensure resources are allocated so the people we support are achieving their desired 'outcomes', i.e. their self-determined goals. The service manager role requires regular input to the organisation's strategic objectives and contribution to the overarching strategic plan.

What do you do on an average day?

- Meet and support service users and their families.
- Support service coordinators.
- Meet with external stakeholders.
- Meet with internal departments.
- Work with special project groups to enhance service quality improvement.
- Assist with enquiries about Spectrum Care Trust Board.

What do you love about your job?

I love working with really great, genuine staff who work passionately to support people with disabilities to achieve all they wish to. I also love peoples' great stories of extraordinary journeys and overcoming barriers. I love the opportunity to create positive change in people's lives and in a big organisation.

What opportunities does your job offer?

The opportunity to work with families, underprivileged people and people of all cultures and backgrounds.

What skills, training, education or past experiences helped you secure your job?

I've gained both a certificate and diploma in teaching people with disabilities, with an introduction to psychology and sociology. I then completed a graduate diploma in Not-for-Profit Management. I've also attended courses on emotional intelligence, interpersonal communication, leadership, conflict resolution and management and I've attained level three training for health and safety representatives. I also use my leadership experience as a sports team captain and youth leader.

Why did you want to work in the disability sector?

When I left school, I attended community programmes which led me to becoming a volunteer for IHC. I met some Mangere Hospital staff who told me about a new Pacific Island service being launched and they encouraged me to apply for a community support position. The more I wanted to influence change, the more ambitious I became.

How does your role impact or help Pacific people with disabilities and their families?

I'm humbled to be selected as the current leader of Spectrum Care Pacific Cultural Group (SCPCG). I've also been appointed to the National Pacific Disability Leadership Group, as a spokesperson for Pacific people with disabilities.

What advice do you have for anyone wanting to work in the disability sector?

Find an organisation that's aligned with your 'true values' and you'll never 'work' a day in your life. You'll love what you do and the rewards and recognitions you receive will be priceless.



“find an organisation that's aligned with your true values”

Lorna Malei Kunitau

* **Quality and Human Resource Manager**

* **PIHC**

Lorna was born and educated in Niue. Lorna has two adult children and four grandchildren. She enjoys sports, jogging, parties, walking and reading.

Lorna works for Pasifika Integrated Healthcare Ltd, having started as a Community Nurse and currently working as the Quality and Human Resource Manager. For Lorna nursing is her dream job. As a nurse, she specializes in Pacific health working with Pacific people in Home Based Support Services. Her experience has helped in assisting Pacific people with disabilities to address issues they face which have been often overlooked by government funders.

Favourite inspirational quote

“Love and treat others like you treat your own.”

Anonymous.



enabling

Describe your job

I'm a Quality and Human Resource Manager. I also practice as a Community Nurse.

What do you do on an average day?

I attend to individual people's health needs, assisting them with home care support.

What do you love about your job?

I get to mix with and learn about different cultures and enhance my knowledge and skills by attending conferences about the care of disabled people.

What opportunities does your job offer?

I have the opportunity to deliver quality care for older adults and people with intellectual disabilities.

What skills, training, education or past experiences helped you secure your job?

I'm a New Zealand-registered comprehensive nurse and I have an auditor NZQA certificate.

Why did you want to work in this role/disability sector?

I have the desire and passion to help people with any form of disability.

How does your role impact or help Pacific people with disabilities and their families?

I help them access culturally appropriate resources and I can interpret English and Niuean conversations.

What advice do you have for anyone wanting to work in the disability sector?

You need passion, loyalty and willingness and you should be able to treat people fairly and as equals.



“you need passion, loyalty and willingness”



Manase Lua

- * Project Development
- * Le Va, Pasifika within Te Pou

Tongan born Manase grew up in Grey Lynn during the infamous dawnraid era. Married to an Australian/Tongan, Manase is kept very busy with their four children (two boys and two girls) who are all under 10 years of age.

He's interested in Tongan, Samoan and Fijian history and cultural knowledge, particularly the close genealogical links between the three nations. He also enjoys watching rugby, league, boxing and used to be an active sportsman. ("Many kilos ago!" says Manase.)

