A Review of the Fijian Mental Health Decree and the National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan

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Abstract (300 word limit) **POSTER**

Background: One of the largest island nations in the South Pacific, Fiji has a population of approximately 900,000 people. Fiji's mental health service was established in 1884. Whereby a single ward was created to care for mentally ill expatriates. Fiji currently has a single 136 bed inpatient facility servicing the entire country. Fiji recently introduced the Mental Health Decree (2010) and the National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention plan. However, resources are now strained and neither the Decree or Plan been closely reviewed.

Aims: Review and analyse both the Fijian Mental Health Decree and the Fijian National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention plan to better understand how they enable mental health service delivery in Fiji. To Initiate more discussion around policy implementation and the enabling of success and specific barriers to mental health service delivery effectiveness/ineffectiveness. To Formulate recommendations for future success of mental health care services and suicide prevention.

Methods: The New Zealand Health Research Council's (HRC) guidelines for Pacific Research (HRC, 2014), will provide the basis for my research approach. Cultural tenets and a culturally nuanced methodology will ensure successful relationships are forged and maintained, significantly strengthening the project. An extensive literature review will be carried out. My qualitative study will comprise of up to 15 one-on-one interviews with key informants. The research process will employ Nabobo-Baba's (2008) Vanua Framework. This Fijian-specific research methodological approach is appropriate for this study because it ensures robust, frank and culturally nuanced discussion around potentially sensitive content. The cultural safety aspect of the Vanua model is particularly important as the research takes place in Fiji and is 'by and for' Fijians.

Results/Conclusions: Preliminary results will be available by the time of the conference as the study is currently being undertaken.

Biography (150 word limit)

Emmaline Pickering-Martin is a current Masters student in Pacific Studies at the University of Auckland in Auckland, New Zealand. A trained Primary School teacher currently working as both a Research Assistant and a Graduate Teaching Assistant at the University of Auckland whilst completing her Masters study. She is a Mother of 3 children, an iTaukei (Indigenous Fijian) woman with a particular interest in Mental Health services in Fiji, Pacific Women's Feminism and Pacific child poverty.

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Notes/Comments:

The research is currently being undertaken so results will be preliminary and available by the time of the conference.