

HOW DO PACIFIC YOUTH UNDERSTAND AND DEFINE INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE?

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PACIFIC WELLBEING

The *Nga Vaka o Kāinga Tapu: Pacific Conceptual Framework To Address Family Violence in New Zealand* notes that:

Wellbeing occurs when all aspects of the individual and collective are in balance, in harmony and integrated, and co-exist with environments, kinship and support systems, language, fulfilment of roles and responsibilities, and the recognition of mana and tapu. (Ministry of Social Development, 2012, p. 4)

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

What makes for healthy Pacific youth relationships?

- What are Pacific youth perceptions, understandings, and expectations of healthy relationships?
- Where and how did they learn about these relationship expectations and behaviours?
- What are Pacific youth visions of the future, and how can their knowledge of healthy relationships be fostered and reinforced?

WELLBEING FOR ME



E āfua mai mauga manuia o nu'u. A lelei le pule, ua ola le nu'u.

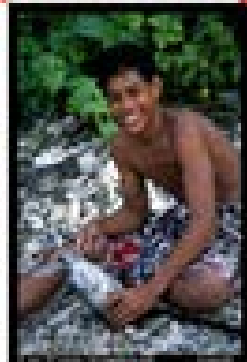
The mountains are the sources of blessings and wellbeing. If the leadership is good, the people will live.



