

**My Journey**

**Exercise**

**Understanding**

**How we do it**

**What we do**

**Understanding**

# Pacific World View



# I Am Not an Individual

I am an integral part of the cosmos

I share divinity with my ancestors, the land, the seas and the skies.

I am not an individual because I share a tofi with my family, my village, my nation

I belong to my family, my village, my nation

I belong to my family and my family belongs to me

I belong to my village and my village belongs to me.

I belong to my nation and my nation belongs to me.

This is the essence of my sense of belonging

Tui Atua Tupua Tamasese, 1997

# Spirituality



# Correctness and Respect

The way in which things are done is important for Pacific peoples

# HUMILITY

**Humility is an attitude that  
is considered implicit and  
is highly valued in Pacific  
Culture**

# Island Born and NZ Born

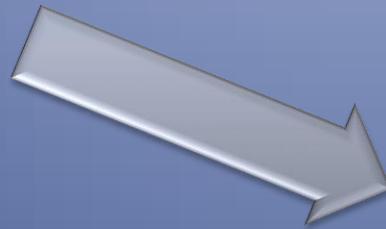


**Understand that your  
position or cultural view  
may not apply to the  
Pacific person**

**How we do it**

**Culture is often treated as something  
to the side of the person**

Culture



Person



Unless cultural considerations are addressed at the first point of contact, and throughout, then effective assessment and rehabilitation are compromised

