



MASSEY UNIVERSITY
Aganu'u: My Cultural Space

Thursday 30 May & Thursday 27 June 2019

Massey University is proud to run its own Pacific programme called “Aganu'u: My Cultural Space” at Albany, Palmerston North and Wellington Campuses. Aganu'u is a Samoan word meaning 'Culture and Tradition' that is commonly used to describe the Samoan Way of being. Although Aganu'u is a Samoan word it can be used to describe this programme as it invites other Pacific ethnic groups to explore their own 'culture and tradition' that is unique and specific to who they are as this will be encouraged when exploring concepts of:

- Cultural Identity
- Cultural Awareness/Sensitivity
- Pacific Success

Aganu'u in this educational context is the pursuit and implementation of **cultural knowledge** with an emphasis on Pacific success. In this case the facilitators will encourage discussions and do activities that will invite and encourage the young person to explore and define what success means for them and how they understand and interpret it in their context and environment be it at school, home, family and community - encouraging a strength based Pacific worldview.

Aganu'u is also linked to our Pacific motto for our students at Massey University which is **“Don't give up who you are to become what you want to be”** the facilitators navigate and use Pacific narrative and symbolism that will challenge and provoke discussions of cultural self-determination, courage and pride in their own identity. Students do not need to compromise their cultural and personal values and beliefs to be successful. It is the journey and process to that destination that becomes the meaningful lesson and pathway to one's success.

PURPOSE: AGANU'U is designed to encourage young Pacific students in Secondary School to normalise success combining and bringing together their cultural identity and New Zealand upbringing as Pacific young people to influence positive change not only for themselves but equally among their peers, within their family and wider community regardless of socio-economic background.

Dr Ana Koloto beautifully reinforces this and reminds us of what it means to be Pacific in this quote:

“Inherent in Pacific thinking is the belief that an individual is born to become useful for his or her family, community and country”

This programme is open to **Year 12 and 13 students** of Pacific descent, students that are seeking or wanting an enriched experience of who they are and what it means to be a Pacific young person in Aotearoa New Zealand. It is an opportunity for Pacific students to connect, engage and interact in their own cultural context. It encourages the young person to share their 'lived' knowledge and experiences as Pacific that will call forth collective influence and change within the school environment with peers, family and community.