



PASIFIKA LAWYERS  
ASSOCIATION OF QLD

# 2020/2021 ANNUAL REPORT





PASIFIKA LAWYERS  
ASSOCIATION OF QLD

# CONTENTS

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- 3** *Acknowledgement of country*
- 4** *Foreword | President's reflections*
- 5** *Our blueprint for impact*
- 7** *Our year at a glance*
- 9** *"She Is" by Osanna Fa'ata'ape*
- 10** *Financial Report*

The artwork in this document was lovingly designed by Talaetau Limā.

Talaetau Limā hails from the beautiful islands of Samoa. She is an accountant, a pastor's kid, and the mother of two beautiful children. She's always had a passion for design and art and when deciding to share her art with the world she said, "I want my kids to chase their dreams, but how can I teach them to do such things? The only true way is for me to do it first then show them how. This is one of my many attempts at showing them how."

More of Talaetau's artwork can be found here:

<https://www.etsy.com/shop/PacificTalanton>



## ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

*The Pasifika Lawyers Association of Queensland respectfully acknowledges the Jagera (Yuggera) and Turrbul peoples who are the Traditional Custodians of this land on which we work. We pay our respects to their elders past, present and emerging for their ongoing contributions to law, justice and greater Australian society.*



# FOREWORD

*by Heilala Tabete*



Pasifika Lawyers Association of Queensland Inc ('PLAQ') is a vibrant association any Pasifika law student, law graduate, early career lawyer, lawyer and senior lawyer can be pleased to be a part of. Since the idea formed across a kitchen table, its inception has included meetings in the State library, restaurants across the city and members' homes - a dedication to create space for Pasifika people working in law that has been nothing short of commendable. Personally, my experience has been one of great satisfaction serving alongside lawyers in giving a hand-up, advice, encouragement, 'open doors' and mentoring our young people. These are things that come naturally to us as Pasifika people. Community spirit and maintaining unity for the greater good and advancement of others has been key to the growth of PLAQ. To that end, I am delighted to endorse this Management Committee in producing its 1st Annual Report. And, I am confident that the future of PLAQ is in safe hands.

Vinaka Vakalevu.

Heilala Tabete

Management Committee Member (2013 - 2021)

## PRESIDENT'S REFLECTIONS

*by Tile Imo*

It is my immense privilege to be writing this inaugural Annual Report for the Pasifika Lawyers Association of Queensland (PLAQ). This report marks the end of my second year in this role and I can only hope that I have lived up to the promises I made at the end of 2019 when I was asked to speak about why I should be nominated. I recall my 'off-the-cuff' speech being all about me and why I should be president. I had no idea the gravity of what I would actually have to do. This role has taught me a lot and given me so much personally and professionally, that I will probably spend the rest of my life trying to give it back and pay it forward. I hope this report captures some of the important work we have been doing at PLAQ to help our members understand their value in our profession, the richness of thought and Pasifika flair we bring, and the Pasifika excellence that we can aspire to achieve and do achieve.

Thank you to my friends and colleagues in PLAQ's Management Committee. You guys rock! PLAQ's giving and learning culture was established by our founders who I want to name because they have continued to be Management Committee members to this day. A huge fa'afetai (thank you) to Trina Fa'aiuaso, Leilehua Fa'onevai and Heilala Tabete. Thank you for having this vision for our people in the legal profession! You are the type of women cut from the same cloth that Osanna describes in her international women's day poem "She Is" about her mothers/foremothers. It is with bitter sweetness then that I accepted Heilala's resignation from our Management Committee (but not from PLAQ thankfully!) and why I wanted her to write the foreword to this Annual Report.

I look forward to doing 2022 with you all, or at the very least, cheering you on from my corner of Meanjin. Soifua,

Tile Imo | President

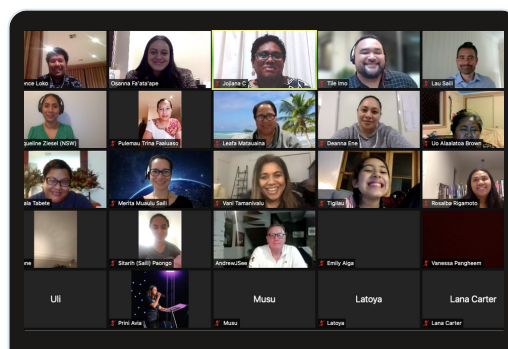
# OUR BLUEPRINT FOR IMPACT

The Pasifika Lawyers Association of Queensland purpose is fourfold: to educate, facilitate, network and support Pasifika people who practice, study and have a professional connection to the law. We believe our actions speak louder than words in showing our willingness to lean into and meet the purposes, of which our Association was established as highlighted below.



