

LEPA FALIKI

Practice Prompts



Faatamaa – Guardianship

The encompassing principle for working with Tuvalu *tamaliki* (children and young people) and *kaaiga* (family)

Guardianship is the encompassing principle of the Va'aifetū Practice Model

Faatamaa is the unwritten understanding, care of, and responsibility for, people.

This principle is the umbrella under which all notions of *alofa* (love), kinships, belonging, *iloga* (identity), *tiute* (responsibility) and *puiipuiga* (protection) lie.

This is the enabling space for recognition, dignity, forgiveness, recovery, reciprocity, resilience, restoration, and shared prosperity.

Practice Includes:

- Seeking and recognising the ways guardianship is expressed through Tuvalu *tuu mo agaanu* (values) and drawing on this to promote *olaga tokagamalie* (wellbeing) of Tuvalu *tamaliki* (children) and *kaaiga* (family).
- Enabling the space for reciprocity and restoration and promoting the resilience and prosperity of Tuvalu *tamaliki* and *kaaiga* by ensuring their worldviews are understood and included.
- Proclaiming the value of human life and the principle of guardianship promoting and protecting this as a human right.

Reflective Questions:

How am I connecting the unique *tuu mo agaanu* (values) in the cultural approach with the principle of guardianship?

How am I demonstrating the Tuvalu principle of guardianship within the *kaaiga*?

How have I promoted the *tuu mo agaanu* that inform Tuvalu views of guardianship?



Manakoga Fakapitoa o Tamaliki mo Kaaiga - Best Interests of Child and Family

Tuu mo agaano (values)

Alofa (unconditional love) – *tamaliki* (children) are valued and precious.

Vasia o kaaiga (family relationships) – *kaaiga* (family), *pui kaaiga* (extended family), *fenua* (individual island), *sai kaaiga* (non-kin family) significant relationships that support *olaga tokagamalie* (wellbeing).

Fakatau fesoasoani (spirit of togetherness, helping one another) – the collective provides assistance and solutions specifically to support *tamaliki*.

Practice Includes:

- Recognising within Tuvalu culture, *tamaliki* (children) are recognised as a gift from God, therefore the *olaga tokagamalie* (wellbeing) of *tamaliki* is also considered sacred within their *kaaiga* (family) and *pui kaaiga* (extended family).
- Being aware of the significance of collective relationships. These are a critical part of Tuvalu culture and their roles and responsibilities to *tamaliki* and *kaaiga* will increase the collective safety and protection of *tamaliki*.
- An awareness of the importance of collective decision-making in the best interests of their *tamaliki*.
- Acknowledging the value of the collective in supporting the restoration, healing, protection and strengthening of *olaga tokagamalie* of the collective.

Reflective Questions:

How do I understand the way *tamaliki* are valued within their *kaaiga*?

How am I identifying and understanding relationships and their significance for *tamaliki* and *kaaiga*?

How am I building relationships with the collective to support the safety, *olaga tokagamalie*, and aspirations of *tamaliki*?

Whose rights am I upholding when there is intergenerational conflict with differing worldviews?



Ola faka-te-agaaga - Spirituality

Tuu mo agaano (values)

Fealofani (harmonious relationships) – positive relationships with faith and the spiritual world.

Vasia o kaaiga (family relationships) – spiritual connections uphold significant relationships with *kaaiga* (family) *pui kaaiga* (extended family), *fenua* (individual island), and *sai kaaiga* (non-kin family).

Va fakaaloalo (respectful relationships) – respectful relationships and connections to one's spirituality.

Practice Includes:

- Understanding that spirituality is deeply rooted in Tuvalu culture, expressed through Christianity and traditional pre-Christian beliefs.
- Knowing that for some *kaaiga* (family), having spiritual connections means having access to their ancestral knowledge and practices which contributes to individual and collective *olaga tokagamalie* (wellbeing).
- Recognising and empowering the spiritual beliefs of *kaaiga*.
- Appreciating the way Tuvalu people acknowledge and honour the existence of *tamaliki* (children) long before they enter the physical world.

Reflective Questions:

What am I observing, and how am I experiencing, the expressions of *fealofani* (harmonious relationships) from *tamaliki* and *kaaiga*?

How am I understanding the spiritual needs of *tamaliki* and how am I facilitating and upholding those needs?

How do my spiritual beliefs influence the way I understand spirituality for this *tamaliki* and *kaaiga*?



Fakamaulalo – Humility

Tuu mo agaanu (values)

Filemu (peacefulness and harmoniousness) – balance of peace and harmony that expresses interactions that are respectful, quiet, and calm.

Vasia o kaaiga (family relationships) – respect for each other and the significant relationships held within *kaaiga*.

Fakatau fesoasoani (spirit of togetherness) – to help and support one another in times of need.

Alofa (deep concern and affection) – expressed in many ways towards the collective, putting others' needs before your own.

