

From the Editor

We are back again! Catching up and dreaming back to the future. On the front cover is an Australian Aboriginal painting of Dreaming. Like Pacificans, they too have a noble dream of a past lost and a future to be won. Similarly PHD dreams of engagement in the process of public health knowledge creation. On the back cover a prominent Pacifican sings about development and the dream to "dance to the rhythm we like". Development of course is no more than public health in practice; and Pacificans are the Aborigines of the Pacific.

This issue brings together research and articulations of realities and dreams for and of Pacificans. There are articles on oral health, mental health; and medical issues. Some of the papers articulate the concerns on: cannabis tobacco and alcohol as implied agents for the colonizing the psyche; the need for retention of Pacific values in the face of bureaucratization of health systems; and introduces the AHEC efforts to rediscover a healthy future.

Although mixed up in the production schedule, PHD is still on track to catch up with the Pacific Health Research Council and sponsors' expectations and resist the morbid desires of those wishing for another Pacific failure as an excuse to dominate and deprive the world of cultural democracy.

These developmental and resilience issues is what makes PHD a worthy protagonist. Again I appeal to all Pacificans to assist PHD to matter through submission of papers, letters to the editor, and use of Pacific-centric information and evidence in your thinking and work.

Please contact the editors today and join this labour of love and the Pacific dream of self determination and Pacific for Pacificans. This makes PHD matter!

Sitaleki 'Ata'ata Finau
PHD – Editor

Better than a thousand useless words is one single word
that gives peace
(*The Dhammapada*)