

I AM WHO I AM

O A'U, O A'U LAVA

Faith in a N.Z / P.I Gen-Z World.



PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

This *participation information sheet* (PIS) is used for the participants involved with and contributing to this research. Please take the time to read this information so you know what is involved with this research.

Researcher Contact Details:

Taulu M Schuster (PhD Student)
bmj7189@autuni.ac.nz

Research Project Title:

O a'u, o a'u lava (I am who I am): Faith in a NZPI Gen-Z World.

Date Participation Information Sheet Produced:

Wednesday 22 November 2023

A BIT ABOUT MYSELF

TALOFA! FAKALOFA LAHI ATU!

I would like to thank you for taking the time to consider becoming a participant in this study. I hope the following information will clarify what is involved during this study and explain the importance of your voice as a young Aotearoa-born Polynesian.



WHO AM I?

My name is Taulu Schuster. I am of Samoan Niuean descent, born in Aotearoa and currently working towards my PhD with AUT and Laidlaw Theological College. As well as being a PhD student, I am a full-time church minister for a local church in Manukau City. I have a beautiful wife (married 22 years) and two awesome sons.



THE PURPOSE OF THIS RESEARCH?

As we enter the 21st century, many New Zealand-born Polynesian Generation-Z do not follow the traditions of their parents, who grew up attending church during the 1980s in Aotearoa. Though Christianity is the largest religion of Polynesian peoples in New Zealand, there are different levels of engagement occurring with today's New Zealand-born Polynesian Generation-Z. This research is to explore the reasons behind this.

MY QUALIFICATIONS

- MASTERS OF ARTS [Wheaton College]
- BACHELOR OF EDUCATION [University of Auckland]
- DIPLOMA OF TEACHING (PRIMARY) [University of Auckland]



WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS?

Yes, to join this study you need to be a *New Zealand-born Polynesian Generation-Z tertiary student between 18 and 27 years old (NZPI Gen-Z)**. You also need to have past or present experience in one of the following types of church participation:



Please note the exclusion criteria: individuals in my personal network, including family members, friends, work colleagues, and students I know personally, will not be permitted to participate in this study due to a conflict of interest.

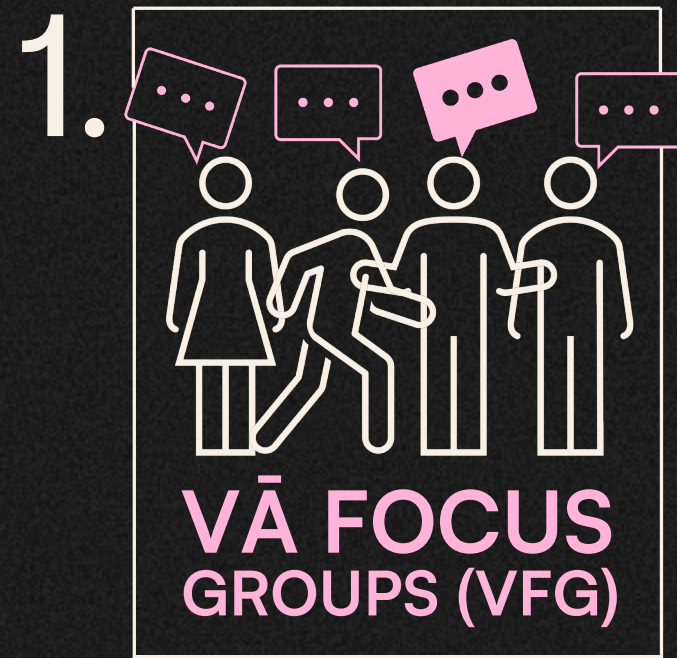
NZPI GEN-Z REPRESENTATIVES

This selection from all three groups (Multicultural, Pasifika, Other) offers a balanced representation of NZPI Gen-Z and their view of the Christian faith.

*The term NZPI Gen-Z refers to Polynesian tertiary students aged 18-27 from New Zealand who belong to Generation-Z.

WHAT TYPE OF RESEARCH AM I PARTICIPATING IN?

If you agree to take part in this research, interviews will be conducted in the following **two** ways:



1. *Time allocated: 45-60 mins*
Location: interview room locations on campus are communicated via email.

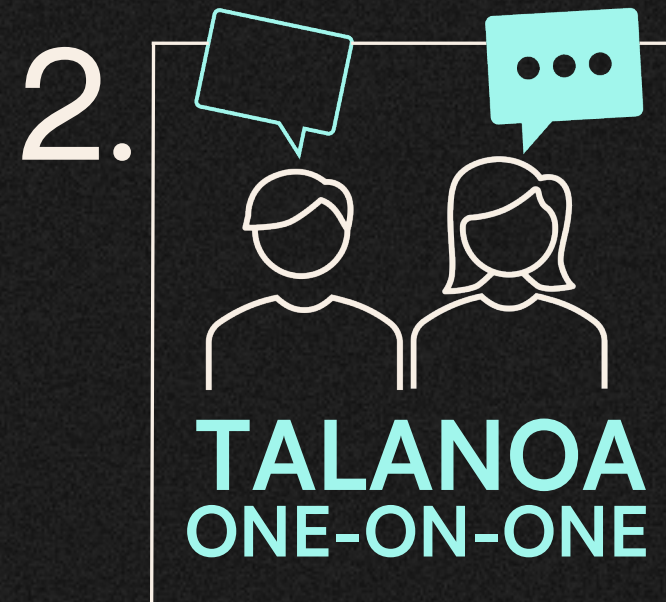
The first will be through a *vā focus group* (VFG). A *vā focus group* approach is to connect with each other through the lens of the Pasifika way by creating a relational space between us. This is the first method of interviewing by gathering participants into groups of 4 per *vā focus group*.

