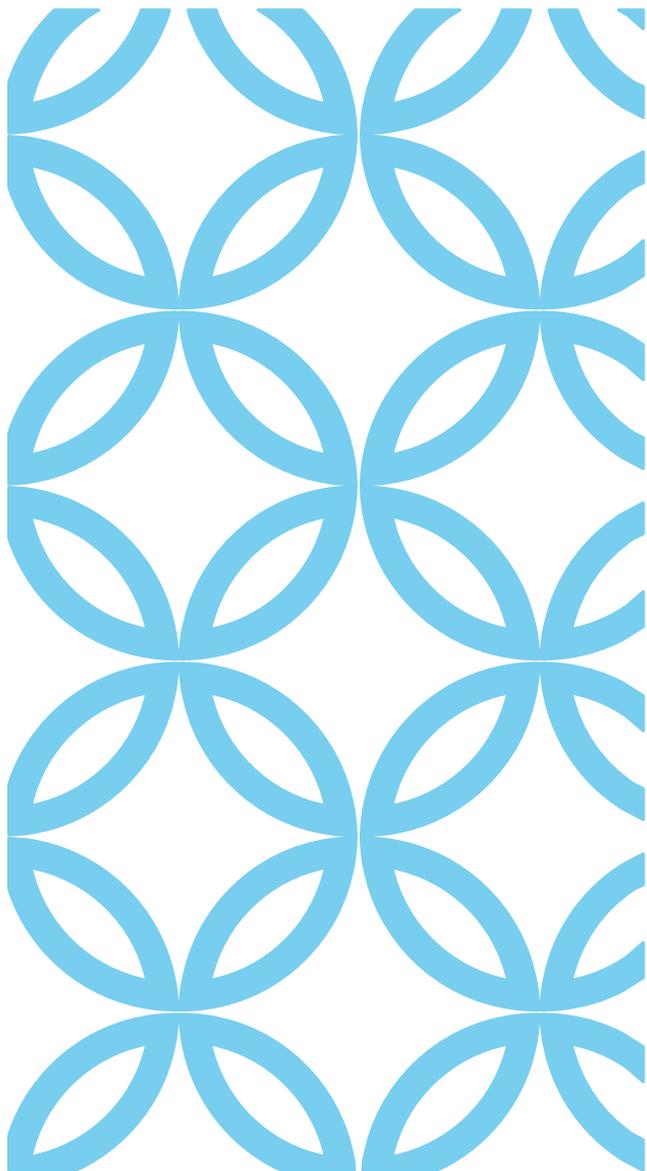




# PASEFIKA REFLECTIONS

Influencing public leadership and  
governance



I le amataga o se fonotaga po’o se fatasiga faapenei, e muamua ona avatu se faafetai ma se faamanuina