Village Fono/Talanoaga

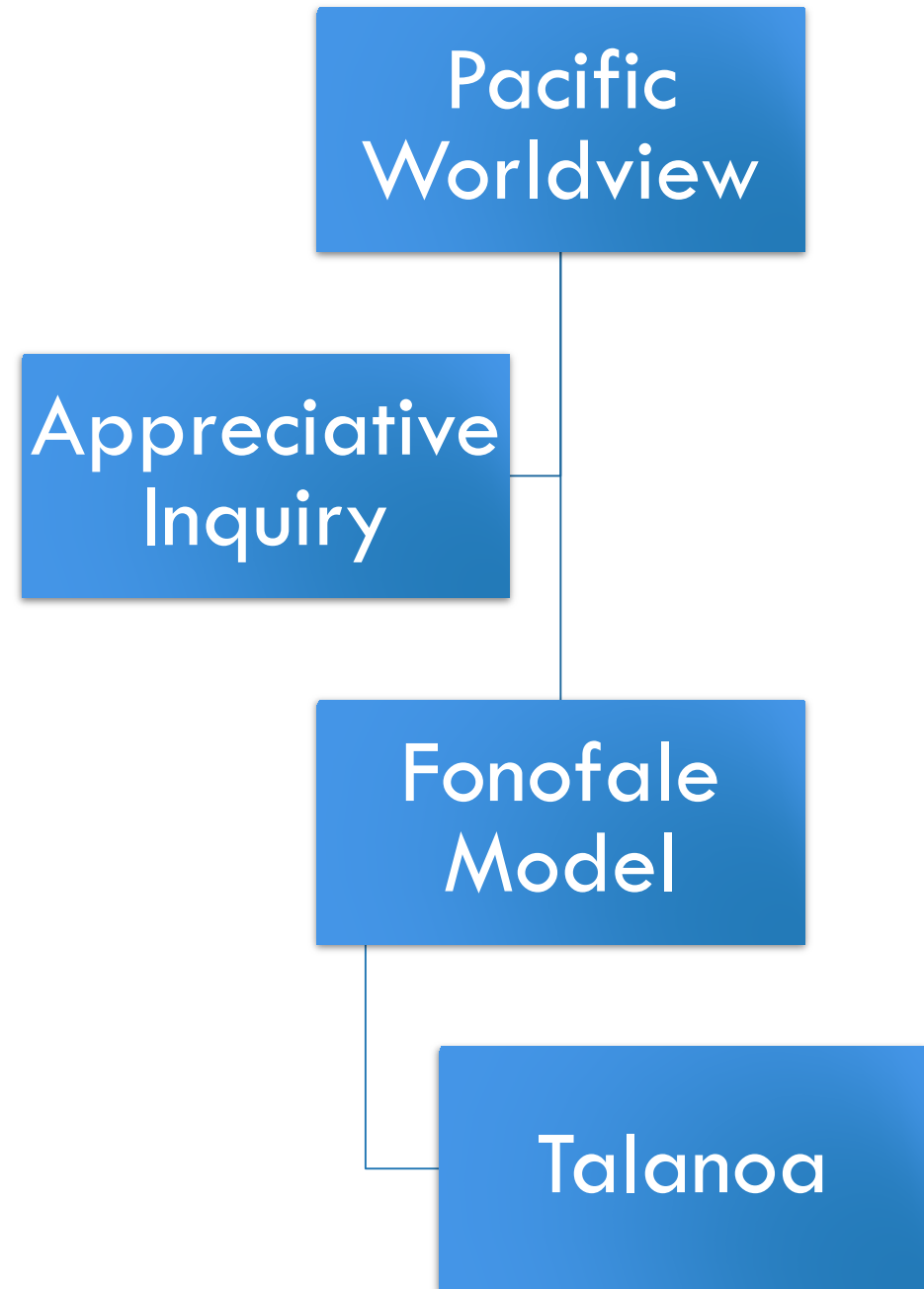


Present

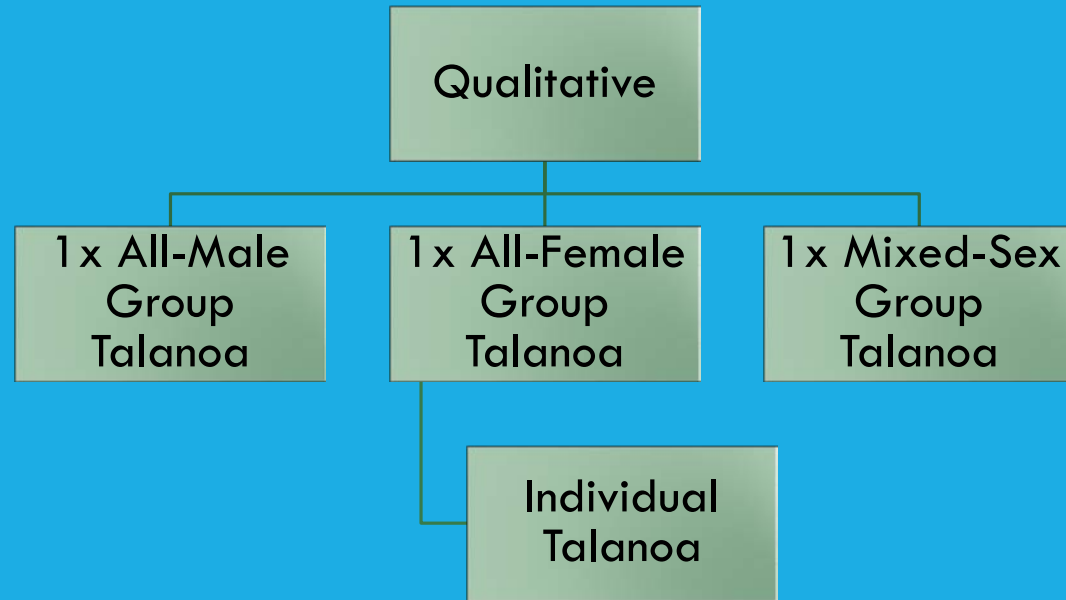


Pacific Worldview

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY



RESEARCH DESIGN



Participants' demographics

	Participant*	Age	Ethnicity	Education
Female Group Talanoa	Miriama	25	Niue	Tertiary
	Lisa	22	Niue	Tertiary
	Ruta	19	Niue	Tertiary
	Rita	16	Niue	Secondary
	Lota	15	Niue	Secondary
	Mele	14	Niue	Secondary
	Mei	13	Niue	Intermediate
Male Group Talanoa	Risati	21	Samoa	Tertiary
	Mataio	21	Samoa	Tertiary
	Pati	21	Samoa	Tertiary
	Tavita	20	Samoa	Tertiary
Mixed Group Talanoa	Junior (M)**	21	Samoa	Tertiary
	Sione (M)	21	Samoa	Tertiary
	Lina (F)***	21	Samoa	Tertiary
	Sina (F)	21	Tonga	Tertiary
	Mary (F)	19	Samoa	Tertiary
Individual Talanoa	Teuila (F)	19	Samoa	Tertiary

*Pseudonyms are provided for anonymity.

