

FACT SHEET IV: FOR POLICE OFFICERS



DAN

Youth Worker
Member of the
Pasifika community

Grew up in Melbourne

"I witnessed first-hand the power of a police officer's impact on Pasifika youth".



"When police officers recognise the strengths of Pasifika Youth and avoid stereotypes when working with them, they can play a vital role in nurturing positive life trajectories".

THE STEREOTYPE & PROBLEM

Dan suggests that too often Pasifika youth are labelled and treated as gangs or thugs by the media and that this can have a negative impact on the formation of identity and sense of connection and belonging to community.



Dan communicates:

"it's sad when we're often labelled as gangs and things like that straight away in the media or from the police, purely for being in a group of two people".



Dan goes on to communicate the power of stepping outside of the stereotype and the impact that this can have on the life trajectories of Pasifika youth. He believes that the police have a vital role to play in this process.

Approach

Culturally responsive and sensitive policing is a key component of working with Pasifika Youth and a key component of working towards effectively supporting and serving the Pasifika community.

The CALD Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan 2018-2021 has provided a good starting point for culturally responsive and sensitive policing in the Victorian context, but in relation to Pasifika youth, there is still much work to be done.



Building trust and legitimacy amongst Pasifika Youth can help to support and build the police forces understanding of Pasifika youth, and in turn facilitate a more responsive approach to policing.



Moving forward

Trust and legitimacy involve being an ongoing and active presence in the lives of Pasifika youth - not just during times of crisis.



It involves working closely with the Pasifika community and elders within those communities to better understand the specific needs, strengths, and challenges that Pasifika youth are navigating.



It also involves sharing and using this knowledge to better support Pasifika youth towards positive life trajectories.



Reflective

- What are the strengths of Pasifika youth?
- What are the challenges that Pasifika youth are confronted with on a day-to-day basis?
- What culturally responsive strategies are effective when working with Pasifika young people and their families?
- How do you build trust and legitimacy within the Pasifika community?