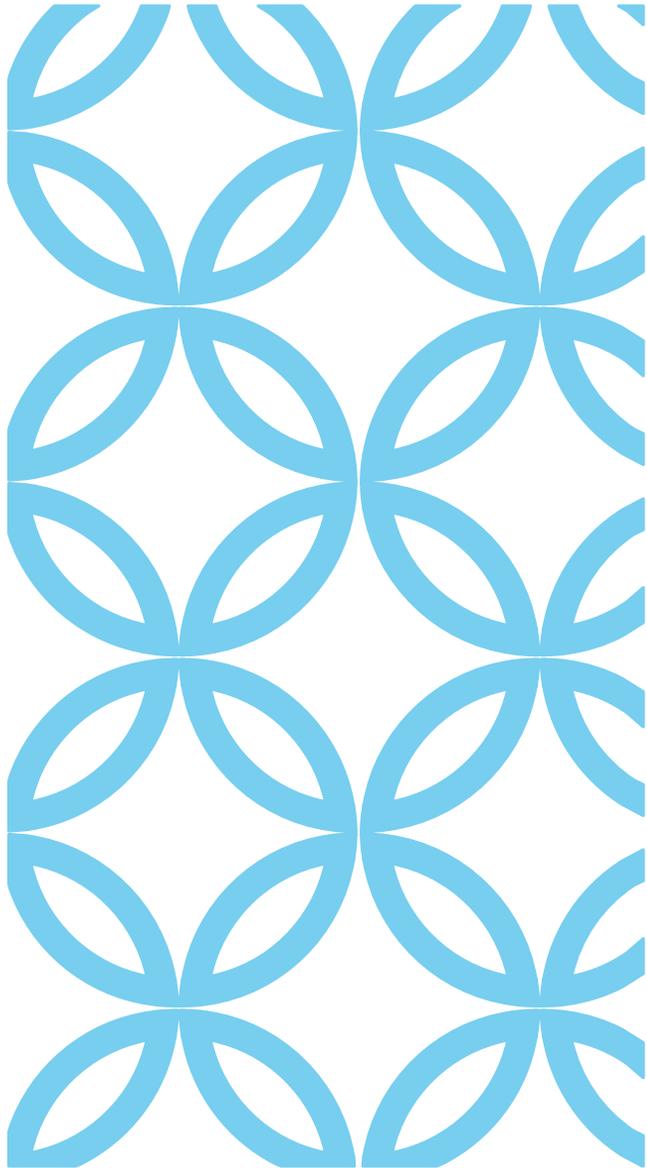
- I e ua muamua ma ua saunia le ala mo tatou,
- I e o le a o mai, faapea foi a tatou fanau teine ma isi wahhine toa o loo faatasi mai I lenei aso,
- aemaiase lava le viiga e tatau I lo tatou Atua alofa.

Faafetai mo le valaau ia ou mafuta I .

TALOFA, TALOFA LAVA MA TOE FAA-TALOFA ATU

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**UPU TUMUA**



An introduction

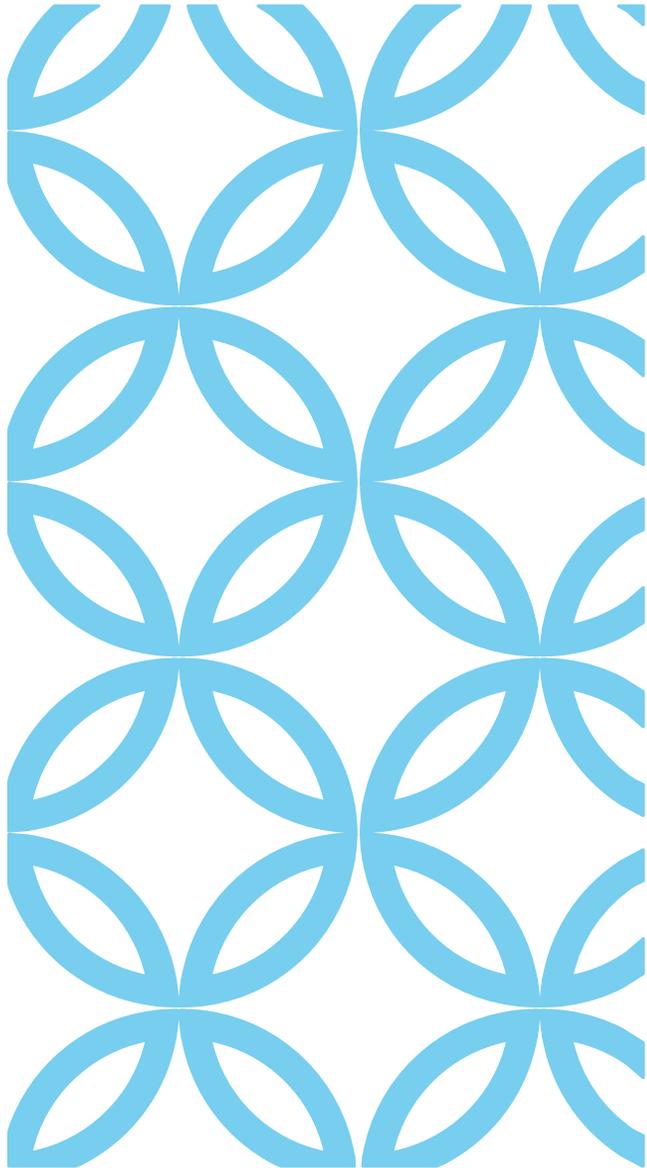
How did I come to be in the public sector – a leadership journey

