

Keynote address: Leading in change

I will talk about how psychologists can contribute our kite to the changing world in which we live, work, play, and pray. From Clinical Psychologist to Head of Pacific Commissioning and many roles in between, I will weave in lessons from my own cultural beliefs and leadership lessons, both in leading change and leading teams.

Epenesa Olo-Whaanga is a senior Pasifika leader and clinical psychologist and has a passion for improving outcomes for her community. Her career choices have led her to work in the public and private sectors in health including primary GP service, secondary mental health services, NGO services, and private practice. As a consultant Clinical Psychologist, she also has clinical leadership, senior management, and governance skills with more than twenty years' experience in the field. Epenesa has also presented at numerous national and international conferences.

Epenesa identifies as Samoan and was born in Aoteaora. She describes herself as Savai'ian with village affiliations to Fogāsavai'i, Satuipa'itea and Sapapali'i but most of her time was spent in Fogāsavai'i. She was raised in Tamaki Makaurau by a strong Samoan mother, in her mother tongue, with extended aiga, in a traditional church, among a diverse community. Her professional qualifications include Master of Arts in Psychology and Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Psychology from the University of Auckland. Outside of mahi, Epenesa enjoys spending time with her aiga/whanau, fishing, reading, and travelling.