Manase has worked at both the strategic and operational levels in the disability sector, within government and community settings. In five years at the Ministry of Health, Manase learned a great deal about developing and enhancing services to meet the needs of Pacific peoples. Most importantly, he gained a wide knowledge of the sector, how things work at a strategic level and how to influence change.

Favourite inspirational quote

**"I am the master of my fate;
I am the captain of my soul."**

William Ernest Henley.



relationships

Describe your job

I currently work in Project Development for Le Va, leading the development and national rollout of the Real Skills plus Seitapu Engaging Pasifika (EP) project. Prior to joining Le Va, I worked for almost five years as Pacific project manager at the Disability Services Directorate of the Ministry of Health as well as five years at the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs, a few years as a consultant for 4PM Group and then in the disability sector at a NGO called PIASS Trust (now Vaka Tautua).

What do you do on an average day?

There's really no average day when you work in the Pacific sector because every day has a different challenge. Although we primarily work on specific and specialised projects that benefit the community we serve, we also have to ensure that we deliver on our contracts. Much of my day to day work therefore is around ensuring we meet our key deliverables and milestones on time and to budget.

"knowledge can be acquired but ma

What do you love about your job?

I love meeting people and establishing and nurturing relationships based on trust and a genuine desire to make a positive difference in people's lives. I get to visit the many excellent providers in the sector, both mainstream and Pacific.



What opportunities does your job offer?

My role within Le Va allows me to work on a variety of projects with a variety of people to which I apply and share my skills, knowledge and experience.

What skills, training, education or past experiences helped you secure your job?

Despite not having a health or disability background or qualification, I have found that my ability to relate to people (nurturing the va) has been pivotal in securing and excelling in my career. At the end of the day, you can have all the degrees and qualifications in the world but if you can't relate to people, you can only go so far. Knowledge can be acquired but mana is earned.

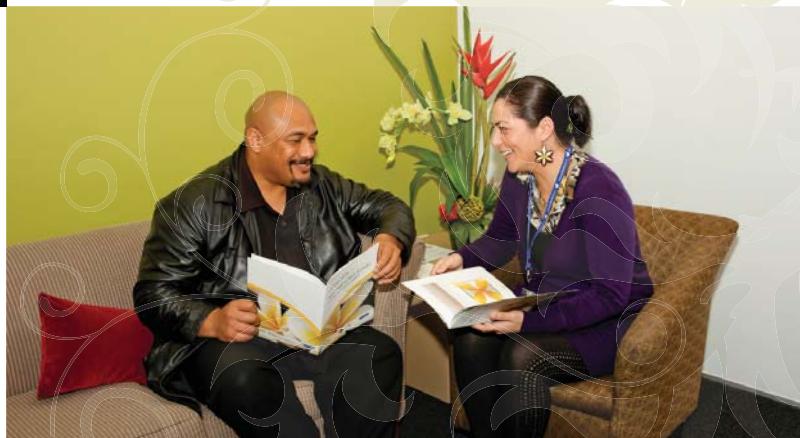
mana is earned”

Why did you want to work in the disability sector?

An opportunity arose after I left the public service in 2002 to work in a small Pacific disability NGO that was still developing. I saw this as a challenge and an opportunity to work outside my comfort zone. I believe that in hindsight, this was also a calling to embrace a cause to make life better for those in most need.

How does your role impact or help Pacific people with disabilities and their families?

I believe my role contributes to better quality services for Pacific people. I work within a team that is establishing a number of new initiatives within the disability sector to improve Pacific people's access to disability support services, and enhance responsiveness of services to our unique needs.



What advice do you have for anyone wanting to work in the disability sector?

There are challenges working in the disability sector but with perseverance and a genuine desire to make a positive difference, there are great rewards both personally and career-wise!

Vanessa Victoria Teio-Poleo

- * **Employment Specialist**
- * **Elevator**

Despite having her family at a young age, Vanessa was determined to attend University. As soon as her baby was born she completed Foundation Certificates, a stepping stone to commence studies at Auckland University where she completed a Bachelor of Arts degree.

