

One minute with Communities Team Manager Salesulu Magnum Tuipulotu

What does your job involve?

I am privileged to lead a team of awesome and talented health promoters at Te Mana Ora in Waitaha. I am excited by the energy and interest in equitable outcomes for our communities, and I am proud of how the team is leading in this space, particularly as we are coming out of the COVID-19 fog. My job is to enable and give permission for us to step further into the equity space and challenge in areas that need to shift to better meet the needs of our communities.

What advice would you give someone keen to enter your field?

There is a lot of experience and aroha in Te Mana Ora (including Te Whatu Ora), connect with these amazing resources for your korowai and self-growth. The whānau here have an amazing heart, so it is okay to bring yourself into the space as they want to connect with you too.

Who inspires you and why?

My grandma, Vaivasa Tuipulotu (Na). She made the journey with the aiga (family) to Wellington, Aotearoa from Apolima, Sāmoa in the late 1960s. My grandpapa passed early so Na had to raise five children (including my dad) on her own in a new country. She was a humble factory worker who worked till retirement to own our home in Newtown. I was blessed to be whangai (raised) by Na who still did not speak English (or maybe pretended not to) when she passed in 2009. She prioritised the Sāmoan language and fa'asāmoa in the home and community.

I am so privileged to still have my language and practice to pass on to my own aiga. She also pushed us all to be educated and take all opportunities Aotearoa offered so we can take our Tuipulotu aiga forward. I am a product of her legacy which still drives me. Fa'afetai tele lava Na mo mea uma.

If you could be anywhere in the world right now where would you be?

Melbourne to see my parents, sister, and extended family again. My Christmas holiday break visiting over there was way too short!

Who would you want to play you if there was a movie made about your life?

Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson. We are both Samoan and 6 foot five. I just need a bit of work on the physique and looks side of things! Morgan Freeman to narrate 100 per cent.

What are your hobbies or interests outside of work?

I enjoy music jam sessions with friends and have recently been jamming with my 18-year-old daughter on her new electric bass guitar. We both play by ear, so it is a fun creative process (fun may not necessarily mean good sound!). Other interests include social touch rugby, basketball, volleyball, and completing home DIY projects.



Three generations of Salesulu taken in October 2022. Salesulu is our family tulafale (speaking chief) matai title from Apolima Uta. Salesulu Magnum Tuipulotu is pictured on the right with Na's brother Salesulu Galugalu Salesulu in the centre, and his dad's brother Salesulu Galugalu Tuipulotu on the left.

Te Whatu Ora
Health New Zealand