## SUPPORT

- In September 2021, PLAQ launched its Student Vaka for current and future Pasifika Law Students. The Student Vaka is a quarterly gathering for PLAQ Students to establish professional connections, build confidence among and with their peers, and to nurture our future leaders.
- In 2021, PLAQ established a communications sub-committee to manage our social media and to refresh our website to make it more accessible.
- In June 2021, PLAQ created a solicitor referral list available on our website to support our communities who may want support directly from Pasifika lawyers. Visit [plaqld.org/solicitor-referral-list](http://plaqld.org/solicitor-referral-list) to see the list.



## EDUCATE

- PLAQ has continued its Sounds of Our Oceans series for the second year in a row in 2021. The core purpose of this annual event is to share the wealth of knowledge and experience of Pasifika legal professionals with PLAQ members and communities.
- In May 2021, and coinciding with Queensland's domestic violence prevention month, PLAQ hosted its first community information session raising awareness about domestic violence.
- PLAQ established a Mentorship Sub-Committee to scope and review our mentorship program. It is hoped our Mentorship Program will be launched in 2021.
- In February 2021, PLAQ launched its Korero Korner Series for informal sharing of practice wisdom. Visit [plaqld.org/koreroKorner](http://plaqld.org/koreroKorner) for your viewing pleasure.

# OUR BLUEPRINT FOR IMPACT

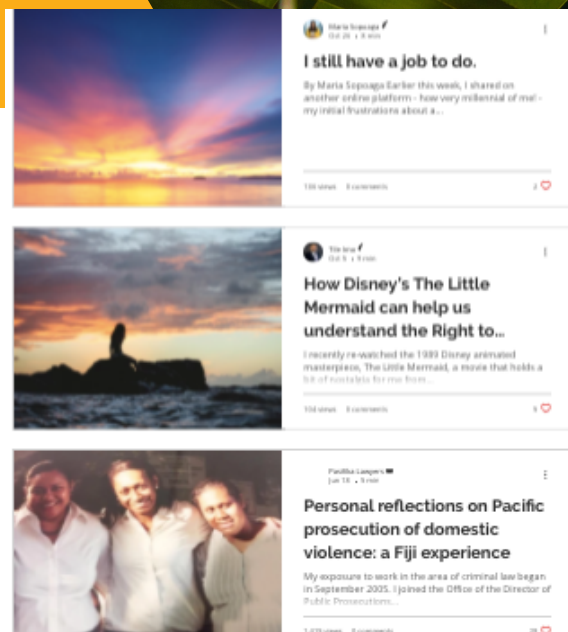


## NETWORK

- PLAQ continues to maintain its relationships and networks with other associations, including the Pasifika Women’s Alliance, Multilink Community Services, and others.
- In October 2021, PLAQ partnered with the Asian Australian Law Association, the Diverse Abilities Network, the African Law Association of Queensland, Pride in Law Queensland, Women Lawyers Association Queensland and the Indigenous Legal Association of Queensland to develop the first ‘Diversity’ panel/event of it’s kind in Queensland held at the Banco Court. We hope to foster these relationships for future collaborations.

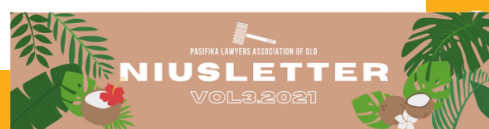


**28/9/21 PLAQ Members and others at Banco Court for Why Diversity event.**



## FACILITATE

- In June 2021, PLAQ commenced publication of a quarterly Niusletter to facilitate information sharing with members. The Niusletter can be accessed via [plaql.org/Niusletter](http://plaql.org/Niusletter).
- PLAQ established a Strategic Planning Sub-Committee to review our ongoing vision and strategy to meet our purposes listed here.
- PLAQ continues to elevate its Talanoa (blog) as a means of increasing knowledge of our members and communities about important/topical legal issues, whilst also raising the profile of our authors through social media rollout of each post. The Talanoa can be accessed via [plaql.org/Talanoa](http://plaql.org/Talanoa).
- PLAQ continues to host virtual and in-person social events to facilitate member camaraderie.