**M - Male

***F - Female

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RESEARCH FINDINGS

LANGUAGE: TERMS USED

Researcher: What do youth call their 'partners' these days?

Teuila: *It's a lot of different things now. A lot of people call the other person their boyfriend or girlfriend, but for some people that shows that it's not super serious, because it's like a trivialised word, because you can have a boyfriend in eighth grade but you can't really have a partner in eighth grade.*

Researcher: How is the use of boyfriend/ girlfriend trivial?

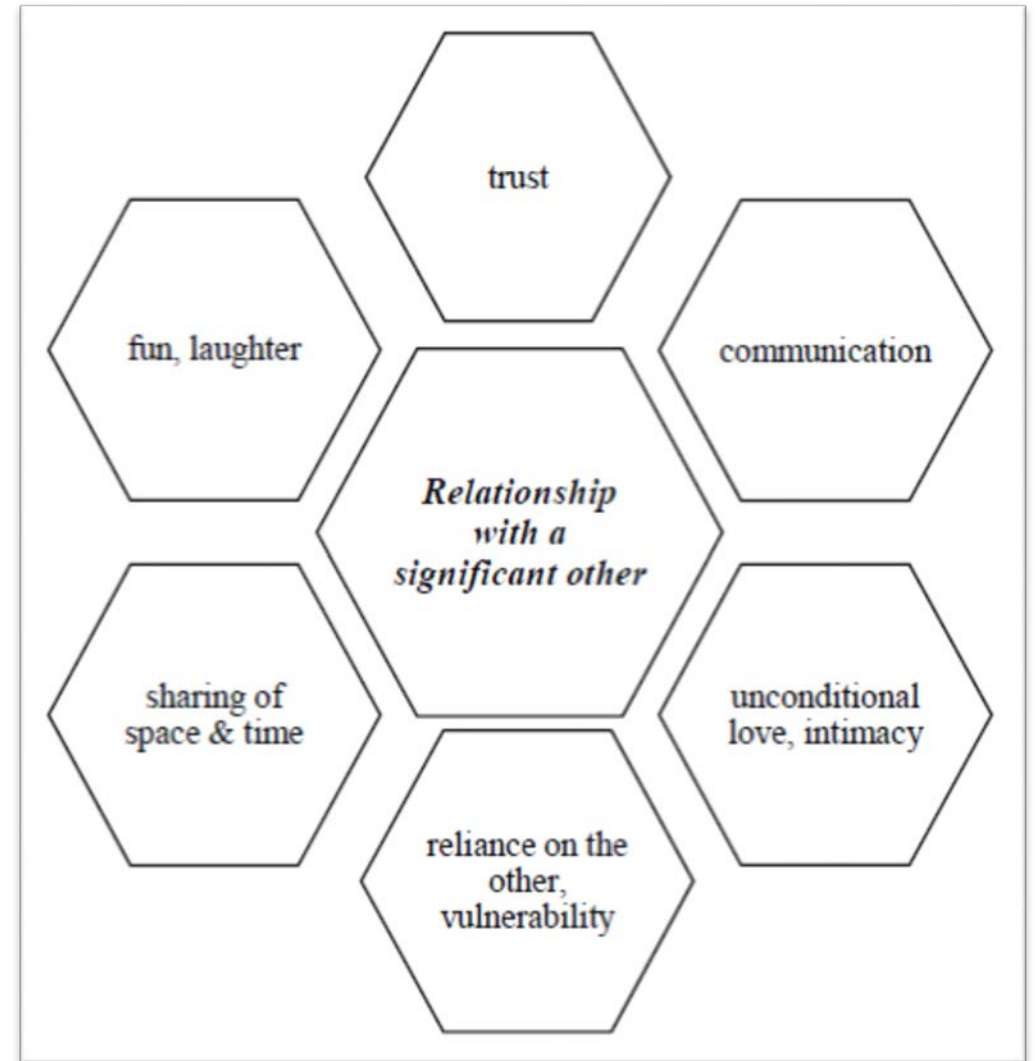
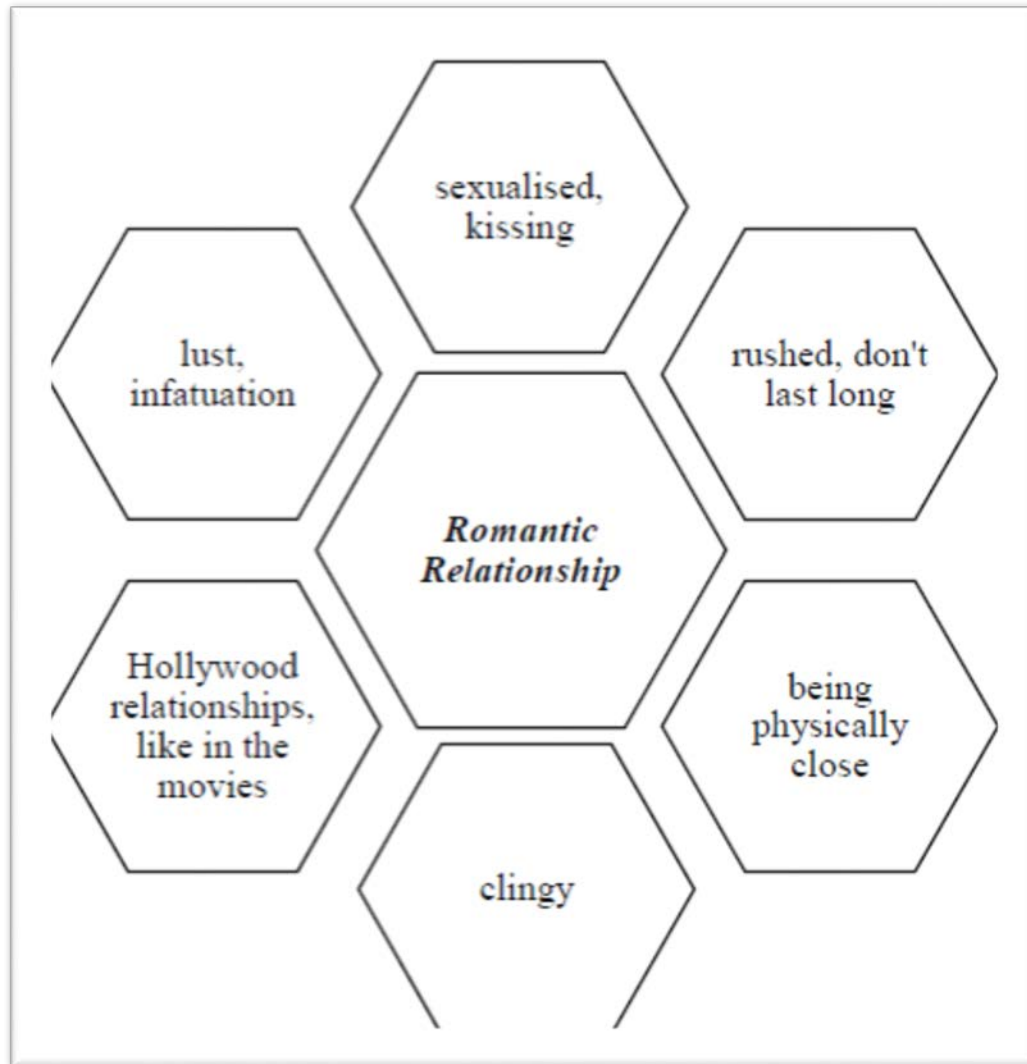
Teuila: *Because the word boyfriend/girlfriend is thrown around a lot, but for some people when it starts to get more serious, that's when they start calling the other person their partner, or significant other, because the word means you're equal, and you're a duo, like you're partners in crime, and so for some people it feels more serious. But for other people the word boyfriend/girlfriend is already quite serious.*

