

May 2026



Katie Vaili

Pasifika Physiotherapists Association

Incorporated Society



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## Our Values



### 'Ofa (Love)

The love for our Pacific community is our foundation, our heart, and our reason for existing.



### Faka'apa'apa (Respect)

Our interactions and relationships are founded on respect, and built and strengthened through trust and reciprocity.



### Tautua (Service)

We serve our Pacific community and provide a voice of Pacific leadership in the health industry. We serve with integrity, courage, and humility.

## Our Journey

Building a stronger community for Pacific Physiotherapists.



Mālo ē lelei. Tapu mo e 'Afio 'a e 'Otua, pea mo e faka'apa'apa atu ki he kau mēmipa kotoa pē 'o e Sosaieti ni.

## Leadership Transitions & Acknowledgements

Our Executive Committee of 2025 and officers of our incorporated society are



Mrs. Aseta Okesene-Redican MNZM as Patron,



Sagar Billimoria as Treasurer



Eti Televave as Secretary



Katie Vaili as the incoming Chair



Toleafoa Jordan Salesa



Lilo Dr. Oka Sanerivi,



Charleen Silcock,



Elijah Areli,



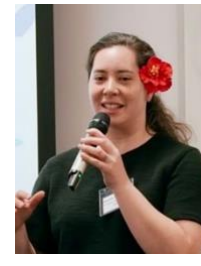
Jorjia Stewart-Tuiletufuga,



Emily Fruean



Eliana Sialei Viali



Rasela-Joy Gibson outgoing chair

Mālo 'aupito everyone for your time given and your commitment to our Pacific Physiotherapists.

As our organisation continues to evolve, this past year brought both fond farewells and exciting new beginnings in leadership. We held a Special General Meeting (SGM) on Wednesday, 26th November 2025, to ensure our path forward was legally sound and guided by our membership. During this SGM, Rasela-Joy made the decision to step down from the Chair role, having proudly led the PPA since early 2023.



“I want to express my deepest thanks for the privilege of serving this extraordinary community. I am thrilled to share that Katie Vaili was unanimously voted in as our new Chair! Mālo lava le taumafai, Katie. We look forward to your leadership and vision for PPA in 2026.” – Rasela-Joy Gibson

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to Rasela-Joy for all the work she has done to build PPA to what it is now. She leaves it with a stronger foundation set in place for all to flourish.



## Our updated Mission and Values

In our latest committee Strategy day held last week, we updated our Mission to:

**“PPA exists as the voice to inspire, empower, connect, support and nurture the Pacific physiotherapy community to learn, to lead, and to flourish”**

Our Core Values have been updated to reflect the heart of our community:

- 'Ofa (love): The love for our Pacific community is our foundation, our heart, and our reason for existing.
- Faka'apa'apa (respect): Our interactions and relationships are founded on respect, and built and strengthened through trust and reciprocity.
- Tautua (service): We serve our Pacific community and provide a voice of Pacific leadership in the health industry. We serve with integrity, courage, and humility.

Strategic Objectives (2024-2027)

Objective 1 - Grow the PPA membership and committee member capacity

Objective 2 - Enhance the financial management process

Objective 3 - Improve cultural competence in the health workforce by increasing the number of Pacific physiotherapists entering the workforce

## Strengthening Our Foundation: Incorporated Societies Act 2022

In addition to our business as usual, a significant focus this past year was ensuring the longevity and credibility of PPA by meeting the requirements of the Incorporated Societies Act 2022. The SGM in November was crucial, as our members voted to adopt a new constitution that reflects current best practices and values.

The biggest change achieved through this review was the intention for PPA to become a charitable organisation. The committee noted that this charitable status would allow for two main benefits: reduced costs on future purchases and the ability to apply for funding reserved for charitable organisations. This move ensures PPA remains legally compliant and functionally strong for years to come.

## Strategic Clarity and Collaborative Intent

We have intentionally established structures that keep us accountable to our mission and long-term vision. To begin 2025, we held a dedicated Strategy Review Day on 5 April 2025, followed by a second Strategy Day Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> May 2026, which we intend to make an annual event. Hosted at the PMA premises and expertly facilitated by Kara Thomas from Manaia Life Coaching, the session gave the Executive Committee greater clarity around our organisational structure and strategic direction. As a result, a dedicated Strategy Team was established to help ensure we achieve our targets and remain accountable to our mission.