Reflections through many lenses – as a woman, a mother, as proudly-Pasefika Nzer and with somewhat *young-ish* eyes

Challenges for embracing a future in the public sector in a world of change

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**THIS IS ME — ORCHID ATIMALALA**



**Day job** – Principal Advisor: RMA and Crown property advisor at the Ministry of Education

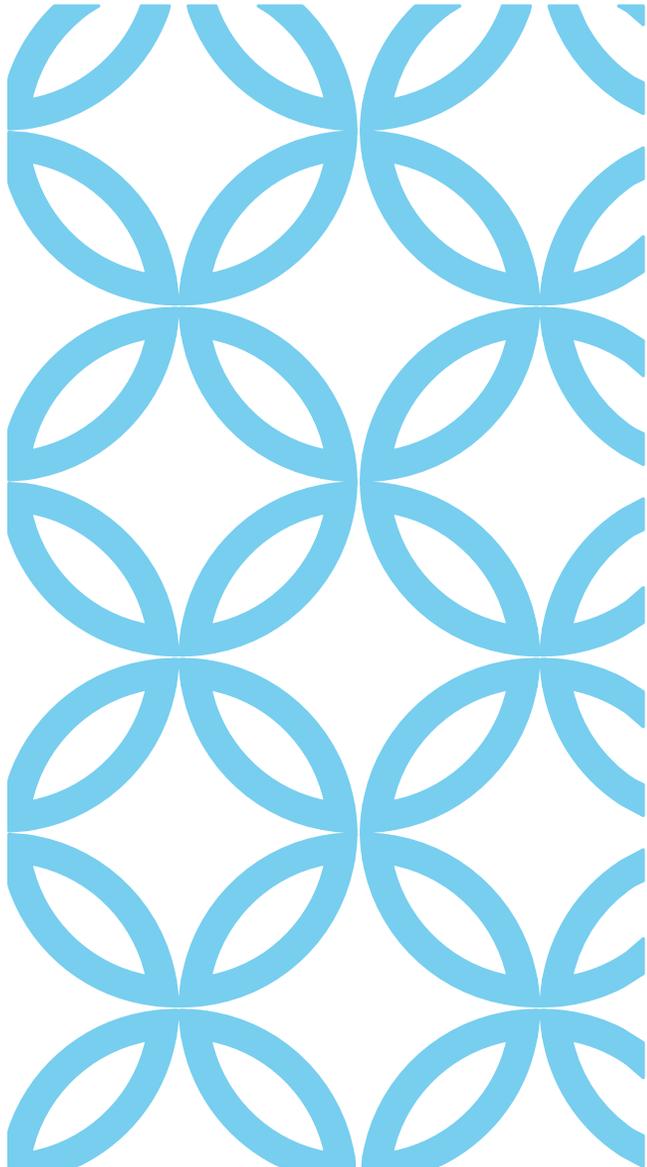
Professionally trained strategic and resource management planner with roles in the private and public sector over a nearly 30yr career

**Other job** – Chair of Auckland War Memorial Museum Trust Board & elected Trustee to the NZ Planning Institute Board

**Life job** – Mum, wife, sister, daughter, aunt, Samoan

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**PUBLIC SECTOR JOURNEY — SO FAR**