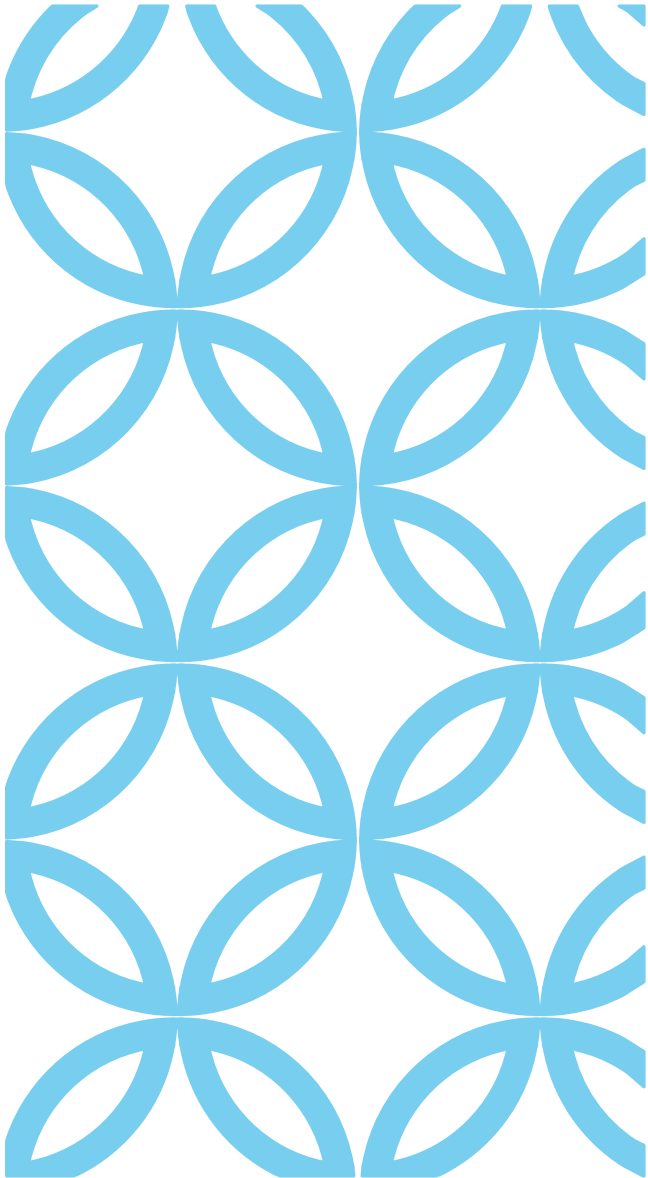
Researcher: So the labels are important?

Teuila: *Yeah very and it depends on the people. And it's kinda sad when the lines are blurred, like 'are we bf and gf' or are we not, and sometimes one of the people in the relationship would really want the other person to call them their bf or their gf, just so they know that they're together, and they don't, and then it gets all dramatic, which is **kinda ridiculous because it's just a word, but it means a lot even if it's just a word.***

YOUTH UNDERSTANDINGS
OF ‘*INTIMATE*’ ‘*PARTNER*’
‘*VIOLENCE*’

PARTNERSHIPS/RELATIONSHIPS





It's hard nowadays because your significant other can also be your best friend, so it's like a two in one, a package deal. (Lina, Mixed-Talanoa)

Your significant other can also be your best friend, except you kiss. (Teuila)

I think your affection for them goes beyond that of a friendship, you see like a future with them, or you just see yourself better with them. *(Risati, Male-Talanoa)*

[In a relationship] everything from communication and affection is on a much deeper, more intimate. *(Mary, Female, Mixed-Talanoa)*

You get comfortable with them, you tolerate their annoying behaviours. *(Lina, Female, Mixed-Talanoa)*

What you do impacts the both of you, so you both decide what would be the best choice for the both of **you**. *(Sione, Male, Mixed-Talanoa)*

Violence in
relationships?

