

Fa'afaletui

Tamasese et al (1997)

Te Tāhū Hauora
Health Quality & Safety
Commission



What does it mean?

Fa'afaletui, a Samoan research framework, literally means 'ways of' [fa'a] 'weaving together' [tui] deliberations of different groups or 'houses' [fale]. Fa'afaletui, for Samoans is the critical process of weaving together all the different levels of knowledge frames from within the 'houses' of collective representation, so that the Samoan worldview is substantially enhanced, and added to.

Fa'afaletui is derived from the Pacific philosophy of connectedness and a collective holistic approach that enables culturally appropriate insight and intel finding. The different fale also embody the perspectives that are needed:



The view from the canoe:
Closest to the school of fish
view of those doing the work or
affected by the ocean and environment



The view from the treetops:
Provides the management and
operational view



The view from the mountain:
Provides line of sight



Whose agenda are you working to, and who will benefit?

What story does the community want to tell? How does the community share their stories now?

What collective of diversity of skills, knowledge and capabilities is needed for inclusive decision-making processes?

Tamasese K, Peteru C, Waldegrave C. 1997. *Ole Taea Afua: a qualitative investigation in Samoan perspectives on mental health and culturally appropriate services. Report for the Health Research Council of New Zealand.* Wellington: The Family Centre.