Sione Tu‘itahi
Health Promotion Forum of New Zealand
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Fānau Ola: A Pasifika Perspective on Whānau Ora
“Whänau Ora is about empowering whänau to take control of their future. What we want for our whänau is to be self-determining, to be living healthy lifestyles, to be participating fully in society and to be economically secure.”

Hon Tariana Turia
Minister Responsible for Whänau Ora
(Christchurch)
Whanau Ora: Maori Perspectives

- “...is an inclusive, culturally-anchored approach to provide services and opportunities to whānau and families across New Zealand.
- The Taskforce on Whānau-Centred Initiatives identified six goals that suggest that whānau outcomes will be met when whānau are: self-managing; living healthy lifestyles; participating fully in society; confidently participating in Te Ao Māori; economically secure and successfully involved in wealth creation; and cohesive, resilient and nurturing.
- It empowers whānau and families as a whole, rather than separately focusing on individual family members and their problems.
- It also requires multiple Government agencies to work together with whānau and families rather than separately with individual family members...” (source: Te Puni Kokiri)
“While the desired results of an intervention will vary according to particular whanau circumstances, the Taskforce has identified a set of goals. The goals will be met when

- whanau are:
- self-managing
- living healthy lifestyles
- participating fully in society
- confidently participating in te ao Maori
- economically secure and successfully involved in wealth creation
- cohesive, resilient and nurturing.” (Taskforce Report)
“Government believes there is a better way to use the hundred of millions of dollars spent currently on families in need, with better results for the families themselves.

Whānau Ora will work in a range of ways, influenced by the priorities that whānau and families identify and choose.

Whānau Ora is not a one size fits all approach. It is deliberately designed to be flexible to meet family needs and will evolve over time and be improved as required.

The Government has allocated $134.3 million over four years for the implementation of Whānau Ora.

Successful providers will retain the funding they receive through existing contracts, which will be developed into Whānau Ora contracts.” (TPK)
“Whanau has been variously defined but generally refers to Maori who share common descent and kinship, as well as collective interests that generate reciprocal ties and aspirations. Whanau are built around familial ties that extend over three, and usually more, generations. The links between whanau members do not depend on specific tasks but on on-going relationships based around shared lines of descent and conjugal associations. They are built around cultural values such as generosity, hospitality, sharing and mutual respect. Intergenerational connections are reflected in similar genetic patterns, similar heritage, similar names and similar obligations. They generate bonds that cannot be dissolved even when alienation occurs. Whanau have long histories that are measured in generations rather than years.” (Whanau Ōra Taskforce Report)
Definitions: Pasifika perspectives

Policy provides and opportunity for
1. *Funded contracts*
2. *An approach that is based on Pacific strengths*

Concept not new – see *Te Korowai Oranga, Durie et al*
- Whanau/Fānau generally means extended family
- Inter-generational, can be up to five generations
- Ora means life, growth, positive outcomes
- Whānau Ora/Fānau Ola means extended family taking charge of their health and wellbeing, and their destiny
Fānau as carrier and promoter

- Basic social unit
- Repository & promoter of
- Values – love, care, reciprocity
- Knowledge
- practice – culture
- Enhancer and advocate
- Can be a risk if not developed properly
- NZ is Relatively new, challenging cultural context for Fānau
Fānau Ola is strengths-based as opposed to deficit-focused approaches
- Empowering - take charge of own future
- Provides a framework that can cater for holistic needs - material and spiritual - and aspirations
- Addressing determinants at fānau level by fānau
- Usual focus on Fānau/community development approach but can employ other strategies such as developing policy, and individual skills
- Culturally appropriate
How to practise Fānau Ola?

- Collaborative approach between stakeholders - services and families
- Thorough consultation to identify family owned goals and plan – short and long term
- Health, education, economic, spiritual, cultural goals – linking individual and collective goals
- Guided by principles such as mutual trust & respect, empowerment, human rights, collective wellbeing
- Consultation, action, reflection as the cyclic mode of operation, seeing mistakes as part of the learning in action and its trend should be upward and forward
- Navigational & co-navigating towards common goals of material and spiritual prosperity, harmonious with the ecology