#### family influences

Congressman grandfather, missionary grandparents

lawmakers and high chiefs

Father called to serve and grow the Samoan community in Hamilton

#### school leadership roles from early age

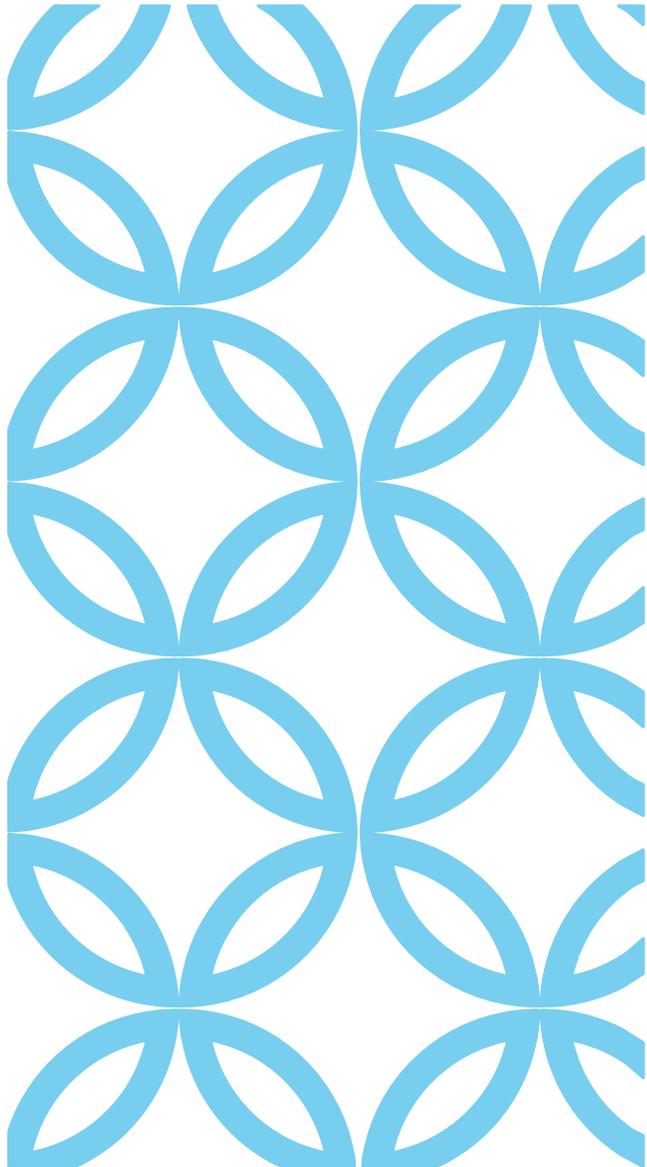
#### professional

Board trustee NZ Planning Institute (2018). First planner of Pasefika heritage elected

Aotearoa Pasefika Practitioners Group (2016). Establishment Committee Member of Pasefika-facing Special Interest Group of the NZPI

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## PUBLIC SECTOR JOURNEY — SO FAR



public body governance

Deputy Chair of establishment Auckland Council Pacific Advisory Panel (2010)

Board trustee - GetIn2It Youth Development Trust. The vision is “Play” as key to the development of children young people

Board of Trustees – Richmond Road School

Board trustee (2013) and Chair (2018) of the Auckland War Memorial Museum. First Pasefika & First Woman Chair in 169 year history