Vanessa was born and raised in Otara, South Auckland to a Niuen father and a Cook Island mother. Vanessa's parents and husband have always been supportive of her studying and furthering her career. Vanessa juggles full time employment with her role as a wife and Mum to two young daughters.

Family and music are huge influences on Vanessa and she manages to balance time with her family with her love of singing, playing piano, composing and listening to music. She has a solo song on a Gospel Album that won first place in the "S3 Pacific Music Awards 2010".

Vanessa's roles have taught her that she can work well under pressure, work as a team mate and can meet deadlines on target. With skills like these, it's easy to imagine Vanessa fulfilling her dream of becoming a CEO.

Favourite inspirational quote

My dad always said "be positive, do the possible and let God do the impossible".



motivate

Describe your job

I am employed as an Employment Specialist for Elevator, which is an organisation that supports people with disabilities to get jobs. I provide post-placement support for people with disabilities and employers throughout the Auckland region.

What do you do on an average day?

I meet with Pacific people with disabilities (candidates) and conduct training with them to address performance issues and other work-related issues. I meet with employers to discuss the candidate's employment situation, develop and implement employment support plans, re-negotiate employment contracts or try and source new vacancies. I also apply for funding from external agencies on behalf of the candidates and employers for various equipment or transport assistance that may be required.

What do you love about your job?

I love the variety my job offers. No day is the same. I love the mobility my job has, in that I'm not stuck in the office nine to five but I'm out in the field working alongside candidates and employers. I also love that I am able to have a positive influence on someone's life, which in turn has a direct impact on their families and their communities. I love helping people reach their potential and motivating them to achieve their goals.

What opportunities does your job offer?

I am exposed to different industries where I am able to gain industry skills and knowledge and build my networks. My role has enabled me to learn about other services that individuals with a disability can access, as well as providing me with the opportunity to promote and build awareness of the disability sector amongst the Pacific island community.

What skills, training, education or past experiences helped you secure your job?

I completed a Bachelor degree in Management and Education which provided the theoretical skills and knowledge base. I also had payroll and human resource skills which I was able to transfer to my current role. My personal experience in supporting people with disabilities is through my nephew, who has cerebral palsy and for whom I provide homecare on a fortnightly basis.



“you will have a great impact on the lives of many new Zealanders”

Why did you want to work in the disability sector?

My nephew's disability is a personal motivation for me to work in the disability sector. My current role is challenging and rewarding and creates opportunities for me to help my candidates live fulfilling lives.

How does your role impact or help Pacific people with disabilities and their families?

As a Pacific Islander I am able to relate well to Pacific candidates and their families. I have a better understanding of their protocols and customs, as well as the issues and challenges they face.

What advice do you have for anyone wanting to work in the disability sector?

Consider it as a career because it is absolutely rewarding. I would invite Pacific people especially to work within the sector, because you will have a great impact on the lives of many New Zealanders. Go for it, we need more Pacific Islanders in the industry.



Veta Endemann

- * Head of Specialist Services – direct client contact services
- * Royal NZ Foundation of the Blind (RNZFB)

The eldest of six children born and educated in Samoa, Veta believes that “it’s all about the people”. She has a passion and commitment to working with people, providing them with the quality service, help and support they need. Treating people with respect and not promising what you can’t deliver is important to Veta. Outside of work, Veta enjoys spending time with family and friends.

Favourite inspirational quote

O le ala I le pule o le tautua – the pathway to authority is through service! Samoan proverb.

If you do good, you will be rewarded accordingly! Job 5:26.



tautua - service

Describe your job

I am responsible for managing five services which include Pacific Services, Mana Kapo (Maori Services), Needs Assessment Services, Deaf-blind Services and Children and Youth Services. My focus includes service development, operational management, quality and performance management to ensure the services continue to meet and support the needs of RNZFB’s members as well its strategic goals and objectives.

What do you do on an average day?

- Plan and check that services are delivered on time, effectively and efficiently.
- Allocate staffing resources where needed.
- Assist with developing and implementing our new service delivery model.
- Provide support to staff as needed.
- Attend to daily management tasks.

