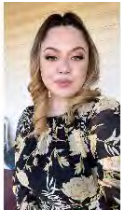


Pacific Australian Emerging Leaders' Summit 2022

By M Rosaline Ah Chong Parker



On the 26th of November 2022, over 90 youth members from across the region gathered in Canberra for the inaugural 4-day Pacific Australian Emerging Leaders' Summit. Facilitated by Micah Australia and the Pacific Conference of Churches, the delegation included a range of individuals who respectfully represented their diverse homelands, churches, volunteer/research groups as well as their workplaces.

I am humbly blessed to have been selected as the NSW Pacific representative to attend this summit. With no expectation, I left the summit with a whole new outlook on life as well as new family of First Nations and Pasefika brothers and sisters.

It was deep and insightful.

Prior to the summit, the event organisers had conducted research into issues within the Pacific which was presented to the delegation in a report. It outlined various issues for Pacific women. For instance, many Pacific women are not included around social, economic, and political spaces. The statistics provided on the marginalisation of women in the Pacific was confronting and a tough reality. As a member of the Pacific family living in Australia, I do recognise the privilege, as well as I must utilize the resources that I have in front of me, to best support our sisters back home in the Pacific Islands.

During the summit, our delegation had the opportunity to attend a Pacific church service and also participated in political engagement trainings. We had the chance to visit The Tent Embassy and connect with powerful First Nations aunties who have been working consistently to address local issues faced by the indigenous people.



This was a momentous experience, connecting with our Indigenous brothers and sisters, listening and learning from their experiences. The fellowship amongst the female delegation was truly inspiring. I made some lifelong friends. It is important for young Pacific women to take up these opportunities to seek ways to close the gender gap, learn and advocate for Pacific issues as well as connect to share and continue to shape our story.



I would like to kindly thank Rev Alimoni Taumoepeau, Seini Afeaki, the PWPBN, PAELS22 Pasifika and First Nations family for this inspiring opportunity and the ongoing support for young Pacific people.

We need more of these, to connect, empower, share and inspire!

Truly Grateful

M Rosaline Ah Chong Parker