June - December 2020

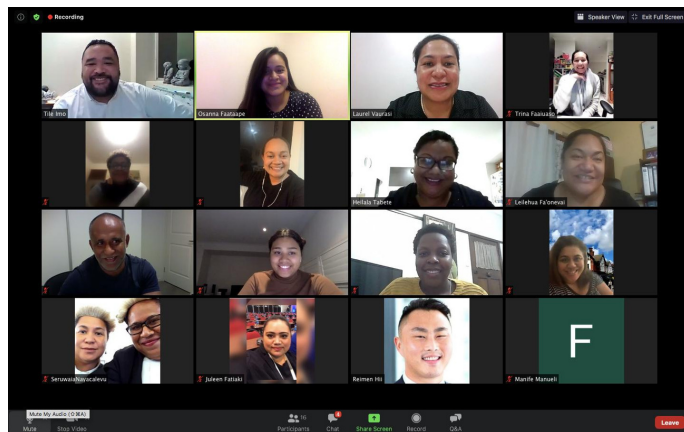
# OUR YEAR AT A GLANCE



19/9/2020 Our first in-person gathering post-lockdown.



20/12/2020 PLAQ Management Committee Christmas Party



1/8/2020 Our first annual Sounds of Our Oceans where we heard from Laurel Vaurasi, Fiji Law Association President.

*"We are all part of this justice system. Instruments of the justice system. When I don't prepare, I affect someone's life."  
- Laurel Vaurasi*



10/11/2020 PLAQ AGM 2020



January - June 2021

# OUR YEAR AT A GLANCE



27/2/2021 PLAQ New Year Brunch

28/3/2021 Teisa graduates and later admitted on 23/8/2021



28/5/2021 PLAQ inaugural community event for Domestic violence Prevention month



16/2/2021 Osanna and Tommy graduate



27/3/2021 Leilehua's Key Note Speech at Pasifika Women's Alliance International Women's Day



Tile and Musu (pictured with Vai) and later Leata and Lana presented to YFS placement students.



**"The law alone cannot solve social problems - a combination of legal and non-legal (or social) responses can provide an effective means of changing the culture of violence in our communities." - Jojiana Cokanasiga**



# “She is” - by Osanna Lilia Fa'ata'ape

*she is  
like the deep and vast moana (ocean) bountiful and  
resourceful  
she sustains those that reside with her open and ever-  
flowing  
she can carry the heaviest of loads without anyone  
even knowing*

*she is  
dressing to an open wound  
warmth and wisdom are sewn into her every word  
never getting the credit she is due  
still she pursues  
in the most desolate of deserts  
she goes to great lengths to bring sustenance and  
strength*

*to a world that is individualistic  
she is resistance  
daring to be the living embodiment of the va'a, the  
vessel  
the canoe our ancestors used to voyage through the  
pacific  
to stay connected across vast oceans  
regardless of distance  
she creates community with the utmost persistence she  
makes the unknown feel like home*

*she is  
the architect, drafting the blueprint, closing the deal  
she is  
the conductor, orchestrating melodies with grace and  
zeal  
she is  
the alchemist, concocting an antidote intended to heal  
she has the midas touch with any ordeal  
she reveals the fields of fruit and flowers  
the beauty that grows amongst the barren and arid  
soil*

*amongst the thorns  
she is the rose challenging the status quo wherever she  
goes  
she knows  
to speak her mind  
and says what needs to be said*

*she is  
capable and competent  
generous and confident  
cognisant  
donning different hats, she adapts  
to the changing tides of the ocean's highs and lows  
she shifts her world around others to adjust*

*with rusty pans and calloused hands  
she lovingly meets the demands of her village she  
understands the value of community  
and cultivating relationships built upon  
alofa (love), fa'aaloalo (respect) and unity*

*emulating that of her way-finding ancestors  
she navigates torrential seas with resilience and ease  
she seizes the opportunity to make her mark  
she sees the slightest glimmer of light in the dark you  
see, these are the endeavours that i wish to embark*

*i am the amalgamation of all who went before  
a lineage of trailblazers who opened their own doors  
i am who i am because of the sacrifices she made the  
courage she portrayed  
the faith she displayed the prayers she prayed*

*i am village made  
the direct result of tongues marked with protest and  
tears and prayers and songs  
bodies that hold stories  
stories that hold weight  
a legacy of greatness  
not left to fate*

*she stands on the shoulders of all the women who  
made the sweetest lemonade out of the most sour of  
lemons  
i stand on the shoulders of all the women who made  
the sweetest lemonade out of the most sour of lemons*

