

Ngā Tau Tuangahuru

PACIFIC FAMILIES TALK ABOUT PACIFIC SUCCESS

Findings from Ngā Tau Tuangahuru | Exploring Māori and Pacific 'Success'

THE STUDY

Ngā Tau Tuangahuru ('looking beyond for ten more years'), is a longitudinal study exploring Māori and Pacific educational and family success. Funded by Foundation North, the study was developed with five educational institutions that were part of its 2009-2014 Māori and Pacific Educational Initiative (MPEI). Sixty-nine Māori and Pacific families were interviewed

in the first round of study in 2017. Most of these families were interviewed again in 2018/19, plus 78 students from Years 1 to 13. Whānau and students were asked what success looks like for them and what supports and hinders that success. They also responded to questions about culture, family life, schooling and their future.

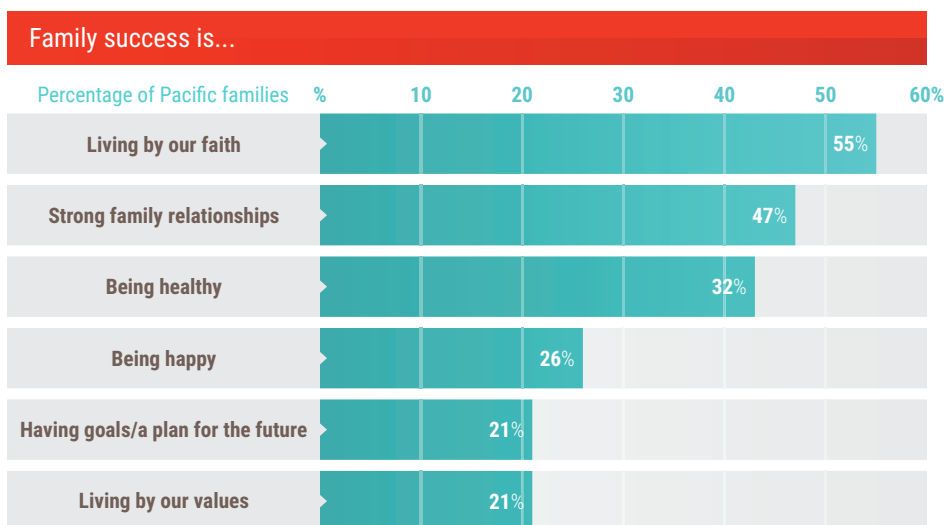
In 2018/2019 we interviewed 38 Pacific families to explore in more depth what family success looked like for them, and what supported and got in the way of that success.

What does 'family success' look like for Pacific families?



Families were asked what the most important indicators of family success are for their family. The top three aspects chosen were:

- **Living by faith (55%):** A strong connection to their faith was a major source of comfort and strength. Families' religious beliefs bring meaning and purpose into their lives.
- **Having strong family relationships (47%):** Strong and positive family relationships was noted by almost half of Pacific families (47%) as being important for a successful family.
- **Being healthy (32%):** Pacific families associate good health and wellbeing with family success. Families discussed the importance of healthy lifestyle habits such as exercising regularly and encouraging healthy eating for their children.



NB: Percentages do not add to 100%. Families gave multiple responses and only the six top categories are shown.

Faith

"Faith is a pivotal part of the family's daily life. It is shaping and moulding us – it is truly the foundation of everything we do".

Strong family relationships

"The kids know they are supported and are ok".

Being healthy

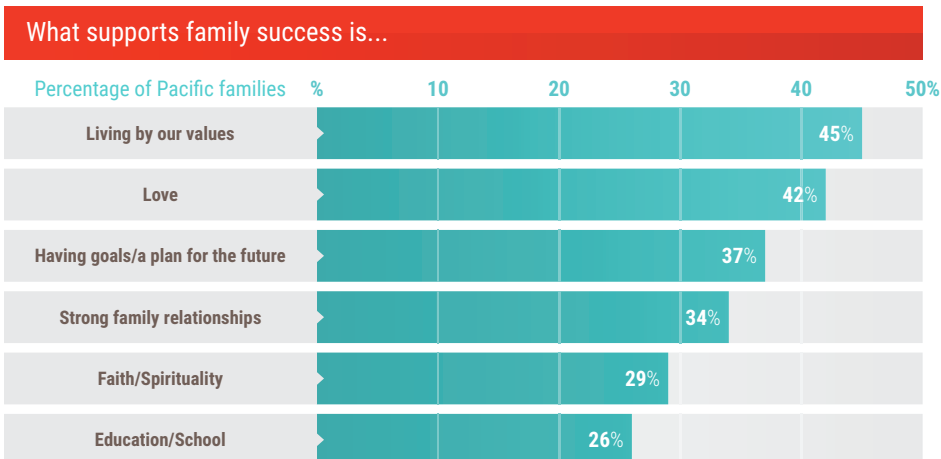
"Being healthy is a must - it keeps our family going".