What do you love about your job?

- Putting in place systems and processes that help us improve our service delivery and ensuring the expected outcomes are achieved or exceeded.
- Being able to witness the difference that our services make to improve the quality of life for our members.

What skills, training, education or past experiences helped you secure your job?

I completed a Diploma in Business (majoring in management) at the Manukau Institute of Technology in 2005. This training provided me with the skills and knowledge to perform my role as a manager.

Why did you want to work in the disability sector?

An opportunity came up and I grabbed it with both hands and made the most of it. I wanted to make a positive contribution by helping people with disabilities achieve their goals and dreams and have the same opportunities as everyone else.

How does your role impact or help Pacific people with disabilities and their families?

I was able to turn a non-effective service into one that was able to achieve the outcomes expected by both members and the organisation. This is an important milestone and highlight for me, as many Pacific Island people who are registered with the Foundation have been able to access services from the Foundation when needed.

What advice do you have for anyone wanting to work in the disability sector?

Go for it! There are lots of opportunities in the disability sector.

“go for it - there are lots of opportunities in the disability sector”



Manu Vainikolo

- * Service Coordinator
- * Pasifika Integrated Health Care Limited

Manu was born and raised in Tonga and is the second child of seven. Manu is a single mother raising her seven year old daughter. She enjoys reading, surfing the internet and meeting friends on the weekend.

Manu is a qualified nurse, having studied in the Pacific. She hopes to eventually become a Registered Nurse in New Zealand and continue to practice her nursing. In the meantime Manu enjoys her role as a Service Coordinator for Home Based Support Services and has gained good management skills. She is passionate about working with Pacific people and families.

Favourite inspirational quote

“If you can do it, I can do it!!” Anonymous.



dedication

Describe your job

I'm in a Service Coordinator's role now. I organise staff to look after people with disabilities and also deal with complaints and incidents/accidents. If there is new person for assessment or a new staff member to buddy, I show them what to do for three to five days.

What do you do on an average day?

I assess new people and write up the file for the care plan. I also follow up with a home visit or a phone call. I do a lot of administration such as documenting all details to our system, reviewing services monthly and reporting on them, following up any complaints and negotiating with our funding agency if needed.

I plan the work roster, arrange training and orientation for new staff. I also attend meetings and case conferences with families and generally ensure the services are provided.

“I have the opportunity to get my



What do you love about your job?

I enjoy meeting people and I find it interesting in the community rather than being in one fixed place all day. I get to learn new things about others, their culture and our community. I also enjoy the flexibility and the support I receive from the company and my boss.

What opportunities does your job offer?

I have the opportunity to get my nursing registration in New Zealand.

What skills, training, education or past experiences helped you secure your job?

I'm a Tongan registered nurse.

Why did you want to work in this role/disability sector?

I have the experience and the pay is good as well.



How does your role impact or help Pacific people with disabilities and their families?

Some Tongan people with disabilities find it easier to talk in their own language.

What advice do you have for anyone wanting to work in the disability sector?

There is less stress and the pay is good.

nursing registration in new zealand ”

George Vea

* Pasifika Arthritis Educator

* Arthritis New Zealand

George is from a Tongan family with one sister and a large extended family. He grew up in the central Auckland area around Ponsonby, Morningside and Grey Lynn. George has a background in community radio and loves sports, socialising and his family.

George has learned that communication is the key. When he's presenting he's also listening to what is being fed back to him to generate discussion. "And from discussion comes true learning!"

Favourite inspirational quote

"If you don't like school son, then work hard at working your way up in life." My Mum.



engaging

Describe your job

My role in the community is to educate the Pacific public about gout and self-management and to boost awareness on these issues. Here at Arthritis New Zealand we aim to improve the health and wellbeing for those affected by arthritis.

What do you do on an average day?

I send a lot of emails to arrange meetings and keep people up-to-date. I also send letters to people I think could benefit from my services as well as cold calling to seek opportunities to present and educate.

I prepare and deliver presentations to a wide range of Pacific groups and I develop Pacific-specific approaches to delivering the programmes we have at Arthritis New Zealand.

