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Practice Prompts



Leveki Magafaoa – Guardianship

The encompassing principle for working with Niue *fanau* (children and young people) and *magafaoa* (family)

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

Leveki magafaoa (guardianship) is the unwritten understanding of care of, and responsibility for, people.

This principle is the umbrella under which all notions of *fakaalofa/love*, kinships, belonging, identity, responsibility and 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 Niue values and drawing on this to promote *moui katoatoa* (wellbeing) and safety of Niue *fanau* (children) and *magafaoa* (family), and *magafaoa laulahi* (extended family).
- Enabling the space for reciprocity and restoration and promoting the resilience and prosperity of Niue *fanau* and *magafaoa* 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 values in this cultural approach with the principle of guardianship?

How am I demonstrating the Niue principle of guardianship within the *magafaoa*?

How have I promoted the values that inform Niue views of guardianship?



Koe Moui Olaola he Tama Moe Magafaoa - Best Interests of Child and Family

Values

Magafaoa (family connections, genealogy, village, and identity) - is the cradle of *fanau* (children).

Fakafeofanaki (to love one another) - to love and care for each other as a collective *magafaoa* (family).

Leveki (take care of) - is key to take care and watch over the child and family that they are safe.

Practice Includes:

- Understanding the best interests of the *fanau* (children) and *magafaoa* (family) is served by the collective.
- Utilising the collective strength of *magafaoa* and *magafaoa laulahi* (extended family) to support the safety and protection of *fanau*.
- Understanding the roles and responsibilities of the *magafaoa* and building trusting relationships with them.
- Upholding the identity and sense of belonging of *tama* (child) as critical to their wellbeing and safety.

Reflective Questions:

How have I understood the traditional village support for *tama*, *fanau* and *magafaoa* living in an Aotearoa New Zealand context?

How have I understood the impact of the collective interest of *magafaoa* while maintaining and understanding of safety and wellbeing?

What am I doing to understand the key connections between *tama* and *magafaoa*?



Moui Fakaagaaga - Spirituality

Values

Fakalilifu (respect) - towards the family, prayer, spirituality, spiritual practices and beliefs.

Fakafetuiaga (relationships) - sacredness of relationships and spiritual rituals upheld by *fanau* (children) and *magafaoa* (family) .

Liogi (spiritual connections with ancestors/Christianity) - positive spiritual cultural ancestral links through *tupuna* - through the unseen.

Practice Includes:

- Understanding the co-existence of traditional spiritual and Christian beliefs and practices and how they coalesce to influence a new Niue worldview.
- Recognising how expressions of spirituality, which permeate and influence all aspects of life for *tagata* Niue (people of Niue), impact *moui katoatoa* (wellbeing).
- Appreciating that when spiritual expressions, such as overt demonstrations of faith, are not visible this doesn't signify a lack of significance of spirituality for the *tagata* Niue.
- Recognising that humility and other behaviours that foster good *fakafetuiaga* are tangible expressions of spirituality.

Reflective Questions:

How do I understand the significance of *Atua* (God)?

What do I understand about the sacredness of spirituality for *tagata* Niue?

How else am I understanding spirituality other than religion?



Fakatokolalo - Humility

Values

Fakalilifu (respect) – is pivotal to humility in the Niue culture, especially to someone of status.

Fakatokolalo (humility) – putting others before yourself, demonstrating a humble spirit, gentleness through your body language, tone of voice.

Leveki (take care of) – care through listening with your heart.

Practice Includes:

- Acknowledging your position and taking the right approaches to displaying humility before being guided by the *ulu he magafaoa* (head of the family).
- Being aware that when expressing your views, you should also be recognising and respecting the views and contribution of the collective, who are the experts on themselves.
- Demonstrating *fakatokolalo* through your actions and behaviour, with *magafaoa* (family), e.g. when you need to be excused, you lower yourself (bow your head), walk slowly, and quietly exit.
- Always respecting *magafaoa* and acknowledging their cultural protocols. For example, when visiting their homes wait to be invited in or to be seated by *magafaoa*.