What supports Pacific family success?



Families were asked what supports their family's success. The top three supports chosen were:

- Living by values such as respect and service (45%):** For almost half of the families, living by family values and instilling these values in their children is important in leading a successful life. Values such as respect, kindness and honesty are among the most important for these families.
- Love (42%):** Love is critical to family success and the foundation for a strong family support system. Families show love by supporting one another and spending time together.
- Having goals/a plan for the future (37%):** Setting family and personal goals and developing a plan for the future gives families direction and purpose, and helps them to focus on achieving family success.



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Living by our values

"Learning and instilling family values keeps the family together."

Love

"Love is important – respect and cherishing moments together creates a stronger family."

Having goals for the future

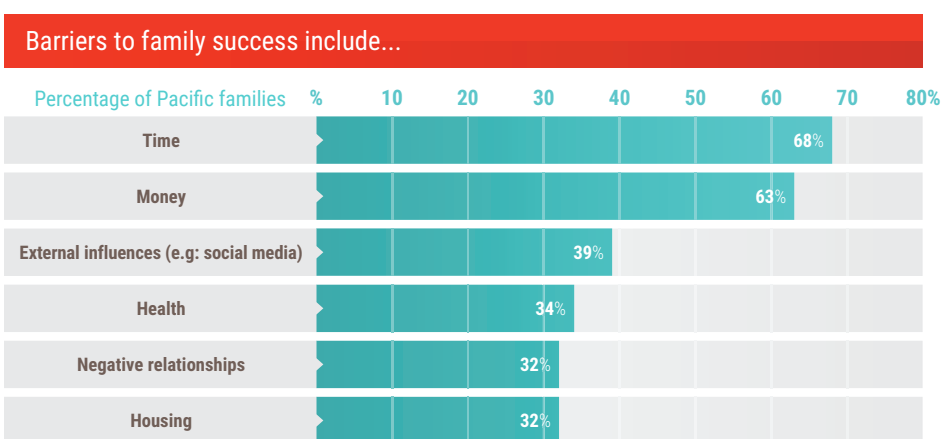
"Goal setting and planning good opportunities for our children. The plan executes the values".

What gets in the way of family success?



Families were asked what hinders their family's success. The top three barriers to family success were:

- Lack of time (68%):** Maintaining a good work-life balance was a priority for Pacific families, however families were often too busy to find time to spend together.
- Money (63%):** Lack of money is a major barrier to family success, with many families finding it difficult to keep on top of living expenses and meet the costs of extracurricular activities and cultural events.
- External influences - e.g. social media (39%):** Social media and screen time on electronic devices impacts the ability for families to spend quality time together. Families shared concerns about their children's safety on social media.



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Lack of time

"Not having enough time can cause stress, which leads to poor health".

Lack of money

"Not having enough money to do what we need, what the kids need - having to pick one thing over another".

Negative external influences

"Too much TV and too much time on the phone, both the parents and the kids".

Supporting Pacific family success



Pacific-led initiatives that work with Pacific families are critical in supporting the journey to success for Pacific families. Our research indicates that:

- Healthy relationships and love** within the family are major facilitators of Pacific family success.
- Time, health and income** are closely intertwined for Pacific families. Some Pacific families struggle to strike a balance between these factors, which can compromise aspects of family success.
- Positive change with Pacific communities needs to be driven by Pacific-led initiatives.**
- Addressing structural inequities in income, health and education is also required to support Pacific success in Aotearoa.