What do you love about your job?

I love educating and engaging the community with discussions that allow them to learn something about arthritis. Communicating with people, working amongst the best in the field i.e. specialists, doctors, nurses and different sorts of peoples from all walks of life. I love being busy out there in the community. I also enjoy the autonomy where my role is developed according to the needs in the community; it puts you in the front line of things.

What opportunities does your job offer?

It opens up many experiences that will help develop me for greater things. Working here is a great platform to launch off in the future.

What skills, training, education or past experiences helped you secure your job?

I think once I got over my fear of speaking in front of people everything just came from there. Overcoming that fear of speaking to groups is important because you tend to look at it as a skill rather than an embarrassing moment.

In radio we were trained to be prepared thoroughly, the more prepared you are the more effective you could you use the time to engage an audience instead of worrying about twisting knobs and pushing buttons.

Why did you want to work in this role/in the disability sector?

My Mum always said that an important job in life is a great job and I see the importance of my job for my peoples across the Pacific.

How does your role impact or help Pacific people with disabilities and their families?

Being a voice in the community and offering the services we provide allows me to interact with Pacific peoples all over the Auckland region. When we answer their questions, the learning quality of our workshops is very high.

When our people learn in general we feel more empowered to make informed choices for ourselves, our health and those around us.

What advice do you have for anyone wanting to work in the disability sector?

Firstly decide that you want to be in the sector, research it, meet with people who are already working in the sector and step in with a full heart!



“ meet with people who are already working in the sector and step in with a full heart ”

Sci Vehikite

- * Team Leader Auckland region
- * What Ever It Takes: Home Based Rehabilitation Services

Sci moved from Tonga to New Zealand when she was three years old. Her interests and hobbies include the church and performing arts as well as dancing, reading, travelling and spending quality time with friends and family.

Sci's role as a team leader for What Ever It Takes: Home Based Rehabilitation Services has taught her how to work effectively with families using values, cultural and client-based approaches. Her dream is to make a difference in people's lives on a national and international level.

Favourite inspirational quote

"The secret of a successful life is the success of your secret life." Anonymous.



Leadership

Describe your job

I am a Team Leader for the Auckland region.

What do you do on an average day?

An average day sees me working on relationship management, training new staff (especially on our practice model), managing staff, overseeing and managing services to people with disabilities in Auckland and administrative responsibilities such as reporting.

What do you love about your job?

I love working with, helping and empowering families. I also enjoy training staff on how to practically apply our practice model while working with people with disabilities and families.

What opportunities does your job offer?

My job provides me with the opportunity to work with a variety of people and to manage and lead staff. I also have the opportunity to move into management or into clinical or other areas such as Pacific programmes.

What skills, training, education or past experiences helped you secure your job?

I have over eight years' experience working in the health disability sector with specific experience in traumatic brain and spinal injuries, as well as other complex injuries.

Why did you want to work in this role/disability sector?

To make a difference in peoples' lives.

How does your role impact or help Pacific people with disabilities and their families?

I have specific knowledge and experience with working with families through our cultural values-based model of practice.

What advice do you have for anyone wanting to work in the disability sector?

It's a very rewarding and fulfilling job but requires dedication and commitment.



“it is a very rewarding and fulfilling job”



Felise Naufahu

- * Intensive Service Coordinator
- * Taikura Trust

Born and raised in Tonga, Felise attended a Catholic Marist School and the University of the South Pacific before completing a teaching qualification. Felise taught for a couple of years in both Tonga and New Zealand before joining Taikura Trust in mid-2004.

Married with four children, Felise enjoys music and currently devotes some of his non-work time to conducting the choir of St Thomas More Parish in Glenfield.

Felise's experiences have taught him to be more patient and creative in terms of finding options for people. His dream is to continue to work in the disability sector for as long as he can.

Favourite inspirational quote

"In the end, it's not going to matter how many breaths you took but how many moments took your breath away." Anonymous.



change agent

Describe your job

I work for Taikura Trust as an Intensive Service Coordinator. I do need assessments as well as service coordination for people with disabilities. I work mostly with families and their disabled person, supporting them to live a self-fulfilling life.

