



November 2023

# MERI KIRIHIMETE ME NGĀ MIHI O TAU HOU

**ACES** would like to take this opportunity to thank Schools, Agencies and Services who support the valuable work of the Attendance Service. A special thanks to your patience while the new people settled to understand the critical work of Auckland City Attendance Service.

The year has been challenging however, a rewarding experience with the recruiting of the new staff (the Service has doubled in size) to set in place the necessary response with the Attendance Engagement Strategy.

We would like to thank the Attendance Service Team as they adjusted to the new people, offered their expertise and training, yet continued to respond to the cases referred to ACES. The team will continue to be committed in their work and respond persistently consistently.

ACES office is closed from 20 December 2023 to 22 January 2024.

As 2023 school year winds down ACES wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and a well-deserved New Year break. Take care of yourselves, your whānau and friends and please enjoy the summer.





## OUR ATTENDANCE SERVICE TEAMS

### 1 The Attendance Service Team

1. Irma Oberholzer (Team Leader and Work Co-ordinator)
2. Ligi Huka
3. Linley Ashmore
4. Mike Niuloa
5. Dorothy Fee'tau
6. Alii Sailimalo
7. Hayley Watson
8. Chloe Wales (*starting in 2024*)

### 2 The Attendance Engagement Team

1. Lisa Chandler (Team Leader and Managed Moves Co-ordinator)
  2. Samina Hassan
  3. Andrea Chauval
  4. Rowena Aiono
  5. Samer Mistry
  6. Malcolm Peak
  7. *In 2024, a Youth Worker will be joining the team to support **Managed Moves** and the **Attendance Service** with cases where a Youth Worker is needed to spend time with the young person to engage them back into education.*
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## WELCOME! TO THE NEW TEAM



*Hayley Watson*

**Hello, I'm Hayley**, and I've had the privilege of working in the community industry for over a decade. I hold a Bachelor's degree in Social Services, specializing in Mental Health and Addictions. My life is wonderfully chaotic, thanks to my six beautiful children who keep me young at heart and constantly on my toes. When I'm not immersed in my work, I find joy in dancing, singing, and exploring the art of makeup and special effects. I'm genuinely excited about the journey ahead, working with whanau and tamariki with ACES to ensure a brighter and more prosperous future for all involved.



*Samer Mistry*

**I'm Samer Mistry**, and I'm proud to be a part of the Attendance Engagement Team. I was born in Australia but moved to New Zealand at the age of five. I'm an alumnus of Avondale College and have had the privilege of coaching their junior cricket team. My academic journey led me to a Bachelor of Business degree with a major in Economics and International Business from Auckland University of Technology. My previous work experiences span the Logistics and Property Industry, and more recently, I've been involved in youth housing. During my downtime, I indulge in my passions, which include traveling, fishing, and spending quality moments with friends and family. I'm eagerly looking forward to collaborating with everyone in our team.



*Aliitasi Sailimalo*

**My name is Alii** I've dedicated my life to serving others and working with youth and young women for 34 years. My focus has been on mentoring and guiding individuals, particularly in administering youth programs, including anger management initiatives within schools. Over the last 25 years, I've worked closely with young people hailing from diverse backgrounds, such as those impacted by gang affiliations, social issues, and domestic violence, both within and outside of the church.

In the past decade, my role expanded to include motivational speaking in the community, where I've counselled, mentored, and facilitated programs for young people and families. I've had the privilege of traveling the world, encouraging people to pursue their dreams.

I'm looking forward in my new journey with ACES to continue with my passion for our youth.



*Dorothy Fee'tau*

**Talofa lava! I'm Dorothy Fee'tau**, and I'm 27 years old. I proudly embrace my Samoan heritage, and I call the stunning West Auckland my home. Besides being a devoted full-time wife to my loving husband, I wear the hat of a full-time daughter to my incredible mother. I'm also a full-time sister to my fantastic four siblings, and to many, I'm a part-time friend.

I find immense joy in the simple pleasures of life. I have a deep appreciation for good food, love losing myself in movies, enjoy the outdoors, relish engaging in heartfelt conversations, and I've recently discovered a newfound passion for CrossFit.

