Mālie and māfana – a transformational approach to research with a vulnerable indigenous community

Aulola Lino
Unitec Institute of Technology
Auckland, NZ
Mihi / Fakatapu – Introduction
Whakapiri – Engagement

Whakamana – Empowerment

Whakamarama – Enlightenment
Background

• Increase of deaths to suicide in Tongan youth in 2011

• Those who died, predominantly were not accessing services and lived in South Auckland, NZ

• Capture voices and experiences of Tongan youth to explore their understanding of what communication meant to them

• Methodological design – appropriate to the Tongan community and empowered courageous talanoa about challenging issues in their community
Methodology

• Qualitative

• Phenomenology

• Kakala Research Framework

• Talanoa Methods
Kakala Research Framework

Teu (preparation)

Máfana (transformatio nal)

Málie (Evaluation)

Toli (data collection)

Tui (Data Analysis)

Luva (Dissemination)

(Helu-Thaman, 1999; Taufe’ulungaki and Johansson-Fua, 2005)
Kakala in practice

- Malie & Mafana
- Malie & Mafana
- Malie & Mafana
- Malie & Mafana

Teu

Toli

Luva

Tui

(Lino, 2015)
How did the mālie and māfana enhance the research process?

- Value cultural knowledge & protocols
- Identify key connectors in their community
- Strengthened the va for equality
- Challenged conformed research ideas
- Transformational process for community and I
CONCLUSION

“If this is going to save one life – then the pain of opening up old wounds is worth it and what better way to honor the life of my loved one”

Malo ‘aupito
Tu’a ‘ofa atu