What do you do on an average day?

On an average day I attend meetings with other professionals and families. I also coordinate a support package to address disability-related needs.

What do you love about your job?

I love contributing to make a change in the lives of individuals and their extended family.

What opportunities does your job offer?

The opportunities to meet other Pacific families who desperately need help. This job also provides me with the opportunity to upskill and to gain experiences that will assist me to have confidence in what I do.

What skills, training, education or past experiences helped you secure your job?

Hands-on experience working with disabled people as well as an education background. I'm also the only Tongan in this organisation.

Why did you want to work in the disability sector?

My passion is assisting people with disability to achieve their dreams. Not only that but to make sure they will live a self fulfilled life.

How does your role impact or help Pacific people with disabilities and their families?

I help build people's self-confidence and ensure they are accessing the services they are entitled to.

What advice do you have for anyone wanting to work in the disability sector?

We need to have confidence in ourselves and what we do. You will be challenged in so many ways.



“ i love contributing to make a change in the lives of individuals and their extended family ”

Faasu Vaipaia Tinai-Tuali

- * Project Leader
- * TOA Pacific Inc

Vaipaia is passionate about and committed to working with and for Pacific people – she'd like to be in the political frontline to help Pacific people and to stand as a voice for all Pacific and Maori people. She truly appreciates older people and what they have to offer, their wisdom and knowledge, their talents, skills and overall sense of happiness.

With Samoan and Tokelauan heritage, Vaipaia was born in Samoa and raised by her grandmother in New Zealand. Now happily married, Vaipaia enjoys being a loving wife, daughter, niece and grand-daughter. Spirituality and religion are the foundation that Vaipaia stands upon to serve Pacific people. She believes her calling is to be an advocate and reach out to those in need and credits God with opening the doors for her to be where she is today.

Favourite inspirational quote

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, but in all your ways acknowledge him and he will direct your path. Proverbs 3: 5-6.



compassion

Describe your job

My job allows me to be a part of a great team which provides a service for our older people within the Auckland region. We promote and enhance health and wellbeing within their families, their relationships with their carers and encourage older people to be active members of the community.

What do you do on an average day?

We run Time Out programmes every Wednesday and Thursday, which involves preparing the agenda, setting up the hall and doing pick-ups and drop-offs for up to 80 programme participants. We also have education and exercise programmes and provide our people with information about their safety, health and well-being. I also partner up with another project leader and run programmes in Remuera for a small group once a week. I also do home visits, follow ups and tutor literacy. Reports and session plans also need to be done at the end of each day.

What do you love about your job?

I believe that without the passion, drive or love for people you cannot benefit from this sort of career. It's about giving back and in return you receive skills and tools that money can't buy. I love the overall satisfaction of interacting and empowering our older people to be who they are, the joys of being amongst such precious members of the community.

Why did you want to work in the disability sector?

Being the carer for my grandmother and working with the elderly has given me an insight into how I want to approach my role. Being an advocate and a voice for our people is something I hold dear to my heart.

“you receive skills and tools that money can't buy”



What opportunities does your job offer?

The opportunity to meet and work with our older adults is priceless and rewarding. I have the opportunity to explore my horizons, be involved in education, fulfil a role as a tutor and programme leader for our people, just to name a few.

What skills, training, education or past experiences helped you secure your job?

I'm a caring person and a great coordinator. I also speak three languages - English, Samoan and Tokelauan.

How does your role impact or help Pacific people with disabilities and their families?

My role enables me to inform our people, educate them on their rights and entitlements. We are also advocates for them and promote health and wellbeing for older people.

What advice do you have for anyone wanting to work in the disability sector?

The right attitude, open mindedness, positive attributes, respect, love, patience, generosity, humour, understanding, culturally sensitive, perseverance and nurturing are just some of the qualities you'll need to consider if you're taking up a role in this field. It's not about how much you know but it how much you can do.



compassion

motivat

dedication

leadership

empowering

enabling

courageous

change agent

tautua - service

chieve

engage

inspirational