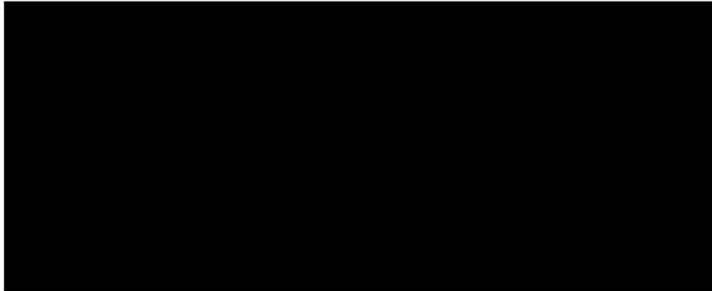


07 MAY 2019



Response to your request for official information

I refer to your request of 8 April under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) for the following:

"Would it be possible to please request the names and ethnicities (where known) of all Chief Advisor Mental Health role holders (or equivalent) at the Ministry of Health to date - I am essentially trying to determine whether there has ever been a Pacific person in the role, and, if so, when and for how long?"

Dr John Crawshaw holds the statutory role of Director of Mental Health and Addiction Services and Chief Advisor Mental Health and Addiction Services. Dr Crawshaw has been in the role since 2011. Before him Dr David Chaplow held the role from 2002, and Dr Janice Wilson held the role from 1992. All three individuals are of European ethnicity.

You may also be interested in the names and ethnicities of the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) clinical advisors in the Office of the Director of Mental Health. Names and details are in the table below. More information about Epenesa Olo and her role at the Ministry is attached.

Role	Name and Term	Ethnicity
Deputy Director of Mental Health	Dr Ian Soosay (2016 - ongoing)	Asian European
Principal Clinical Advisor (Infant, Child and Youth Mental Health and Addictions)	Epenesa Olo (2019 - ongoing)	NZ Samoan
Principal Clinical Advisor (Infant, Child and Youth Mental Health and Addictions)	Colin Hamlin (2013 to 2019)	European
Principal Clinical Advisor (Psychology and Forensic Mental Health)	Emma Sutich (2018 - ongoing)	European
Principal Clinical Advisor (Addictions)	Klare Braye (2018 - ongoing)	European
Principal Clinical Advisor (Maori Mental Health and Addictions)	Peta Ruha (2018 to 2019)	Māori

I trust this information fulfils your request. Please note that this letter, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'RS', written in a cursive style.

Robyn Shearer
Deputy Director-General
Mental Health and Addiction

A very welcome addition to the Ministry

Updated on 13 March, 2019 - 07:18

When Epenesa Olo recently joined the Ministry, she didn't just bring her strong passion and broad background in mental health and addictions but also two gifts that are now gracing two of the meeting rooms in our Wellington office.

One is a special tapa cloth and the other a "kie tonga". These are precious items used in Pacific ceremonies and gift (meaalofa) exchanges, and represent a mutual respect that enforces family ties - or on this occasion workplaces. The mea alofa, from Waitemata DHB, were given on behalf of Epenesa, her family and colleagues to show respect, thanks and gratitude to us. The gifts reflect the esteem which she was held in at the DHB, where since 2013 she had the important role of Operations Manager for Takanga a Fohe, Pasifika Mental Health and Addictions Service.

Epenesa has joined us as Principal Advisor – Child and Youth Mental Health and Addictions, in the Office of the Director of Mental Health and Addictions. She is a registered clinical psychologist of Samoan descent and has worked in infant, child, adolescent health, adult mental health, and addictions, including private practice. She is keenly aware of the high demand for mental health and addictions services, the workforce issues in the specialist area and the inequities of outcome for Māori and Pasifika populations.

Epenesa says she was motivated to join the Ministry following the release of He Ara Oranga, the Report of the Government Inquiry into Mental Health, and the opportunities this creates for transforming the system so it is fit for the future.

A blessing was held to welcome Epenesa and we accepted the beautiful meaalofa at her mihi whakatau (welcome) in Wellington, which included speeches from our Chief Advisor Pacific Health Matafanua Hilda Fa'asalele and Dr John Crawshaw, Director of Mental Health.



Stephen Enright, Manager, welcomes Epenesa Olo to the Office of the Director of Mental Health and Addiction Services.



It's hard to miss the tapa cloth

which decorates an entire wall in meeting room 2S.1.

Tapa is found in many Pacific nations with their respective motifs that can identify its origin.

Great work by the Facilities Team which installed the giant tapa.



The kie tonga can be found in 4N.3. This is the most important type of woven artefact in Tongan culture, because it is referred to as the "clean white stuff" ("me'a hinehina", considered the best as it is difficult and time consuming to make that type of woven artefact.

Every Tongan woman would like to hold a few of those small 6 x 6ft "kie tonga" or the long 6 x 40ft kie tonga!