Practice Includes:

- Understanding that Tuvalu people lead with humility and demonstrate humility across all aspect of their lives.
- Recognising the concept of *tufa tufa* (reciprocity of sharing) of resources and skills is an important expression of humility and the way you treat others.
- Upholding and respecting the *vasia o kaaiga* (significance of relationships) for *tamaliki* (children) and *kaaiga* (family) supports restoration and healing of individual and collective *olaga tokagamalie* (wellbeing).
- Respecting and honouring the significant kin and non-kin relationships of *tamaliki* and *kaaiga* that sit across the collective.

Reflective Questions:

How have I demonstrated humility in every engagement?

What part does humility play in the way I am building trusting relationships with *tamaliki* and *kaaiga*?

How are my own cultural *tuu mo agaanu* and beliefs about humility being challenged in my practice with *tamaliki* and *kaaiga*?



Amanaiagina – Dignity

Tuu mo agaano (values)

Alofa (deep concern and affection) – an expression of *alofa* is compassion and heart in your actions and behaviours.

Va fakaaloalo (respect) – shown to all, upholds and supports the dignity of the collective.

Vasia o kaaiga (family relationships) – the sacredness of relationship is upheld through respect and care.

Fakatau fesoasoani (reciprocity) – coming together as a community to help and support upholds the dignity of *kaaiga* (family) and collective.

Practice Includes:

- Recognising and respecting the importance of collective agency of *kaaiga* (family) to support safety, protection, restoration and healing of *olaga tokagamalie* (wellbeing) of *tamaliki* (children) and *kaaiga* (family).
- Upholding the dignity of *tamaliki* and *kaaiga* through their connections to culture, *iloga* (identity) and belonging.
- Being aware of my actions and behaviours for example, my tone of voice, body language, and appearance.
- Being transparent, open, honest with *tamaliki* and *kaaiga*.

Reflective Questions:

How am I understanding dignity from a *Tuvalu* worldview?

How do I draw on supports and resources I need to inform an accurate understanding of this *tamaliki* and *kaaiga*?

How is my relational practice balancing the dignity of *tamaliki* and *kaaiga* with the need to address, hard/complex issues?



Vasia – Relationships

Tuu mo agaanu (values)

Vasia o kaaiga (family relationships) – caring for and respecting the sacredness of different relationships, e.g., brother and sister.

Fealofani (harmonious relationship) – demonstrated through behaviours such as *aava* (respect), *alofa* (deep concern and affection) and *fakatuagagina* (being trustworthy) with one another supports collective *olaga tokagamalie* (wellbeing).

Fakatau fesoasoani (reciprocity) – coming together as a community to help each other as a demonstration of the way Tuvalu people value each other and their community.

Practice Includes:

- Understanding the social structure (including the *fenua* / individual islands) and the significance of relationships within it e.g., respect demonstrated towards *faiifeau* (pastoral leaders), cousins, *sai* (non-kin) relationships, and the sacred relationship between brother and sister.
- Recognising the unique differences between relational practices and customs across Tuvalu islands.
- Awareness of gender in the social structure of Tuvalu society and how this shapes roles, relationships, and responsibilities within *kaaiga* (family) and the collective.
- Understanding the significance of the collective contribution to *olaga tokagamalie* (wellbeing). When the collective are well, the individual is well.

Reflective Questions:

Have I done enough to identify and understand key relationships and their impacts for *tamaliki* and *kaaiga*.

What helps me be aware that I am taking care and being respectful of relationships with *tamaliki* and within *kaaiga*?

How do I understand and promote the *tuu mo agaanu* that support *fealofani* for *tamaliki* and *kaaiga*?



Tiute (Duty) – Responsibility

Tuu mo agaano (values)

Va Fakaaloalo (respectful relationships) – between members of the *kaaiga* (family), roles across *fenua* (individual island) e.g., *faifefau* (pastoral leaders), elders, women, cousins and *sai* relationships, are important and provide significant support, protection and care for each other.

Fealofani (harmonious relationship) – expectation for behaviours of *kaaiga* and *pui kainga* (extended family) to foster harmony and peace within the collective.

Fakatau fesoasoani (helping one another) – collective responsibility to help and support one another according to one's role in the *kaaiga*.

Practice Includes:

- Being aware that each *fenua* (individual island) will have distinctive protocols and processes that are unique and expressed accordingly across their *fenua*.
- Exploring and identifying roles and responsibilities within *kaaiga* (family), that will support the *olaga tokagamalie* (wellbeing) of *tamaliki* (children) and *kaaiga* and the collective.
- Understanding the importance of helping and supporting each other is a fundamental part of Tuvalu culture.
- Understanding and respecting that Tuvalu people will give generously to ensure no one goes without, regardless of their own situation.

Reflective Questions:

What does collective responsibility look like for *kaaiga*?

What helps me to understand how collective responsibility contributes to the overall safety and protection of *tamaliki* in this *kainga*?

How can I be sure that my understanding of collective responsibility for this *kaaiga* is not being influenced by my own worldview?

How am I ensuring the voice of *tamaliki* is represented?