***LEADERSHIP THROUGH SERVICE***

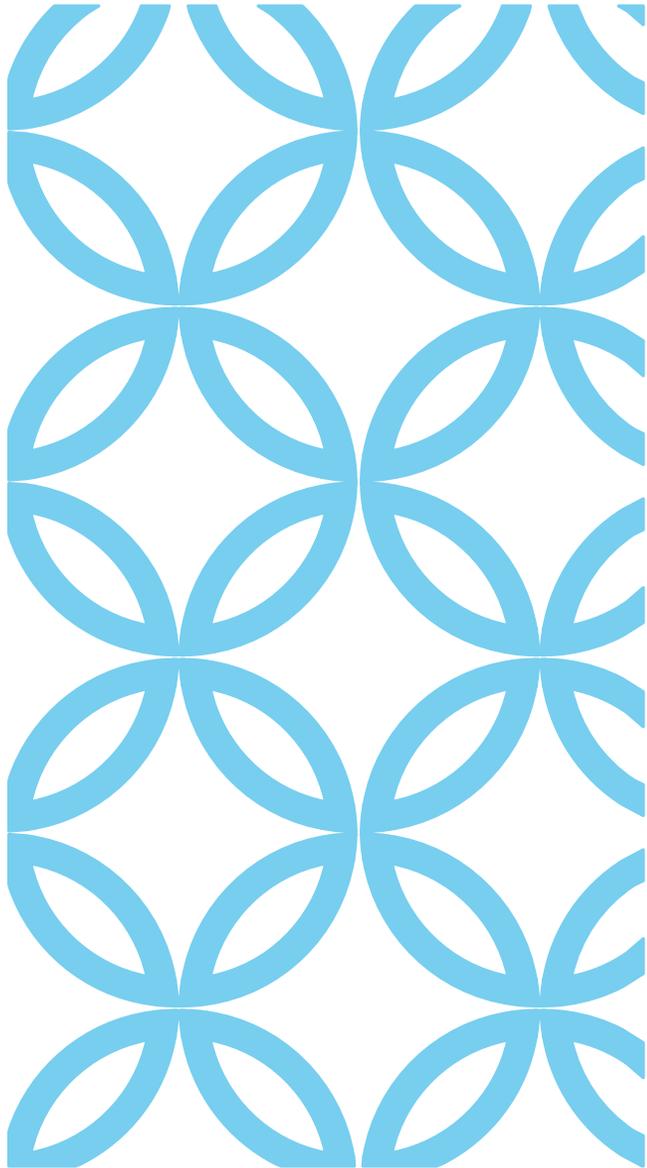
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**THE JOURNEY CONTINUES**

# INFLUENCERS & INSPIRATION

## What influences me and what I do?

- Family, past - my grandparents and parents - and family, future - my daughter
- NZ and global movers and shakers
- Values-based thought and action
- High hopes and expectation for humanity



- because I'm "strategically lazy" ( not to be confused for idleness)..... to do less, delegate more and empower others. De-clutters the mind to focus on the things others cant or wont do or things I want to do in a particular way.

*"If I want a job done, I give it to someone lazy. They'll work out the fastest and easiest way to do it"*  
[Bill Gates]

- because I still think I can make a difference in planning better places and spaces. I continue to practise as an urban and environmental planner. This keeps me relevant in my governance and leadership roles too

- because I hope a future for my digital native daughter – one where she is resilient to fast-paced change in technology, where a "climate change environment" is no longer a 'thing', where diversity is accepted as normal in everything, where society values that we have brought her up in finally changes to discard self-centred/capitalist policy and economic fortune as the only measure of success

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## MY WHY

# MY VALUE PROPOSITION

So, “why I do what I do” and what I expect to have happen as a result.....

- *Positive transformation of spaces and people as an agent of change*
- *There’s more fun in being agile in and to change – in thought, creativity and action*
- *Pay it forward - leaving no man, woman, child behind in any positive change*
- *Courage in embracing diversity in every sphere*
  - *social (intra/intergenerational, gender, culture)*
  - *professional (multi-disciplinary)*
  - *political (inter-tribal and best of each/both)*
  - *technology (old school tricks, new platforms)*
- *For my daughter and her generation*