All VFGs will utilise the Polynesian concept of *talanoa* (storytelling or conversation) as our approach to converse with each other.

THE SILENT OBSERVER

I must inform you that my Pasifika supervisor (Dr. Pouono) will be a silent observer during the VFG sessions. This is so I can debrief with him afterwards. His feedback will not impact any of the VFGs.

PLEASE NOTE: this *talanoa one-on-one* interview stage is optional.



2. *Time allocated: 30-40 mins*
Location: interview room locations on campus are communicated via email.

After all the VFGs are completed, the *talanoa one-on-one* interviews are the second and final part. The questions used in the VFGs will be used once again in the *talanoa one-on-one* interviews to discuss further points of interest.

Due to time constraints, the first two participants from each type (two from *Multicultural*, two from *Pasifika*, and two from *Other*) will be more than adequate for the *talanoa one-on-one* interviews. Also, *online talanoa* is an option if required.

VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION

Participation in this research is voluntary (it is your choice), and whether or not you choose to participate will not disadvantage you. You can opt-out of the study at any time. If you choose to withdraw from the study, you will be offered the choice between having any data identifiable as belonging to you removed or allowing it to continue to be used. However, once the findings have been produced, removal of your data may not be possible.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN THIS RESEARCH?



To safeguard you as a potential participant and for research purposes, two separate *consent forms* will be handed out to read and confirm your participation before commencing the VFG and *talanoa one-on-one* interviews.

Once you agree to participate, you must sign and return the consent forms agreeing to participate in the interviews before we start the process.



Every *fono* (meeting time) is shaped around the Polynesian concepts of the *vā* (relational space between us) and *talanoa* (storytelling or conversation). Every *fono* will take place at your tertiary campus, and details of the time of the interviews and rooms will be sent to you in advance via email.

Your VFG will consist of 4 other New Zealand-born Polynesian Gen-Z participants taking 45-60 minutes of discussion time. For those who choose to continue to participate in the *talanoa one-on-one* interviews, these will be conducted later and will take 30-40 minutes.



During all VFGs and *talanoa one-on-one*, I will be *note-taking* and *audio-recording* our time together. This is outlined in the consent form.

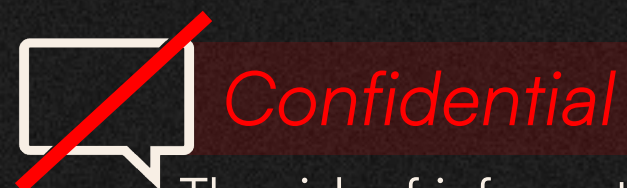
Once all recordings (VFGs, *talanoa one-on-one*) are completed, they will be *transcribed* with names de-identified. You will receive a copy of your *talanoa one-on-one* interview to verify and sign off as an accurate account of our time together.

PARTICIPANT PRIVACY

Please keep in mind that VFG interviews have limited confidentiality as they involve group discussions. This means there is no sign-off, and it will not be returned for checking. For all VFG and *talanoa one-on-one*, you will be given a pseudonym to maintain confidentiality. All information collected will be saved on a password-protected hard drive, as well as in the cloud, and stored securely at Laidlaw College.

WHAT RISKS ARE INVOLVED?

To ensure you are aware, while you participate in the VFGs and *talanoa one-on-one* interviews, some unforeseeable risks might be expected and must be brought to your attention. Here are some possible risks that may cause some discomfort as a result of taking part in this research:



Confidential

The risk of information leaking out beyond the group may cause a loss of privacy or a breach of confidentiality even though everyone has agreed to confidentiality.



Emotional

A risk of the discussion topics triggering an emotional response such as stress, confusion triggering past emotional experiences.



Tiredness

Taking part in interviews may be tiring and might result in low energy levels.

IF YOU NEED SOMEONE TO TALK TO

For precautionary purposes, you can withdraw your participation if you feel discomfort that may trigger past or present thoughts during our focus group discussions. You can withdraw from VFGs or *talanoa one-on-one* interviews at any time during the research process. Also, if I observe you feel uncomfortable, I will pause my questions and check on your well-being and whether you wish to proceed.

AUT Student Counselling and Mental Health are available to offer three free sessions of confidential counselling support for adult participants in an AUT research project. These sessions are only available for issues that have arisen directly as a result of participation in the research and are not for other general counselling needs. To access these services, you will need to:

To access these services, you will need to:

- Drop into our centre at WB203 City Campus, email counselling@aut.ac.nz or call 921 9292.
- Please let the receptionist know you are a research participant and provide the title of my research and my name and contact details as given in this info sheet.

You can find out more information about AUT counsellors and counsel at <https://www.aut.ac.nz/student-life/student-support/counselling-and-mental-health>.

SOME FINAL QUESTIONS?

Who do I contact for further information?

Please keep this Information Sheet and a copy of the consent form for future reference. You are also able to contact the research team as follows:

Researcher Contact Details:

Taulu M Schuster (PhD Student)
 bmj7189@autuni.ac.nz
 021 535 958

Project Supervisor Contact Details:

Dr Myk Habets, mhabets@laidlaw.ac.nz
 Dr Terry Pouono, tpouono@laidlaw.ac.nz
 Dr Sarah Penwarden, spenwarden@laidlaw.ac.nz

Will I receive feedback on the results?

Yes. A summary of this research's findings will be provided and accessible to all participants upon completion via a password-protected web link.

What do I do if I have concerns about this research?

Any concerns regarding the nature of this project should be addressed in the first instance to the Lead Supervisor:

Dr Myk Habets
mhabets@laidlaw.ac.nz
 (+649) 836 7800

Concerns regarding the conduct of the research should be addressed to the Executive Secretary of AUTEK:

ethics@aut.ac.nz
 (+649) 921 9999 ext 6038.