My dream has always been to work with youth, and I'm incredibly grateful to be in a position where I can continue to nurture and grow this dream of mine. There's a Samoan Proverb that resonates with me deeply, "E lē sua se lolo I se popo e tasi," which signifies that it takes more than one pair of hands to successfully complete a task. I am excited to be one of those helping hands, working alongside a passionate group of individuals to address the challenges and opportunities for the youth in our communities. Faafetai lava ma ia manuia.



*Malcom Peak*

**I am Malcom**, a registered social worker with a diverse professional background. I've spent a significant portion of my career working for Oranga Tamariki, where I've had experience in both Care and Protection and Youth Justice services. More recently, I shifted my focus to the field of family violence, working with a dedicated agency. I then took on the role of Strengthening Families Coordinator for Auckland Central East, where I aimed to support and strengthen families in the community.

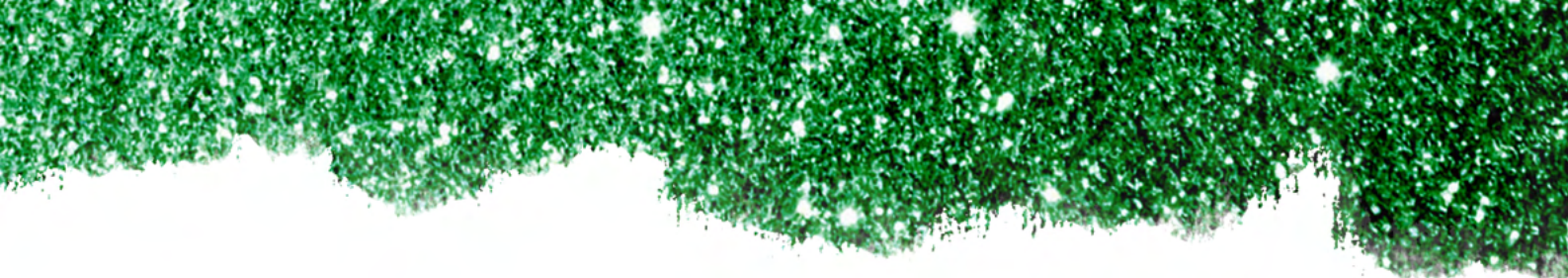
Between 2017 and 2020, my wife Millie and I embarked on a unique adventure, teaching English at a university in Xi'an, China. This experience allowed us to immerse ourselves in a different culture and contribute to the education of young minds.

Our family is not confined to just the two of us. We are fortunate to have three adult "Kiwi" kids, immigrant young people who have become an integral part of our lives and our Kiwi family.

Outside of my professional and family life, I am an enthusiastic tramper, having explored the vast and diverse wilderness of New Zealand. I've trekked through many corners of this beautiful country, appreciating its natural beauty and serenity.

Occasionally, I also take on the role of a climber, which is quite fitting given my surname. The thrill of scaling heights and conquering challenges brings a unique sense of achievement.

My passion extends to ecological projects where I actively participate in weed control and other conservation efforts. I believe in making a positive impact on the environment and preserving the natural beauty of New Zealand for future generations.



## AND LASTLY...



*Rowena Aiono*

I'm Romina Atua Aiono, although I was raised under the name Rowena. My story is rooted in the migration experience of Pacific peoples in the 1950s and 60s, seeking a better life. I was just six months old when my mother packed up our life after living intergenerationally in Anglesea St, Freemans Bay, and started afresh in Avondale.

I'm also the proud mother of a 28-year-old son named Saracen Siaosi Mautofu Afamasaga Misipati Fa Aiono. He is a significant source of motivation for me in my mission to make the world a better place for those around me, both professionally and personally.

My professional background is diverse, encompassing youth work, community development, social work, the development and facilitation of life and social skill programs, pastoral and student support, and even a touch of comedy. I invest all my time and energy into my work and the people in my life, striving to be fully present in every moment.

In my new role, my aim is to uplift young individuals on all aspects of their journey and life. I'm dedicated to achieving this goal and making a meaningful difference.

**Thank you.**





ACES OFFICE IS CLOSED

FROM: 20 DECEMBER 2023

TO: 22 JANUARY 2024



WISHING YOU AND  
YOUR LOVED ONES

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

AND

A HAPPY NEW YEAR FILLED  
WITH HOPE, HEALTH, AND  
HAPPINESS



WE LOOK FORWARD  
TO WORKING WITH YOU ALL  
AGAIN IN 2024