Our commitment to partnership has never been stronger. This is evidenced by the formal Memorandums of Understanding (MOU's) we established with:

- Wintec
- Te Paori Tiaki Tinana o Aotearoa (Physiotherapy Board of New Zealand)
- Pasifika Medical Association (PMA)

And an intention of cooperation between the Physiotherapy department at AUT and the PPA.

These formal documents demonstrate our strong relationships and clear intentions to work collaboratively, ensuring our Pacific voice continues to be heard and valued across the profession.

## Key Strategic Outcomes & Achievements

Over the last year, we have done a great job of addressing the objectives set in 2024:

- **Growing Our Vaka:** We have successfully grown the PPA membership and committee member capacity! Our membership has surged from 32 to an incredible 84 members, including 10 dedicated physiotherapy students!
- **Financial Viability:** Our financial processes are now more structured, transparent, and robust, ensuring they can cope effectively as our organisation continues to grow. We continue to support students who are the future of our profession.
- **Strengthened Pacific Links:** We have solidified and deepened our links with our Kūki 'Āirani colleagues. We are providing clinical supervision and working collaboratively to support current physiotherapy students to complete placements there. Crucially, we addressed a need for clinical support in the niche area of amputee management, linking in with Peke Waihanga (Artificial Limb Centre) to support Physiotherapists and ultimately our Pacific community in the Cook Islands.

## CoConnect 2025: Powerful Connections and Our New Digital Home





Our annual Coconnect Programme remained a firm favourite time for connection and growth. The three-day event was held at the Waipapa Taumata Rau | University of Auckland South Campus and was described by PMA as bringing together "physiotherapists, researchers, students and regional partners to lay the foundation for dialogue and collaboration."

The talanoa format encouraged open exchange, enabling participants to share barriers to care and workforce growth, while identifying opportunities and pathways forward. Our founder, Jordan Salesa, shared not only his vision for Pacific physiotherapy practice but also the rich history of PPA, celebrating the journey we have travelled together.

"I'm encouraged by the types of discussions we're having where we're able to give lots of different perspectives from lots of different parts of the journey already... And to have more people every year coming to these sorts of things is really encouraging."

And our PhD graduate and keynote speaker, Lilo Dr Oka Sanerivi, reflected on the power of the forum:

"What we're already hearing highlights the breadth of Pacific physiotherapy research. We're beginning to see a swell of support for our own voices in shaping physiotherapy conditions, policies, and approaches, all with the aim of ultimately benefiting our communities."



PASIFIKA PHYSIO ASSOCIATION website.

I am also delighted to share that PPA now has a new website, providing a stable, dedicated platform to link people, share information, and celebrate our successes. This site now holds the very history Jordan shared, ensuring our foundations are strong for all to see.

While the number of members is looking fantastic at 84, I am certain there are still more of us out there! If you think you might be a member, but are not certain, please following the link below to sign up and help us keep accurate membership data! Fa'afetai tele lava!

<https://pasifikaphysioassociation.org.nz/membership/>

PPA were very privileged to be part of the AUT School of Physiotherapy prizegiving in December 2025, with our representative to AUT, Jorjia Stewart-Tuiletufuga, awarding 'The Fetu o le Tautua leadership and excellence award' to Cephus Salaivao. This award acknowledges a student who has been a shining star, achieving highly, working hard, giving back and all while staying grounded in their cultural values.

## 2026 Governance & Leadership.

We hit the ground running in 2026 by hosting a "Good Governance with a Pasifika Lens" workshop on the 27th of February 2026. Skilfully facilitated by Caren Rangi ONZM and Mele Wendt MNZM. We thank The Physiotherapy Board | te Poari for recognising the importance of supporting Pacific leadership in physiotherapy.





It was a very informative day and by learning about governance especially with a Pasifika lens many of us felt empowered and more confident to be able to serve with cultural integrity and effectiveness on boards and within leadership spaces.

## Looking Forward: Closing Remarks.

As we reflect on the milestones achieved this year—from navigating legislative changes to expanding our clinical reach in the Pacific—we extend our deepest gratitude to the PPA Executive Committee and our wider membership. As we step into 2026, we do so with a renewed sense of purpose, committed to fostering the next generation of Pacific physiotherapists. It is a privilege to serve this association, and we look forward to the growth the coming year will bring.

Faka'apa'apa atu mo e fakamālo lahi ki he kotoa 'o e pou pou ki he lipooti fakata'u ko 'eni. 'Ofa atu.

**Rasela-Joy Gibson** BPhy MBA *Outgoing Chair*

**Katie Vaili** BPhy *Incoming Chair*