# Financial Report

<b>Account summaries for the financial year from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021</b>			
Particulars	Debits	Credits	Balance
Opening balance	\$	\$	\$ 658.45 CR
<b>Income</b>			
Membership	\$ -	\$ 925.00	\$ 925.00
Other income	\$	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00
Total income			\$ 1,075.00
<b>Expenses</b>			
Nil expenses recorded on account	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other expenses	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00
Total expenses			\$ 100.00
<b>Balance</b>			\$ 1,633.45

<b>Transactions: Expenditure and Income for 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021</b>				
Item No.	Date	Particulars	Expenses	Income
<b>Quarterly</b>				
1	Jul to Sep 2019	Income & Expenses	\$ 0	\$ 100.00
2	Oct to Dec 2019	Income & Expenses	\$ 0	\$ 100.00
3	Jan to Mar 2020	Income & Expenses	\$ 100	\$ 250.00
4	Apr to Jun 2020	Income & Expenses	\$ 0	\$ 625.00
<i>Total Income and Expenses</i>				\$ 975.00
<b>Income – Membership</b>				
1	July to Sep 2020	Professional Membership	\$ -	\$ 50.00
	Oct to Dec 2020	Professional Membership	\$ -	\$ 100.00
	Jan to Mar 2021	Professional Membership	\$ -	\$ 200.00
	Apr to Jun 2021	Professional Membership	\$ -	\$ 350.00
2	July to Sep 2020	Student Membership	\$ -	\$ 50.00
	Oct to Dec 2020	Student Membership	\$ -	\$ -
	Jan to Mar 2021	Student Membership	\$ -	\$ 50.00
	Apr to Jun 2021	Student Membership	\$ -	\$ 125.00
3	July 2020 to June 2021	Corporate Membership	\$ -	\$ -
<i>Total</i>			\$ -	\$ 925.00
<b>Expenses</b>				
1	July 2019 to Jun 2020	Withdrawal	\$ 100.00	\$ -
<i>Total expenses</i>			\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00

Pasifika Lawyers Association of Queensland Inc.  
October to December 2020

Account summaries for the quarter of October to December 2020			
Particulars	Debits	Credits	Balance
Opening balance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 758.45 CR
Quarterly Income	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 858.45 CR
Quarterly Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>TOTAL BALANCE</b>			<b>\$ 858.45 CR</b>

Transactions for the month of October to December 2020					
Item No.	Date	Particulars	Expenses	Income	Balance
1	01.10.2020	Balance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 758.45
2	2.11.2020	EFT Transfer – <u>Leata loelu</u> – Professional membership fee	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 808.45
3	12.11.2020	EFT Transfer – <u>Vai Leavaiseeta</u> – Professional membership fee	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 858.45
Total			<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 100.00</b>	<b>\$ 858.45</b>

Income					
1	Oct to Dec 2020	Professional membership	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
2	Oct to Dec 2020	Corporate membership	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
3	Oct to Dec 2020	Student membership	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
4	Oct to Dec 2020	Donations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 100.00</b>	<b>\$ 100.00</b>

Pasifika Lawyers Association of Queensland Inc.  
January to March 2021

Account summaries for the quarter of January to March 2021			
Particulars	Debits	Credits	Balance
Opening balance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 858.45 CR
Quarterly Income	\$ -	\$ 250.00	\$ 1,108.45 CR
Quarterly Expenses	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 1,008.45 CR
<b>TOTAL BALANCE</b>			<b>\$ 1,008.45 CR</b>

Transactions for the month of January to March 2021					
Item No.	Date	Particulars	Expenses	Income	Balance
1	01.01.2021	Balance	\$	\$	\$ 858.45
2	29.01.2021	EFT Transfer – <u>Tile Imo</u> – Professional membership	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 908.45
3	10.02.2021	EFT Transfer – <u>L Faonevai</u> – Professional membership	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 958.45
4	4.03.2021	EFT Transfer – <u>Musu Muliaga</u> – Professional membership	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 1,008.45
5	4.03.2021	Withdrawal	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 908.45
6	8.03.2021	EFT Transfer – <u>Terence Loko</u> – Professional membership	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 958.45
7	9.03.2021	EFT Transfer – <u>Osanna Faataape</u> – Student membership	\$ -	\$ 25.00	\$ 983.45
8	16.03.2021	EFT Transfer – <u>Princess Avia</u> – Student membership	\$ -	\$ 25.00	\$ 1,008.45
Total			<b>\$ 100.00</b>	<b>\$ 250.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,008.45</b>

