

PACIFIC LEADING IN AI

Read Our New PDS Report

Talofa lava, Kia orāna, Mālō e lelei, Fakaalofa lahi atu, Bula vinaka, Māuri,
Noa'ia, Kia ora, Warm Pacific greetings,

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON, IVAN TAVA

**“E pala ma’a, a e pala
upu” — Stones decay,
but words endure**

This Samoan proverb reminds us that what we say and commit to matters. The Pacific Data Sovereignty Network was built on a clear message: Pacific data must be governed by Pacific people, for Pacific purposes. In 2025, we took important steps to strengthen that message. We became a Charitable Trust, giving us the structure to govern ourselves, engage with partners, and seek funding. Our original committee now serves as an Advisory Group, continuing to guide our direction and keep us grounded in Pacific priorities.

We delivered a national series of Pacific-focused AI workshops, created safe spaces for talanoa, and began imagining what Pacific-designed AI could look like. We also contributed to Census 2023 and wider efforts to improve how Pacific data is collected and used.

These achievements reflect the steady leadership of our people often working behind the scenes and without resourcing.

I want to acknowledge Malaetogia Dr Jacinta Fa'alili-Fidow, Loata Tiapapa, and the full team at Moana Connect whose leadership and clarity have anchored this kaupapa. I also acknowledge Dr Debbie Ryan and Dr Gerard Sonder of Pacific Perspectives for their tireless advocacy in the Census and statistics space.

A special thank you to Te Titoki Mataora for their funding support which has helped make this work possible.

While we have not yet secured ongoing funding, becoming a trust is a vital step forward. We continue to work closely with partners and supporters to sustain and grow this movement.

Looking ahead, we will focus on deepening our AI work, embedding Pacific governance in key data systems and co-developing a Pacific AI position paper with our communities.

This journey belongs to all of us. We invite you to connect, contribute, and walk with us.

Fa’afetai tele lava

Ivan Tava
Chairperson
Pacific Data Sovereignty Network





Pacific Data Sovereignty & AI Report

We're proud to share the release of our new Pacific Data Sovereignty & AI Report — a community-led reflection on how Pacific peoples are navigating, shaping, and protecting our knowledge in the age of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Rooted in cultural values and strengthened by collective talanoa, this report offers clear recommendations for Pacific-led innovation, ethical governance, and digital futures.

[READ THE FULL REPORT](#)

Voices from the community:



"The risk of doing nothing has a ripple effect to our current and future generations – there will be missed opportunities and job losses."

— Nu'uali'i Eteroa Lafaele, Fibre Fale

"If we do not have control, governance, and guardianship of our data... we will be landless in the digital world."

— Peter Lucas Jones, Te Hiku Media



Census and Inclusive Data Governance

Recent changes to New Zealand's Census design have sparked strong concerns about the future visibility of Pacific communities in national statistics. Pacific leaders, including members of the PDSN, are calling for more inclusive approaches that protect cultural and population data.

Pacific Data Expert & Leader Malaetogia Dr Jacinta Fa'alili Fidow's call for inclusive Census reform – PMN:



Rebuilding Aotearoa's Statistical Foundation – PHCC report by Assoc. Prof. Debbie Ryan & Dr Gerard Sonder:



Global Indigenous Data Alliance – Recent Conference & Next Steps

The recent Global Indigenous Data Sovereignty Conference marked ten years since the first gathering in Australia, bringing together Indigenous leaders worldwide to reflect on progress and strengthen collaboration on data governance.

Under GIDA:

- Regular hui continue to ensure Indigenous and Pacific voices shape global data futures
- A new Care Pathways document has been released to guide culturally safe and inclusive data governance. [Read more...](#)
- A Care Pathways workshop is planned for 2026

LEARN MORE

Let's move forward together — grounded in culture, guided by wisdom, and leading with innovation.

Ngā mihi nui,
Pacific Data Sovereignty Network