

The Pacific Health Realities: The Way Forward

Noumea, New Caledonia



Opening Ceremony



Dr Joseph Williams QSO, QSM, MB, ChB, MPH

Inaugural patron of the Pasifika Medical Association (PMA), Dr Williams received an Honorary PMA Service award in 2004. He graduated from the University of Otago in 1960 and the University of Hawaii in 1969. He returned to the Cook Islands in 1964 as Medical Superintendent, surgeon and physician at the Rarotonga Hospital. He subsequently became the Director of Health and Secretary of Social Services.

He conducted a number of medical research activities including filariasis, intestinal helminthiasis, tropical pulmonary eosinophilia, eosinophilic meningoencephalitis and child health nutrition and anaemia. He introduced a pioneering programme for the elimination of lymphatic filariasis in the Cook Islands in 1968. This was later adopted by the World Health Organisation as the model for the Global Program for the Elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis. Dr Williams served on the World Health Organisation Executive Board 1995 – 1997 and as a member of the Program Review Group for the Global Elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis 1998 – 2004. He spent 18 years of his life in politics and became Prime Minister of the Cook Islands in 1999. He was Minister of Health and Education in 1974 – 1978 and Minister of Health Tourism, Transport and State Owned Enterprises in 1994 – 1998. He currently manages the Mt Wellington Integrated Health Centre, a member of the ProCare Network and served as Chairperson of the Auckpac PHO since 2003, then Chairperson of the regional Pacific Alliance Health + PHO. Dr Williams is the President of the Cook Islands Health Network Association (CIHNA).

Dr Williams has conducted research on Prostate cancer in Pacific men in Auckland and is an advocate for PSA Screening in Pacific men.

He has also done extensive research in Eczema and is the author of the book “Eczema THE NEGLECTED DISEASE OF CHILDREN” published in February 2015 by Oceania Media Publishers and available online www.drjoebooks.com.



Mr Tearikivao (Kiki) Maoate ONZM FRACS

Paediatric Surgeon and Urologist, Kiki Maoate is a well respected leader in the Cook Island community and Pacific health sector in New Zealand and the region. He was invested with a New Zealand Order of Merit in 2014 for his dedication and commitment to Pacific health. Kiki is a Fellow of Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and is the Clinical Director of the Pacific Island Program. He holds an appointment as Associate Dean Pacific Health, University of Otago based in Christchurch. Kiki was instrumental in the establishment of Pacific Trust Canterbury and has provided strategic leadership in the development and formation of the South Island Provider collective. He is the President of the Pasifika Medical Association and a member and strong supporter of the Pacific Island Surgeons Association. Kiki is also Chairperson of the Minister of Pacific Peoples Ministerial Advisory Committee. He has served on numerous boards and committees including the University of Canterbury Council and the New Zealand and Pacific Health Research Councils. In 2015 Kiki was invested with a Commander Royal Crown of Tonga by His Majesty King Tupou VI for his services to the Kingdom. Kiki is an advisor to Cook Islands Ministry of Health and is active in the Pacific region as Clinical Director for Health Specialists Ltd.



Dr Colin Tukuitonga DSM MPH FAFPHM FRNZCGP

The Pacific Community (SPC) is the principal scientific and technical organisation in the Pacific region, supporting development since 1947. It is a unique international development organisation owned and governed by its 26 country and territory members.

Dr Colin Tukuitonga has served as its Director-General since January 2014. He is based at the organisation's headquarters in Noumea, New Caledonia. Dr Tukuitonga, from the Pacific Island of Niue, was formerly the Director of SPC's Public Health Division. He was a member of an Independent External Review of SPC in 2012. His previous roles include: Chief Executive Officer of the New Zealand Government's Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs; Associate Professor of Public Health and Head of Pacific and International Health at the University of Auckland; Director of Public Health, New Zealand Ministry of Health; and Head of Surveillance and Prevention of Chronic Non-Communicable Diseases at the World Health Organization, Switzerland.

Dr Tukuitonga has also served in various leadership and management roles, including at the Fiji School of Medicine, the Auckland District Health Board, Northern Regional Health Authority (Auckland), University of Auckland and the Health Research Council of New Zealand. He is a former Board member of the Pacific Cooperation Foundation.

Additionally, Dr Tukuitonga was a commissioner for the World Health Organization (WHO) global Commission on Ending Childhood Obesity from 2014 until its work concluded in early 2016.

Dr Tukuitonga is a Founding Member of the Niue Arts and Culture Festival, Pacific Language Weeks in New Zealand, and of the Leadership Development Programme for Pacific civil servants in New Zealand. He is a member of the Pacific Research panel for the Performance-Based Research Fund 2018 Quality Evaluation.



Keynote Speaker: Hon. Nandi Tuaine Glassie

Honourable Glassie is a veteran politician who is currently Minister of Health and Justice and Parliamentary Services in the Cook Islands Government. He is the longest serving Minister of Health in the Cook Islands for the past seven years. He has held other portfolios in the past which included Agriculture, Internal Affairs, and Office of Ombudsman.

Before returning to the Cook Islands in 2001, he has worked in senior management positions for the New Zealand national governments for many years. He served nearly ten years as Policy Planner for the Manukau City Council.

In the Cook Islands, he was appointed CEO for the Office for Island Administrations (OMIA) for five years, before being appointed as Chief of Staff, for the Prime Minister's office.

Minister Glassie holds several university degrees including a Master of Public Policy with distinction from Massey University, New Zealand.

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