

Rita O'Callaghan



Talofa Lava and Greetings

My name is Rita Meleisea O'Callaghan. I was born in Samoa and lived there for the first 14 years of my life.

In 1988, I was awarded a scholarship to study in New Zealand. I attended Mt Roskill Grammar School where I was involved extensively in community voluntary work and I was an advocate/liaison representative between the school and the local Samoan community. In this role I assisted, through translation and advice, in the resolution of educational issues affecting families and the performance of the students.

My voluntary work also extended to the church, where I was involved in an administrative capacity providing financial support and public relations activities. I also held a teaching role at our Sunday School.

I hold a Business Degree in Information Systems from Auckland University of Technology, as well as a Secondary School Teaching Diploma from Auckland College of Education.

I have spent the greater part of my working life in the Information Technology field within the Education Sector. In 1998, I was engaged as a Tutor in Information Communication Technology for a large Pacific Training Institute and was subsequently appointed the Department Manager - Information Systems in 2003, with a staff of eight personnel. One of the major achievements during my time as the IS Manager was to oversee the successful development and implementation of an IT systems network between five operating campuses across the country.

As a skilled translator of the Samoan language, I was privileged to be engaged by WINTEC to transpose an online learning platform specifically for the Samoan community. Additionally, I have been extensively involved in the development of an online interactive learning resource for Literacy, Numeracy and Career Path Management.

I am passionate about using my skills and gained knowledge for the benefit of community organisations who are seeking to enhance their initiatives for the betterment of the wider community.

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