HEALTHY & UNHEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

Perceptions of a healthy relationship

Emotions/Feelings

- Feelings a sense of relief, like there's nothing to worry about.
- Waking up on the good side of the bed
- Trust
- A sense of equality in the relationship
- Being open and vulnerable with them
- Being happy and at least satisfied with what's going on.
- Respect
- Putting God first

Behaviours/Acts

- Sharing of space and time
- Necessary and positive communication
- Supporting the other through thick and thin
- Praying together
- Prioritising
- Commitment
- Caring for two people
- The two people in the relationship consenting to everything and making decisions together

UNHEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

Insecurity & Jealousy

If you are happy from someone being jealous, you're basically being happy from someone being in pain because being jealous is painful. And I don't think you should be happy from your partner suffering, because that's really selfish. It depends on how much jealousy there is as well, like if it's just a little bit, like they come to you and say 'oh I don't like it when you talk to this person', but when it's something major like they talk to you about how insecure they feel about you being close to another person at a party, then it's insensitive to say that you like them being jealous, because it's painful. So I wouldn't say that's healthy. (Teuila)

INFLUENCE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

When you see people that post up presents, like *'my bf got me this for my birthday or Christmas'*, like they have to beat what they did last time. So it's a competition with themselves, as well as each other, as well as the world, in comparison to just being yourself, and being you and them.. you can't be with someone nowadays without having your phone, you can't cherish that because you're too busy looking, scrolling, taking photos, you know like a first kiss is not just a first kiss anymore, you have capture that and you're like *'hold on you have to get my angle right'* and then you post it and say *'hey look I've just had my first kiss'*. What it is now, it's not something that's close to you, it's something that has to be shared... And even screenshots of personal messages are put out *'like aw look what my bf did, he texted me in the morning and he said this, he's so perfect'* and then there's also the *'oh my bf gave me chocolates and this for valentines'*, so you expect that from your boyfriend *'you're like oh where's mine?'*
(Miriam, Female-Talanoa)

I reckon that youth nowadays get caught up in the hype of who knows about their relationship, they're constantly letting the world know on platforms like social media and they don't really focus on the real personal stuff like getting to know someone before they announce to the world how serious they are. I think it's a lot of buzz around it, it causes a lot of attention and they boast about it a lot you know those things aren't necessary aye, you don't need to let everyone know how long you's have been together or what you guys do when you're together, or all the public appreciation, like I thought relationships should be between two people, it doesn't have to have appreciation simply for the fact that you guys have been together for 3 months. But then you ask them how long they've been together, two years haven't even met mum and dad, so is it really a relationship-relationship or you know, those are my thoughts. (Mataio, Male-Talanoa)

EXPECTATIONS OF A SIGNIFICANT OTHER

❖ Someone who loves Jesus:

For myself, my mum always told me to go for someone within my own denomination because it makes it easier for us... like especially for us Pacific islanders aye it's complicated, it's our egos and pride that makes it hard for us. I remember I told my mum I was going out with a South African girl and my mum straight said no, because I told her she's Muslim. (Pati, Male-Talanoa)

SOMEONE WHO LOVES MY FAMILY AND OF WHO MY FAMILY APPROVES

I keep my personal stuff to myself. I just make sure that as long as I don't fall pregnant or I'm not going out doing drugs, smoking weed, all that kind of stuff... and as long as I'm in uni, I'm fulfilling my parents dreams, then that's all that matters. But it all comes down to trust, I want them to trust me to do what I wanna do to make them happy, and I will do stuff like be in a relationship and that's my personal stuff, but as long as I don't fall pregnant, I think that should be fine, because I honestly don't want to bring the name down. (Lina, Female, Mixed-Talanoa)