Reflective Questions:

When should I seek cultural guidance and support when working with *fanau* (children) and *magafaoa*?

How have I shown respect for the *magafaoa*?

How do I honour the views of *magafaoa* when they are different from mine?



Fakafeofanaki - Dignity

Values

Fakafeofanaki (to love one another) – love and harmony shown towards each other.

Leveki (to care of) – *puipei* (protecting) and taking care of relationships.

Fakalilifu (respect) – an expression of respect is the smoothing and calming of a conflicting situation making it *monu* (safe).

Fakatokolalo (humility) – the practice of generosity, without expecting anything in return.

Practice Includes:

- Being aware of your conduct and observations of cultural protocols, this is important to *tagata* Niue (people of Niue).
- Upholding the significance of connection which amplifies the values of love, harmony and cherished relationships between people.
- Upholding the dignity of relationships whereby people treat each other respectfully and honestly. This includes addressing difficult issues with clarity and accuracy while maintaining care and sensitivity.
- Recognising the key role(s) and responsibilities within *magafaoa* (family).

Reflective Questions:

How is my relational practice balancing the dignity of *fanau* (children) and *magafaoa* with the need to address complex/sensitive issues?

What am I doing to build my knowledge/awareness of Niue cultural protocols to strengthen my practice?

How did my service support positive change in this *magafaoa*?



Fakafetuiaga - Relationships

Values

Fakafetuiaga (relationships) – the sacredness of relationships, the sacred spaces and spiritual connection between people including ancestors.

Leveki (to take care of) – *pui-pui* (protecting) and taking care of relationships.

Fakafeofanaki (to love one another) – having the desire to work together in the spirit of good will.

Practice Includes:

- Understanding that relationships involve a spiritual, physical, and emotional connection that supports wellbeing.
- Being aware that relationships are not just about connections, but a transparent clear ongoing relationship.
- Recognising and respecting the importance of maintaining open, clear and honest communication with *fanau* (children) and *magafaoa* (family), including being clear about the issues to be addressed, consistent in follow through.
- Acknowledging and upholding the dignity and mana of the collective, the roles and responsibilities of key and significant leaders in the *magafaoa*, churches, and community.
- Understanding the relationship between *tagata* Niue (people of Niue) and the land.

Reflective Questions:

What am I doing to make sure I understand the roles and responsibilities of the *magafaoa*?

How am I advocating for *magafaoa* to work together?

How have I created a safe space for *fanau* and *magafaoa* to have purposeful *talanoa* (conversation)?



Falanakiaga - Responsibility

Values

Magafaoa (family connections, genealogy, village and identity) – signposts roles and responsibilities within the collective.

Fakafeofonaki (to love one another) – a collective responsibility to care for each other including children of the *magafaoa*.

Fakafetuiaga (relationship) – responsibility for bringing people together to facilitate and mediate towards healing and restoration.

Practice Includes:

- Acknowledging, supporting and working in the interest of the collective decision-making process with *magafaoa* (family).
- An awareness the *ulu he magafaoa* (head of the family) has the role and responsibility to mobilise families, communities, and for everyone to be safe, as well as what this means when the *ulu he magafaoa* is unable to uphold his/her responsibility.
- Recognising key people who have pivotal roles in the *magafaoa*, church and community.

Reflective Questions:

Who else can I seek further support from to work with the *magafaoa*?

How do I recognise my own bias and the impact of my values and beliefs when they differ from Niue *magafaoa*?

What learnings will I take away to prepare me for my next engagement with a Niue *magafaoa*?

A halved coconut with the white flesh exposed, positioned centrally behind the text.

Fullness of Life

***“A person is complete when he or she
knows who they are and where they belong”***

(Talima cited in Child Youth & Family, 2015)