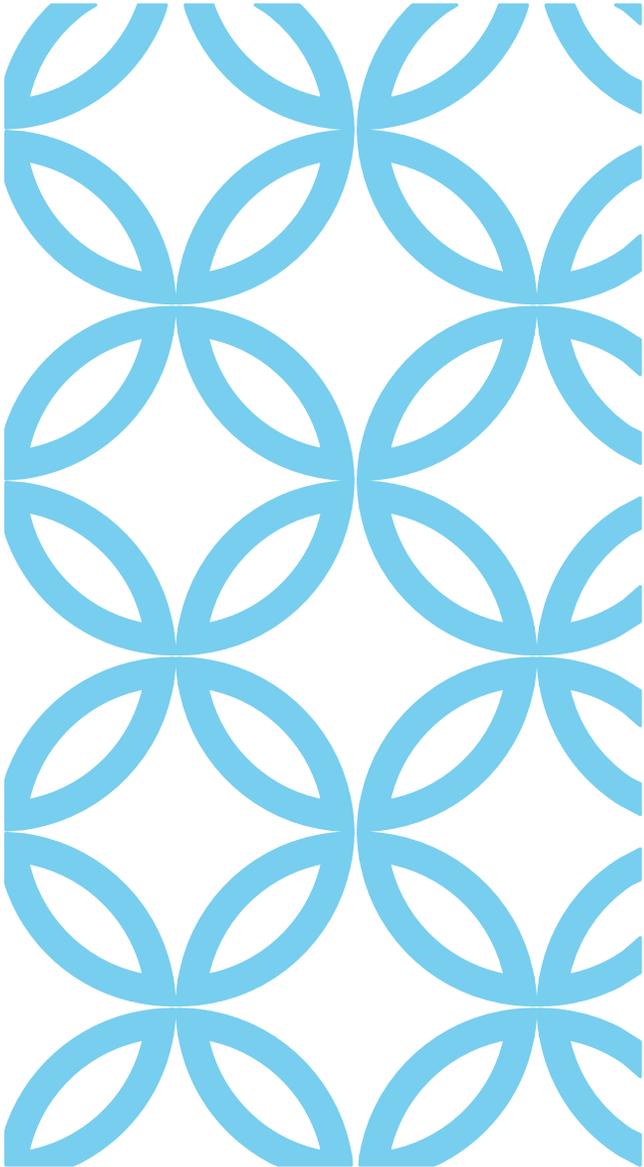
**So what’s your Why?**

# THE FUTURE YOU & YOUR WHY

Decide to  
embrace it or  
hide from it

Be in the  
present/in the  
moment - and  
hope and look  
to the future





Like the proverbial, change happens...

- in methods, in values, in action, in technology, in understanding and in perspectives – from this comes diversity
- in the public sector, change may be sudden/catastrophic (e.g. Chch or Pike River or Astrolabe reef sinking) but will likely feel like turning the Titanic; especially if you're a “societal anomaly” like me – Pasefika, female and young(ish) - in a room full of white, middle-class, older males (and increasingly females). Persevere – change always happens.

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# CHANGE

# CONFIDENCE IN CHANGE

Knowing this, be a “change agent”. A change agent does the heavy lifting to:

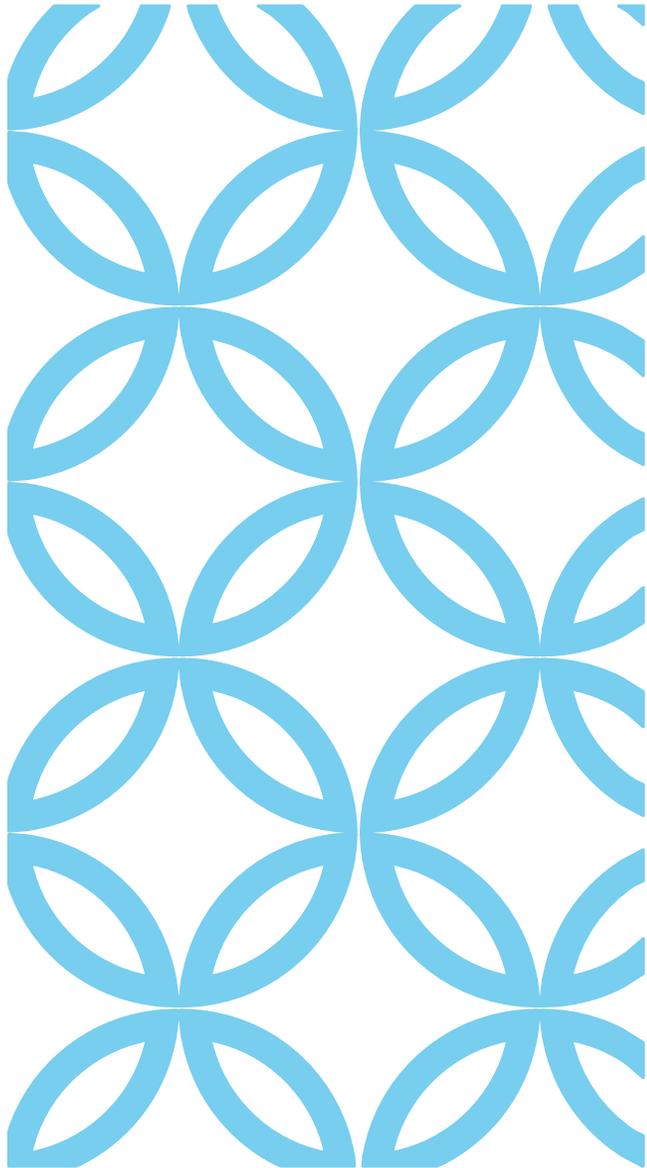
- lift eye-lines of everyone around her, above the navel and beyond her lifetime;

- unafraid to challenge bad policy, with evidence and respect;

- always striving to improve self and society as a rule of thumb;

- does not accept ego-centric politicking or toxic culture-vultures as a norm





Be outcomes-centred, not just outputs focussed

Be OK with *who you are* and *your why*

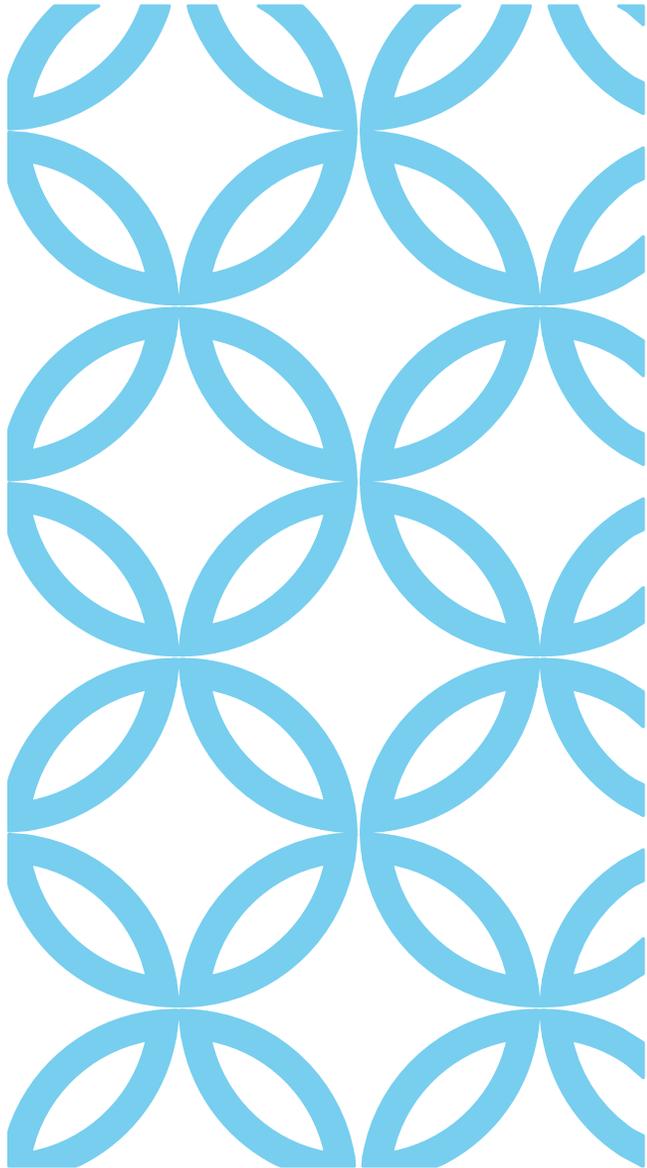
Lift your eyeline – *plan to be strategic*