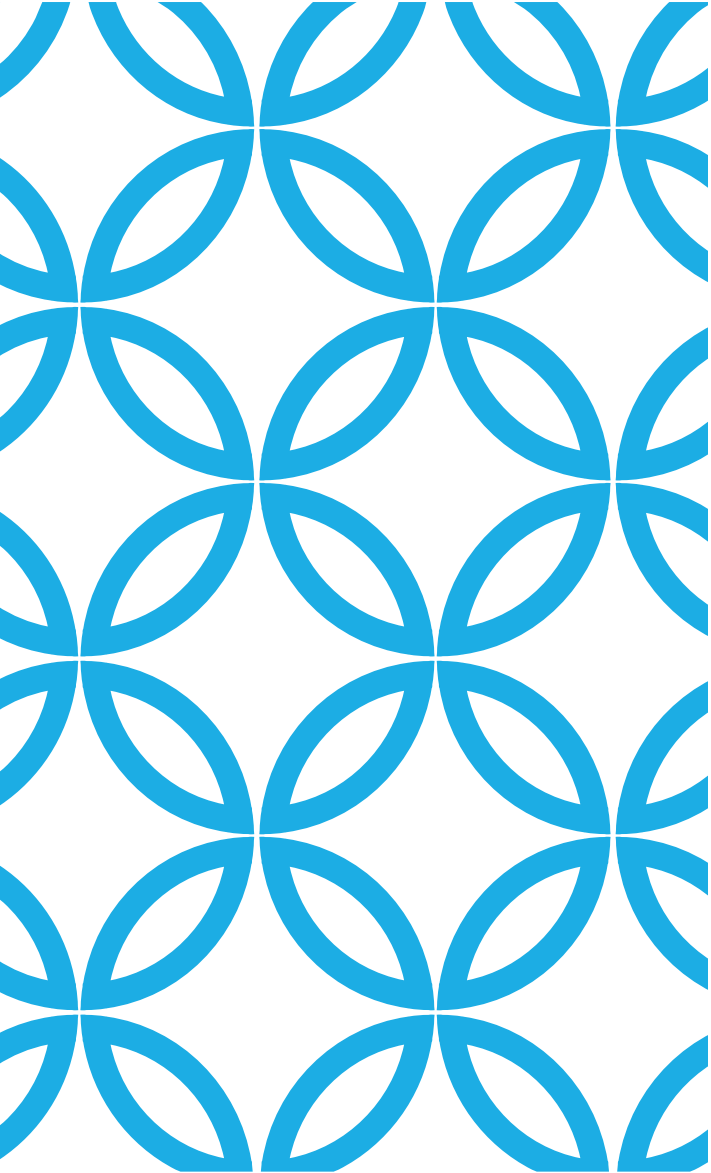
Family approval is very important, because they are the ones who raised you. But if their pride is more important, then you gotta compromise in a way and also communicate how you feel because at the end of the day, you can't help who you fall in love with. (Miriam, Female-Talanoa)

Some people choose the infatuation with the girl over their long time relationship with their family. But if you fuck it up with your family, you got nowhere else to go man. (Risati, Male-Talanoa)

I feel like when the parents get involved in the relationship and try to tell people what to do, it pushes them away, and all they want to do is be with that other person. So they push them [family] away, and then the family feels like that they're putting the other person first instead of them. It has happened a lot... my sister has done it, I've done it, my family members have done the same thing. So it can affect your family members and it can affect your partner, because no matter what happens, if you break up with that person or if that person leaves you, the only people you're gonna go back to are your family. (Tavita, Male-Talanoa)

FAMILY VIOLENCE...

Anything that makes someone feel unsafe or uncomfortable in their surroundings, especially in your own home aye. I don't know how people can feel so uncomfortable in their own homes, like anything like that I'll class as domestic abuse, domestic violence, *if you feel like you're not safe in your own home, then where can you be safe?* (Risati, Male-Talanoa)



Q & A
