

NEW PACIFIC RESEARCH CENTRE SET TO LEAD COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



The Pacific Research and Policy Centre was established in 2014 to give focus to the already considerable research activity done by Massey on key development issues facing the Pacific Islands as well as Pasifika communities in Aotearoa/New Zealand. As a research knowledge hub, the PRPC's core purpose is to generate and share new understandings of key issues relevant to Pasifika peoples, both in New Zealand and in the wider Pacific region.

The university-based centre aims to contribute new learning for real-world development among Pasifika communities and be at the forefront of talking about those issues to resolve them. Communicating the findings of research to relevant stakeholder communities is an important part of what they do, and the PRPC resolves to contribute to policy developments and debates to support the aspirations of Pasifika people.

The university currently has around 130 researchers - spread across their three campuses and five colleges - with expertise in Pacific issues ranging from sustainable agriculture to health and wellbeing, education, social development, responsible business, and creative arts.

Professor Regina Scheyvens is co-director in the Pacific Research and Policy Centre. She is also a professor in international development. Her research focuses on the relationship between tourism, sustainable development and poverty reduction. She has conducted fieldwork on these issues in Fiji, Vanuatu, Samoa, the Maldives and in Southern Africa. Professor Scheyvens works in the School of People, Environment and Planning at Massey University.

Ms Litea Meo-Sewabu is the Research Officer and Coordinator for the Pacific Research and Policy Centre. She graduated with a Masters in Public Health from Tulane University's School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, New Orleans, Louisiana, and a Bachelor of Science from Lambuth University, Jackson, Tennessee, both in the United States. She is currently a PhD candidate exploring the cultural constructs of health and wellbeing of Indigenous Fijian women in Fiji and New Zealand.

