

# WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL PACIFIC ADVISORY GROUP

ANNUAL REPORT – July 2022 to June 2023

Noa'ia, Malo ni, Mauri, Fakaalofa lahi atu, Ni Sa Bula Vinaka, Kia orana, Hafa Adai, Halo oloketa, Malo e lelei, Talofa lava, and warm Pacific greeting from the Pacific Advisory Group

Background

The Wellington City Council Pacific Advisory Group (PAG) is one of five Council community advisory groups providing a broad range of advice and connection to specific Wellington communities.

PAG brings its Pacific knowledge and insight into Council on how the needs of Wellington's Pacific communities can be addressed in the context of Council's roles and priorities.

While PAG is not seen as representing all Pacific people in the City, members utilise their significant support and leadership roles within their ethnic and local communities to enhance the responses and services the Council provide.

PAG's membership includes representatives from; Samoa, Cook Islands, Fiji, Melanesia, Micronesia, Niue, Tonga, Tokelau and Tuvalu.

Introduction

This Annual Report covers the engagements and activities undertaken by the Wellington City Council Pacific Advisory Group (PAG) for the period July 2022 – June 2023.

This past year has seen outgoing members, as well as a broad range of topics discussed and presented at PAG.

We have been working to embed and maintain a strategic approach to advising and supporting the Wellington City Council (WCC), especially following the 2020 Review of the Advisory Groups.

We have contributed to various council strategies, plans and consultations, and have fed back Council information to our respective communities.

We have maintained our practise of building whanaungatanga in our agenda format, continuing to share knowledge and information about our respective cultures and selves, to build and strengthen our relationships not only amongst members, but also with Council staff and those who engage with PAG. It sets the tone for the meeting and helps to build effective partnerships and stronger engagement.

We acknowledge our outgoing PAG members for this past year, and are grateful for their contributions, time, and support. They have been strong advocates for PAG, and we will continue to build on the momentum that they helped to build.

We are also excited to welcome our new/incoming PAG members and are especially pleased to fill what has been a long vacant position for the Micronesia community.

It will be an exciting year ahead, and we look forward to working with Council.

Advisory Group Membership – as at 30 June 2023

<b>Name</b>	<b>Pacific Nation</b>	
Natalia Fareti	Samoa	<i><b>Co-chair</b></i>
Anthony Carter	Samoa	<i><b>Co-chair</b></i>
Gerron Ale	Tokelau	
Jope Berwick	Fiji	
Maria Clark	Niue	
Mino Cleverly	Samoa	
Sunia Foliaki	Tonga	
Kira Hundleby	Melanesia	
Maikali Kilione	Fiji	
Jocelyn Kua	Tokelau	
Lisa Pouvalu	Tonga	
Sandra Tisam	Cook Islands	
Senia Bartley	Tuvalu	

Jocelyn Kua, Lisa Pouvalu, Sunia Foliaki and Mino Cleverley came to the end of their second consecutive terms on PAG and had their final meeting in June. Gerron Ale tendered their resignation. PAG therefore recruited for 9 vacancies in July and successfully filled 7 of those positions.

- Laauli Joseph Seupule – Samoa
- Inangaro Vakaafi – Niue
- Āpeāfusua Katalina Semisi - Tokelau
- Suliana Veā – Tonga
- Fiemalie Pe Fale – Tonga
- Nesleen Pentani Hamilton – Melanesia
- Nathaniel Rigler - Micronesia

Remaining vacancies:

Tokelau: 1

Tuvalu: 1

Cook Islands: 1

We also welcomed back the remaining members as returning representatives. Anthony Carter and Natalia Fareti were voted in as the new Co-Chairs in August 2021.

In May/June 2022, we sought applications to fill existing vacancies on PAG (two for Tuvalu, and one for Micronesia). We were excited to welcome our newest member of PAG:

- Senia (Nia) Bartley - Tuvalu

Being representatives for our respective communities has been and is, an honour for all of our PAG members, and we all stand committed to bringing our communities' voices to the Council table.

PAG Meetings held - 12

Chair, Deputy Chair, and Council Democracy Officer/s meetings held – 10



Caption: (L-R) Gerron Ale (outgoing), Mino Cleverley (outgoing), Natalia Fareti, Senia Bartley, Tino Vaireka (outgoing), Sandra Tisam, Maria Clark, Anthony Carter.



Caption: Laauli Joseph Seupule (incoming), Maikali Kilione, Nathaniel Rigler (incoming), Nesleen Hamilton (incoming), Fiemalie Pe Fale (incoming), Āpeāfusia Katalina Semisi (incoming), Maria Clark, Senia Bartley

PAG continues to build on the recommendations that the Advisory and Reference Group Review report of June 2020, including:

- Continued support co-designing alongside Council staff, to shape PAG work programs
- Continued consistency of democracy officer representation
- Attendance at PAG meetings by a senior Council staff officer.

