

JENNY LATU SALESA

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I have twenty years' experience working in the public and private sectors as a lawyer, health specialist, policy analyst and senior official. In this time I have established a record of innovative and effective work in policy, strategy, implementation and government. Through effective relationship management, successful grant writing and fund-raising, I have been able to achieve transformations in practice and policy in both the United States and New Zealand. I have a particular expertise and passion for health and education (early childhood and tertiary), with a career long focus on underserved communities in New Zealand and the United States.



I have extensive experience in voluntary and community organizing; have been involved in political organizing and campaigning since student days, and am skilled in community mobilization—in New Zealand, Tonga and the United States.

I have been an active member of Maungakiekie Labour and the Labour Party since returning to New Zealand in 2012. I am committed to the Labour Party Pacific Sector as well as the Tongan Strategy for Labour and have worked closely with Carol Beaumont, the Labour List MP based in the Maungakiekie electorate.

COMMUNITY AND POLITICAL

I have founded, joined and been elected to a wide range of community and cultural non-profit organizations, especially those concerned with health and education. I have been active in Labour, local, and community politics in New Zealand, and was an active member and local campaigner in Barack Obama's 2008 electoral campaign, and the subsequent campaign for 'Healthcare for All' in the USA where I lived from 2002-2011. Earlier this year I was elected by the Auckland Tongan community to chair a committee to organize food and emergency relief supplies after the damage of Hurricane Ian—so far we have shipped ten twenty foot containers to Tonga.

- 2014 – current Chair, Ha'apai Relief Committee
 - 2013 – current Member, Mayoral Fund for the Pacific – Tongan Representative
 - 2013 – current Labour candidate successfully elected to the Mt Wellington Licensing Trust
 - 2013 – current Chair of the Board of Trustees. Tongan Youth Trust.
 - 2010 – 2011 Chair, Michigan Children's Healthcare Access Programme (Michigan, US)
 - 2010 – 2011 Chair, Social and Emotional Health Committee (Michigan, US)
 - 2009 – 2011 Voluntary organizer and hub lead for Obama's Healthcare reform legislation
 - 2009 – 2011 Chair, Pediatric and Family Health Committee (Michigan, US)
 - 2008 Voluntary community organizer for Obama's campaign
 - 1998 – 2000 Member of the Board, Tongan Health Society
 - 1997 – 2000 Founding Board Member and Legal Advisor. Style Pasifika.
 - 1997 – 1998 One of the founders for the establishment of Langimalie Health Centre.
 - 1996 – 1997 Vice President, Pacific Island Alumni Students Association (Auckland Uni)
 - 1993 – 1995 Founding President, Pacific Island Law Students Association (Auckland Uni)
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

I have worked in roles in New Zealand and the USA that call upon my legal, policy and management expertise, and have been involved in large scale policy change (in the tertiary education and health

sectors) and innovative programme implementation and leadership (in comprehensive healthcare to ensure improved outcomes for children aged from birth – 18 and tertiary education).

Principal Advisor Pacific. Tertiary Education Commission (TEC). (Auckland/Wellington) 2012-present.

- The TEC funds all public tertiary education—universities, polytechnics, industry training and private training establishments. My role is to lead and advise the organization about Pacific as it is one of our strategic areas of priority. I also oversee and monitor the TEC Pasifika Implementation Plan, which aims to improve educational outcomes for Pacific learners across more than 400 tertiary education providers in New Zealand.
- In this role I lead TEC's interaction with the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment, Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs, Education Review Office, Careers New Zealand, NZQA and the Teacher's Council on Pacific tertiary education; I also build and strengthen TEC's relationships with key Pacific stakeholders and leaders in the tertiary education sector, Pacific communities, Pacific business leaders, Pacific academics, Pacific researchers, learners and their families.

Health Specialist. Early Childhood Investment Corporation. (Michigan, U.S.A.) 2008–2011

- Spearheaded the development and monitored the implementation of an innovative multi-million medical home initiative to provide comprehensive healthcare to children with public health insurance (Medicaid) in two large American populations: Wayne County (including the City of Detroit, population 1.8 million) and Kent County (including Grand Rapids, population 602,000). Led the spread of this medical home initiative to 6 other counties in Michigan.
- Worked directly with CEOs, founders and leaders of the Steelcase Foundation, Kresge Foundation, Kellogg Foundation, Frey Foundation and other key business leaders on multi-million dollar public-private partnerships.
- Convened statewide summits, meetings with legislators and state leaders on a number of health policy issues, chaired the Michigan pediatric and family health committee, and was responsible for the health portfolio for the organization.

Policy and Legal Advisor. National Vaccine Advisory Committee. (Michigan/Washington DC) 2005 – 2008

- Wrote policy papers including recommendations and provided legal advice for the committee.
- Managed inter-official and public relations around the revision of the vaccine schedule, liaising with government agencies such as Department of Health and Human Services, and private entities such as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.
- Helped support and advance the work of NVAC during a turbulent time of national and international controversy around the introduction of a new kind of vaccine (addressing HPV, and delivered to pre-adolescent girls).

Senior Consultant to the Director of Public Health. Ministry of Health (Wellington). 2002.

Senior Policy Analyst. Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs. (Wellington). 2000-2002

Policy Analyst and Project Manager. Ministry of Health. (Wellington) 1998-2000

Contracts Manager. Health Funding Authority (Auckland) 1995-1998.

Bachelor of Laws, Bachelor of Arts (Education): University of Auckland	1995
Barrister & Solicitor: High Court of New Zealand	1996
Director's Training, New Zealand Institute of Directors.	1998

Native, fluent speaker of English and Tongan.