



8-11 December 2019 | University of Otago, New Zealand

**2019 ANZSSA Conference**

*Ka kōrangaranga i te pari,  
ka eke ki te taumata*

**Amplifying Narratives for Student Success**



## The maanaki that shifted it all

Josiah Tualamali'i, Board member, Le Va and Rātā Foundation, Student – University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand

I finished school in 2013 with a \$20,000 law scholarship. Kicking into studying law at University of Canterbury seemed like the right thing, and so that was how 2014 began for me. It went well for a while, but the challenges grew. Using my journey, I will unpack how I define success as a New Zealand born Canterbury Pacific young person. I will consider how we embrace different understandings of success and achievement.

Part of my journey so far, has included my appointment as the youth and student voice representative on the 2018 Aotearoa New Zealand Government Inquiry into Mental Health and Addiction. We heard from hundreds of students, and tertiary staff from across Aotearoa about what is going on for them. I will explore the definition of success I heard from them, and what we can do to enhance their mental health and wellbeing.

I will also consider the flux in the journey. My experience, after some time out to participate in the Inquiry, helped me return to university focused on finishing my degree this year (I'm looking forward to donning the cap and gown a week after the ANZSSA hui). Transitioning in and out of university is another area of challenge, achievement and success.

What underpins my stories and what will bring the change students and staff want to see, comes from manaaki. I look forward to exploring this in my time with you.

## Presenter

Josiah Tualamali'i, Board member, Le Va and Rātā Foundation, Student – University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand

Josiah is a Samoan New Zealander working to give young people a voice – helping them to speak up on the decisions that shape their lives and advising government on how to connect with them.

At 14, he was one of the founders of the Pacific Youth Leadership and Transformation Trust to empower Pacific young people, which he chaired for five years. At 22 years old he was a voice for youth and Pacific peoples on the New Zealand Government Inquiry which looked at how to make life better for people with mental health and addiction challenges.

He studied History and Politics at the University of Canterbury and also is a member of the Le Va, Rātā Foundation and Psychotherapy boards.

