

***“The need for ‘Assertive Community Treatment’
for persons with severe mental illness
in ethnic minority groups”***

Speaker: Leota Dr Lisi Petaia

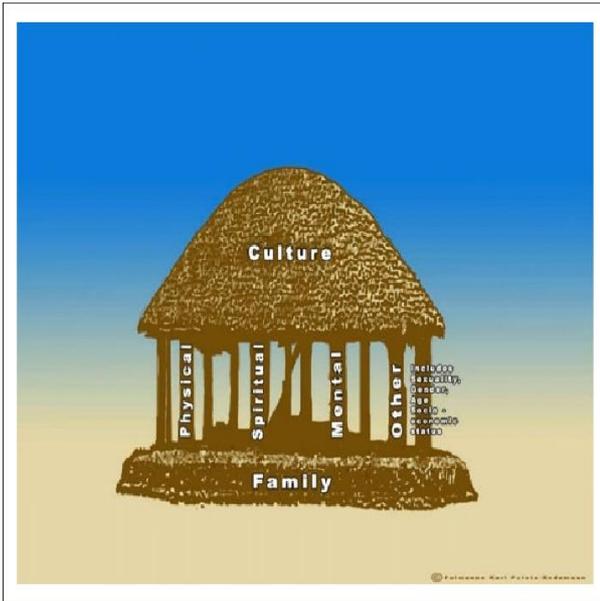


Dear members

Thanks to those who participated in the 24th September 2019 Cross-Cultural Interest Group seminar. We had 37 passionate colleagues from a wide range of health disciplines participating. **We are again very grateful for the generous sponsoring of the catering by Janssen Pharmaceutical for evening session.** We really valued everyone who stayed behind to help us rearrange the tables and chairs, thank you.

Leota Dr Lisi Petaia, is a consultant psychiatrist at Mason Clinic, the Regional Forensic Psychiatry Services in Auckland. She is a strong advocate for mental health patients' rights to access appropriate mental health care that integrates both clinical and cultural concepts. She has taught on the relevance of culture to mental health and illness to medical students and junior doctors at the University of Auckland (as honorary senior lecturer since 2013); the University of Otago; and the University of Samoa. The prefix to her name, Leota, is a traditional Samoan chiefly title bestowed upon her in recognition of her achievements, and as a community leader. She and her lawyer husband of 25 years have two teenage sons. She is Samoan-Tongan and can speak both languages. She sings in her church choir; plays the guitar; and had represented Samoa internationally in netball in her younger years.





Fonofale Model (Pulotu-Endemann, 2009).

Dr Lisi started her presentation by acknowledging the history of culturally-focused mental illness treatment which laid the foundation for progressive development. Her introduction discussed how cultural factors in sentencing have opened the way for culturally and linguistically appropriate treatments for ethnic minority groups.

She explained the 'Assertiveness Community Treatment' approach within the context of people with severe mental illness. With more than 20 years of experience in treating clients from Pasifika background, Dr Lisi discussed how the use of holistic approach would lead to a better prognosis for clients with severe mental illness. She illustrated with case examples of how the use of the Pasifika Fonofale Model has helped many of her clients received the necessary treatments, and how many have had maintained their recovery for an extended period.

Dr Lisi invited the floor for a conversation which stirred up active participation. Some colleagues shared their success stories of implementing culturally appropriate practices while some shared their challenges in advocating for their community groups.

In closing, she urged the group to carefully consider both clinical and cultural factors for the best interest of those we support.



**Thank you again for your interest and support
and we look forward to seeing you at THE 2020 SERIES!!**

a

Dr Han Chung Lim (Session Facilitator) on behalf of the Cross Cultural Interest Advisory Group

For more information about the advisory group, newsletters, membership application, previous topics, please go to <https://www.ecald.com/cross-cultural-interest-group/>