

Penni Wolfram (she/her/ia) is a Pacific registered Clinical Psychologist, and researcher and advocate for Pacific rainbow+ communities in Aotearoa New Zealand and beyond. Born in Tāmaki Makaurau to Tongan parents, she has heritage to Niuatoputapu, ‘Utungake and Fungamisi (Vava’u), and Kolonga and Niutoua (Tongatapu), as well as Germany and Ireland. Dr Penni identifies proudly as a leiti and trans woman, and her doctoral research explored the life experiences of leiti living in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Penni has been working in mental health for almost a decade and currently practices at the Youth Clinic for Village Collective, a community organisation that has supported the health and wellbeing of Pacific youth and their families in south Auckland for almost thirty years. Penni also works as a Consultant for the Rainbow Fale at Village Collective, and as the Pacific Rainbow+ Peoples Lead at the Ministry for Pacific Peoples. Penni provides Pacific mentoring and leadership expertise into Project Village Aotearoa, a Marsden-funded research project dedicated to exploring trans young people’s experiences of family support in Aotearoa. Penni also teaches on rainbow+ healthcare into the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences at Waipapa Taumata Rau | the University of Auckland.

**A collective term for Tongan people assigned male at birth who have diverse sexual and/or gender identities, roles and expressions in their families and communities.*