Developing a relationship  
is imperative when  
working with Pacific  
peoples

# The Environment



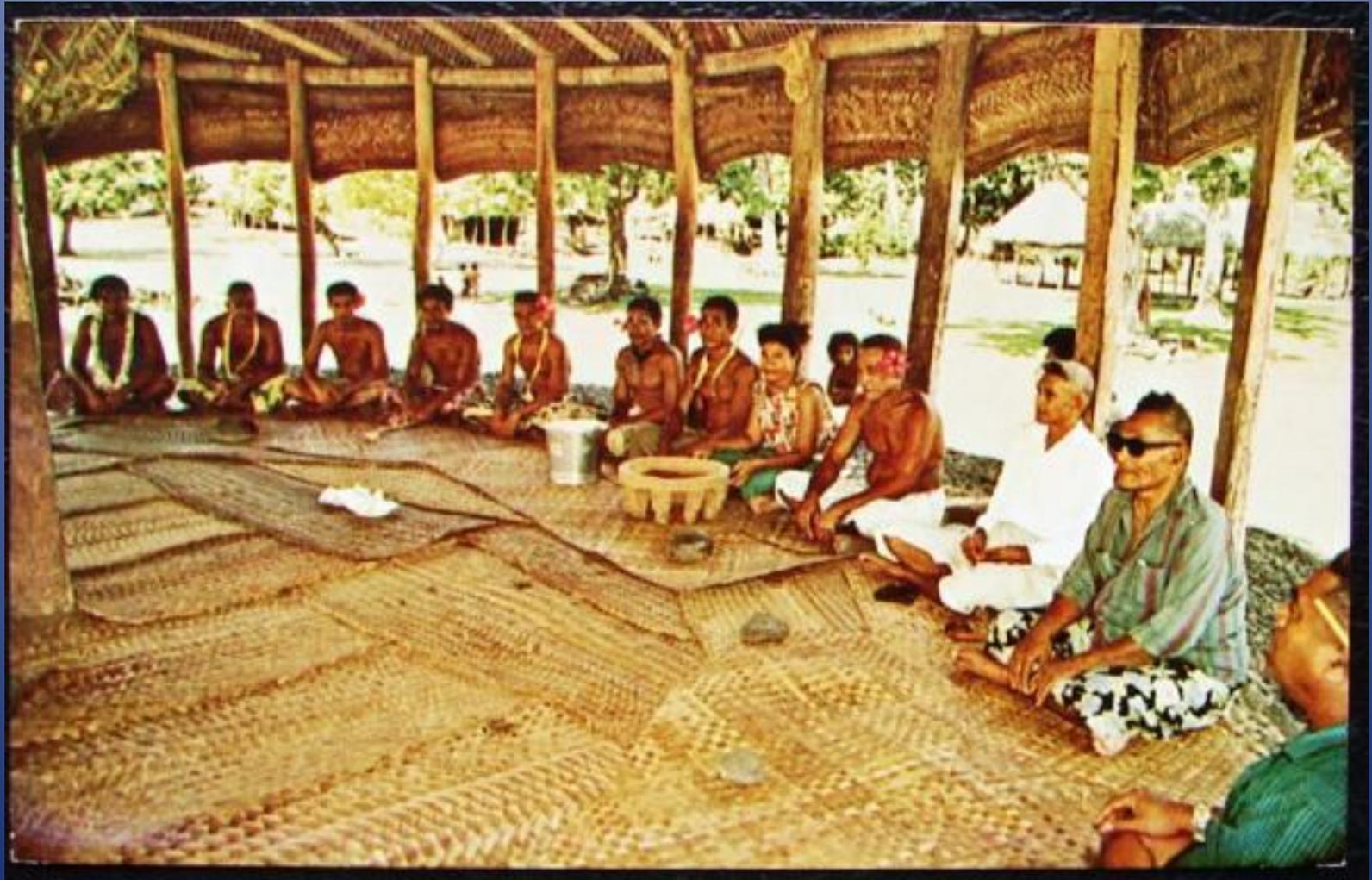
# Allow Time



# Involve Family



# Allow for Pacific Process



# Ensure Language need are met



# REMEMBER

- Do not assume it is always appropriate to involve others
- Acknowledge when you are uncertain about cultural processes
- Seek Guidance

**What We Do**

- Tests normed on Western populations
- Cultural bias in measures that we use
- Some psychological tools may not be suitable for Pacific peoples
- Misleading conclusions may occur due to Language differences but also because Pacific people have not been included in the population that the instruments are normed on

# In a 2009 paper by Faleafa

Community rehabilitation outcomes across cultures following traumatic brain injury. Monique Faleafa *Pacific Health Dialog*, 15(1): 28-34.

- Found Pacific peoples scored lower on some measures of memory and language
- This difference may reflect a cultural bias in the measures used
- May influence recommendations made by Neuropsychologists

# Language

- Misleading conclusions
- Pacific dialogues
- Awareness of some Pacific terminology may assist with rapport

# Interpreters



# Issues with Interpreters

- Pre existing Relationships
- Gender Differences
- Different Dialects
- Status, Titles, Position
- Personal Bias
- Confidentiality

# What can we do?

Seek Cultural Guidance

Talk to or ask Client

Talk to Interpreter

- credentials
- Experience
- Language/Dialogue
- Brief on nature of tests & confidentiality

**EXERCISE**

# Group Exercise

Imagine you are on a holiday in Samoa and are scuba diving off Lalomanu beach. As you come up you hit your head on a boat. You are taken to Apia Hospital with a suspected head injury. Doctors decide to ask you some questions to gage your basic cognitive ability.

These are the questions asked:

# Questions

1. Who is the Prime Minister of Samoa?
2. What is Fofu?
3. How do you say Hello in Tonga?
4. How is Niue and Popo the same?
5. How is Niue and Tokelau the same?
6. What is the meaning of Fa'afetai?
7. What is the capital of Samoa?
8. Who is Princess Salote?
9. What does the coconut represent in the Pacific Islands?

# Reflection

How does it feel to answer questions that are outside your culture?

If your IQ was being based on these questions how do you think you would rate?

What if based on these questions (or similar) you were told you had a brain injury?

# Answers

1. Tuilaepa Sa'ilele Malielegaoi
2. Traditional Samoan Healer
3. Malo e lelei
4. Both Coconuts (Niu = young coconut and Popo = mature coconut)
5. Niue and Cook Islands are both self governing states in free association with New Zealand
6. Thank you
7. Apia
8. Only daughter of the late King of Tonga and the highest ranking women of Tonga
9. The coconut is referred to the Tree of Life