A previous recommendation PAG have made to Council, is about closing the feedback loop, back to PAG. It has often been the case that PAG have provided insights and feedback on Council consultations and presentations, but it has been unclear if and how those insights and feedback from PAG have been taken into account. We would encourage Council to promote proactive use of the feedback loop process that PAG understands was established i.e. a feedback form for Council staff to complete, after presenting to PAG.

We thank Council and staff who have proactively engaged with PAG as early as possible in the co-design process for strategies and plans, so that Pasifika perspectives are actively considered and incorporated.

#### PAG Activities

The below outlines the subjects that were presented and discussed at PAG meetings over the past year.

- Let's Get Wellington Moving – Joint Advisory Group meeting
- Advisory Group induction – Joint Advisory Group meeting
- Local Elections 2022
- Fale Malae Design options and Frank Kitts Park Development

- Open Spaces Recreation Strategy
- Te Awe Māpara | Community Facilities Plan project
- Connecting Te Mahau / NZ Police
- Mataaho Aronui – 10-Year Māori Strategy
- Tukuihotanga Cultural Heritage Strategy

It has been a varied array of topics discussed, and it was particularly memorable being able to support the Fale Malae project and its progress. We hope to remain closely involved with that project and process – it has made leaps and bounds from its genesis, which heavily involved PAG.

We acknowledge the incoming Councillors as well, following local government elections, and thank those outgoing for their service.

#### Summary

The Pacific Advisory Group have continued to present their own, and reflect community, feedback to Council. It has been an ongoing two-way dialogue, with our members providing updates about recent, current, and upcoming events, initiatives, challenges and opportunities of our respective Pacific communities to Council.

Likewise, Council staff have provided relevant and useful information about consultations, strategies, events and plans, that our PAG members have been able to share in turn with their respective communities.

We have had a few of our members come to the end of their two consecutive terms, and we farewelled them in June 2023. We thank them for their many contributions, and ongoing support for not only PAG, but also Council, and for advocating for their respective communities. We would especially like to thank the former Chair, Jocelyn Kua, for her leadership and guidance through some critical times especially during Covid-19.

We continue to advocate for our communities, and thank the Council for their ongoing support. A special thanks to our Democracy Advisor, Alisi Folaumoetu'i, and our supporting Council senior staff. Also to our outgoing Councillor Teri O'Neill for her support and advocacy for PAG. It was wonderful to have her solid support and hearing from her the updates about Council activities and processes, especially from a Councillor perspective. We felt well informed and also confident that our views were being shared and advocated for at the Council table as well. Thank you Councillor O'Neill!

Ngā mihi nui to all our Council and PAG aiga!

Anthony Carter and Natalia Fareti  
Co-Chairs of the Pacific Advisory Group

## Pacific Advisory Group Work Programme – 2023-24

### Introduction

The Pacific Advisory Group terms of reference requires an annual work programme to be developed and presented to the relevant Council committee once a year. The work programme will be determined jointly between the Pacific Advisory Group, Council officers, chair of the appropriate Council committee, and the Councillor liaisons.

The work programme is set out below and highlights key areas of work that the Pacific Advisory Group will contribute to over the 2023-24 fiscal year.

### Purpose

As per the advisory group terms of reference, the purpose of the Pacific Advisory Group is to:

- Advise Council on how to help grow a great City, where Pasifika peoples thrive and contribute to Council's priorities.
- Bring knowledge and extra insight into Council about how the different needs of Wellington's Pasifika communities can be addressed in the context of Council's roles and priorities.
- It is recognised that members come from and remain connected to their communities, it is from this foundation members share their expertise and lived experience in this advisory role and engage with their communities and others as part of the wider council consultation processes. The expectations around this connection are set out in the *Communication and Involvement of communities* points [in the terms of reference].

### Draft work programme:

In the 2023-24 year, the Pacific Advisory Group will contribute to Council projects and priorities in the following areas:

- Fale Malae developments
- Sports fields and recreation centres
- Water infrastructure including the impact of the Three Waters Water Reform
- Public transport, bike network engagements and Let's Get Wellington Moving
- Long-term Plan engagement
- Digital City Model/Digital Twin
- District Plan
- Climate Change mitigation and adaptation
- Economic Development
- Pasifika Festival

Additionally, the Pacific Advisory Group has the following areas of interest:

- Pacific Migration into Wellington – support for employment and connectivity to city services offered by WCC
- Support for Pacific language weeks led by the Ministry of Pacific Peoples
- Internal WCC progress including support for Pasifika staff and machinery of Wellington City Council

- Elections – supporting Pacific engagement for both the General election and local elections in partnership with the Electoral Commission
- Newtown Festival

This work programme is not prescriptive and the group may work on projects outside of these priorities.