

# FACT SHEET II: FOR THE WHOLE SCHOOL



## EVELYN

Secondary School Principal

Over 62 Languages spoken and a large cohort of students of children from Pasifika background.

The Pasifika students at her school are "very respectful" and their parents are "very supportive"



In the following section (below), Evelyn talks about three key initiatives that the school has implemented to foster a strong sense of belonging for Pasifika students and families:

01



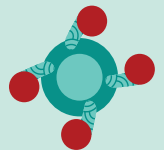
Homework Club

02



Breakfast Club

03



Pasifika Parent Committee

### Homework Club

According to Evelyn, Pasifika youth were struggling to complete the homework set by their teachers and were often falling behind their peers academically.

This impacted on their sense of connection to the academic environment and according to Evelyn was something that the school were concerned about.

Rather than taking a punitive approach to homework, the school recognised that often Pasifika youth have:

**"Got a lot of other things going on at home. They come from large families. And so really, they're not going home to immediately start doing their homework or to study. They are going home to help mum with cooking or cleaning or looking after the younger siblings."**



### Breakfast Club

Some Pasifika students at Evelyn's school are awake at 4am each morning to go to church and prepare their younger siblings for the school day.

Often, they were so busy in the mornings that they did not have time for breakfast.



### Current Plan

The teaching team at the school observed that this impacted on Pasifika youth's ability to focus academically in their classes and established a breakfast club.

Recognising the complexity of Pasifika youths cultural responsibilities and supporting them to meet these responsibilities through the establishment of the breakfast club improved focus in the classroom and supported positive educational trajectories.



### Pasifika Parent Committee

Evelyn recognises that to support Pasifika Youths' educational trajectories they need to work closely with Pasifika families.



### Aimed Resolution

The establishment of the Pasifika Parent Committee is an important component of the school's overall governance and guides the school community in how to best support Pasifika youth.

It recognises the strength that Pasifika families bring to the school and harnesses this strength as guidance for the teaching team.



### Current Plan

As a result of this recognition, homework groups were created for Pasifika students, to provide a supportive space to study.

The homework groups recognised the fact that Pasifika students have family obligations that need to be prioritised at the end of the school day, and supported Pasifika students to continue to meet these obligations without lowering expectations or compromising what was expected academically from the school.

It supported both the academic and cultural obligations of the Pasifika youth.



### Reflective Questions:

- What were some of the challenges of Pasifika students and families at your school?
- What were some of the strengths of Pasifika students and families at your school?
- What strategies does your school have to engage with Pasifika students and their families?