Lead and live without ego

Live your eulogy not your resume

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## REFLECTIONS



Fa'avae i le fa'aSamoa – the Samoan way, where respect and honour is found in *public service*

Formulate decisions and analysis on history and heritage, which are future-focussed – *monitor, evaluate, learn*

More trained strategic planners from the public sector needed in governance for

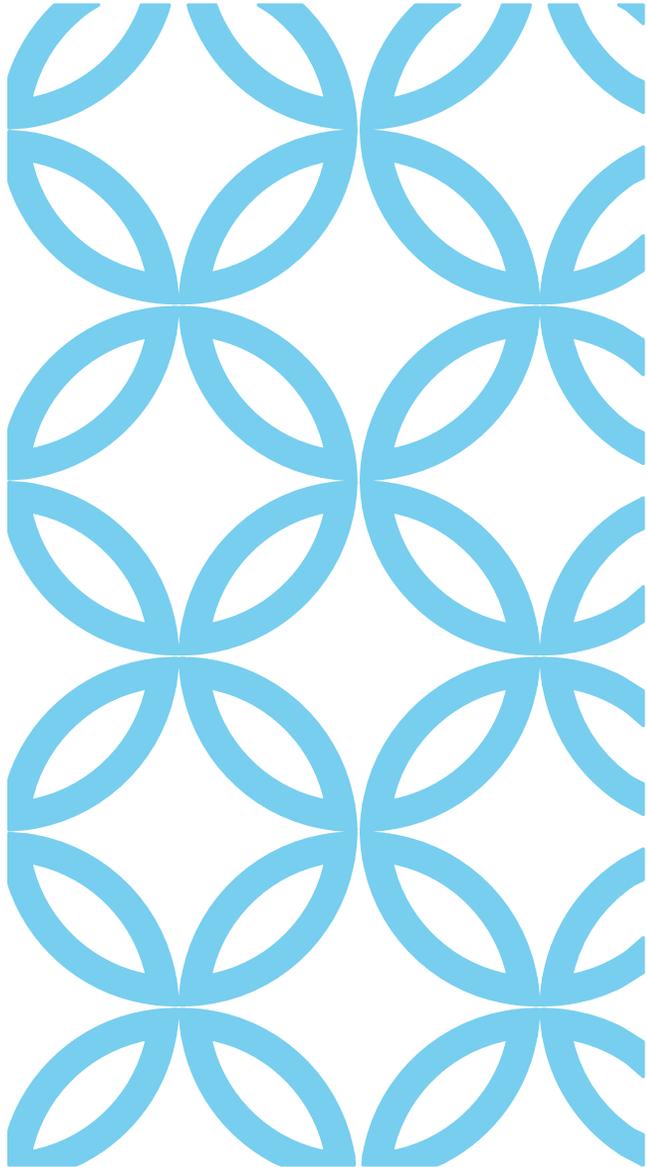
- Their ability to think diversely

- Their intrinsic skill of holistic kaitiaki of spaces and people

- Their courage to be an agent of positive change

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[PRACTICAL] REFLECTIONS



Thanks for your time in listening today

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**FAAFETAI LAVA MA IA MANUIA**