

Lilo Oka Sanerivi nomination for PNZ Executive vacancy

Tēnā koutou katoa,

I am a Samoan/Tongan Physiotherapy clinician, manager, emerging researcher, governor, and leader. I bring tacit knowledge and experience of this unique health system as the first Pasifika Head of Department at a DHB and one of the first Pasifika physiotherapists to be appointed to the Physiotherapy Board of New Zealand as a Board Member.

I am passionate about promoting equitable health outcomes for indigenous peoples globally, for Pacific peoples regionally, and especially for Māori locally. I draw on my Pacific ancestral values of fa'aaloalo (respect), alofa (devoted commitment), and tautua (service) to produce a high standard of work. This high standard of work is based on strong, constructive, and often humorous relationships with colleagues.

The integration of these grounded ethics and strong relationships has enabled me to be the delegate for Physiotherapy New Zealand at the 20th World Physiotherapy General Meeting in Dubai this year. It has also enabled me to influence important international policies including the commitment to utilising diverse languages in all of World Physiotherapy's work, and World Physiotherapy's commitment to Climate Action. Both policies were unanimously passed during the General Meeting.

If successfully elected to the PNZ Executive, I would be advocating for a greater policy and strategic focus on partnering with influential advocacy groups to promote the benefits of physiotherapy to the health sector and wider society, particularly for Māori and Pacific communities.

I would also be committed to prudent, sustainable, financial decision-making and celebrating the best of our profession.