Income					
1	Jan to Mar 2021	Professional membership	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
2	Jan to Mar 2021	Corporate membership	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
3	Jan to Mar 2021	Student membership	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
4	Jan to Mar 2021	Donations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 250.00</b>	<b>\$ 250.00</b>

Pasifika Lawyers Association of Queensland Inc.  
April to June 2021

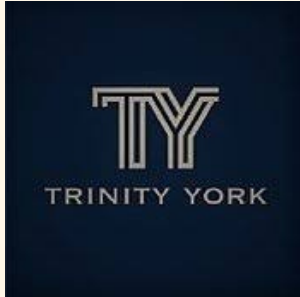
Account summaries for the quarter of April to June 2021			
Particulars	Debits	Credits	Balance
Opening balance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1008.45 CR
Quarterly Income	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 625.00
Quarterly Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>TOTAL BALANCE</b>			<b>\$ - 1,633.45 CR</b>

Transactions for the month of April to June 2021					
Item No.	Date	Particulars	Expenses	Income	Balance
1	01.04.2021	Balance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,008.45
2	06.04.2021	EFT Transfer – Sarah Lij-Willie – Professional membership fee	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 1,058.45
3	12.04.2021	EFT Transfer – Heilala Tabete – Professional membership fee	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 1,108.45
4	12.04.2021	EFT Transfer – Vani Tamanivalu – Student membership fee	\$ -	\$ 25.00	\$ 1,133.45
5	13.04.2021	EFT Transfer – Lani Lavenia – Professional membership fee	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 1,183.45
6	14.04.2021	EFT Transfer – Tommy Lopau – Student membership fee	\$ -	\$ 25.00	\$ 1,208.45
7	16.04.2021	EFT Transfer – Vai Leavaseeta – Professional membership fee	\$ -	\$ 25.00	\$ 1,258.45
8	29.04.2021	EFT Transfer – Constance Wendt – Student membership fee	\$ -	\$ 25.00	\$ 1,288.45
9	12.05.2021	EFT Transfer – Sinaumea Taufao – Professional membership fee	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 1,333.45
10	18.05.2021	EFT Transfer – Adi Nusi Heilala – Donation	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 1,383.45
11	18.05.2021	EFT Transfer – Vani Tamani – Donation (DV presentation)	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 1,433.45
12	26.05.2021	EFT Transfer – Danielle Huinga – Student membership fee	\$ -	\$ 25.00	\$ 1,458.45
13	28.05.2021	EFT Transfer – Adi Nusi, Heilala CokanaSiga and Situliojiana Cokanasiga – Professional membership fee	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 1,508.45
14	31.05.2021	EFT Transfer – Andrew See – Professional membership	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 1,558.45
15	02.06.2021	EFT Transfer – Lana Meavao – Donation	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 1,608.45
16	21.06.2021	EFT Transfer – Emily C Aiga – Student membership	\$ -	\$ 25.00	\$ 1,633.45
Total			\$	\$ 625.00	\$ 1,633.45

Income					
1	Apr to Jun 2021	Professional membership	\$ -	\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00
2	Apr to Jun 2021	Corporate membership	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
3	Apr to Jun 2021	Student membership	\$ -	\$ 125.00	\$ 125.00
4	Apr to Jun 2021	Donations	\$ -	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$</b>	<b>\$ 625.00</b>	<b>\$ 625.00</b>

# Fakafetai! Thank you!

*The Pasifika Lawyers Association of Queensland gratefully acknowledges our supporters for their donations, and/or in-kind contributions to our Association.*



*Brisbane Tongan Community Inc.*

*Trinity York Legal and Migration*

*Corney & Lind Lawyers*

*Logan Community Church of the Nazarene*

*Maria Sopoaga | Jojana Cokanasiga*

*Heilala Tabete | Vani Tamanivalu | Lana Carter*

## Management Committee Members 2020-21



*Tile Imo*

*Sinaumea Taufao*

*Princess Avia*

*Martinez Lopau*

*Osanna Fa'ata'a'ape*

*Heilala Tabete*

*Trina Fa'ai'uaso*

*Leilehua Fa'onevai*

*Lana Carter*

*Vani Tamanivalu*

*Leata Ioelu*

*Rebekah Benjamin*

*Terence Loko*

*Musu Muliaga*

*Vai Levaiseeta*

*Sifa Huinga*

*Teisa Lanivia*

