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Pasifika Achievement To Higher Education (PATHE)
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westernsydney.edu.au/pathe

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PATHE Vocational Videos and this study guide supports
the educational purposes of the Western Sydney University and is
solely being used for non-commercial educational purposes with
schools, community groups, young people and families.
Overview

Pasifika Achievement To Higher Education (PATHE) strives to develop aspirations towards further education & training in Pacific communities. Through this community-based initiative, PATHE promotes the ability and options for Pacific people to develop and gain new skills and new knowledge, leading to greater opportunities across life.

Facilitated by the School of Social Sciences and Psychology, PATHE operates across three key components: student support, outreach activities and innovative projects.

The student support component focuses on course retention, progression, completion and transition for current Western Sydney University Pasifika students.

The Outreach activities involve PATHE proactively collaborating with key stakeholders in Greater Western Sydney as a means to contribute to the vision of seeing more Pacific people meaningfully engaged in creating career and vocational goals. Working with 80 primary and high schools, a further 40 community groups (sporting/youth agencies/religious) are accessed and supported. A specific curriculum has been developed to engage young people, educators, and parents through meaningful workshops that integrate specific cultural perspectives and practices. PATHE university students participate as mentors across these outreach activities, sharing their stories while being real life examples of Pacific people striving to achieve.

PATHE Vocational Videos is one part of PATHE’s innovative projects that seeks to further engage community and provide accessible resources. Specific vocational areas utilised in the videos were profiled from feedback on future aspirations given by over 700 Pacific young people.

Packaged as a series of 18 vocational videos, this resource highlights interest areas and personal journeys of Pacific people perusing careers in various vocations. These short films complement the current PATHE outreach activities and can be used as an additional resource across the wider community.

PATHE Vocational Videos are accompanied by this study guide to further assist in creating ongoing and meaningful conversations with Pacific people; to build aspirations towards further education and training through developing and achieving vocational and career goals.

The PATHE Vocational Videos can be located online via the PATHE Website: westernsydney.edu.au/pathe

“When one achieves, we all succeed.”
Brent Kerehona has come from an established military career with the Australian Army and is now working in the education field as a teacher. During high school, he was a talented football player with aspirations to take it to a professional level. After getting as far as he could with football, he turned to the military to gain experience, training and knowledge.

Brent thoroughly enjoyed his time in the army and learnt many valuable life lessons. From this experience, he went on to become a Primary School teacher, sharing his passion in educating and mentoring young people through their own personal and cultural journey.

FOCUS QUESTIONS
1. When Brent was enlisted in the military, what life lesson did he learn?
2. Why did Brent choose to move from the military into education?
3. What type of attitude is helpful when starting out in a career?
4. He mentions that just because you choose one career, it doesn’t mean you have to stick with it forever. What advice does Brent give when choosing a career?

FURTHER RESOURCES
Western Sydney University nUWS article: “60 seconds with graduate Brent Kerehona”
Website: BOSTES Teacher Accreditation

JOB GUIDE
- Army Soldier
- Army Officer
- Teacher – Primary

“Your’re learning right throughout your career, in any career that you’re in; you’re actually learning as you go.”
Artist

Aaron McTaggart is an artist that resides in Sydney, Australia. He creates unique and original artwork that has been influenced by the Maori Culture.

Aaron’s style pays respect to traditional Maori Art whilst delivering a modern perspective, infusing contemporary styles and techniques with traditional design elements and meanings.

His artwork is a platform to display his culture from a unique perspective. He utilises modern platforms, like social media to further profile his passion, whilst providing him with the opportunity to also create an avenue for people to buy his work.

FOCUS QUESTIONS
1. In Aaron’s video, what pathway did he take in order achieve his career aspirations?
2. Identify the motivation behind Aaron’s career choice.
3. How can a personal passion or interest help with choosing a career?
4. What key messages or advice did you take away from Aaron’s story?

FURTHER RESOURCES
Facebook: Urban Maori Art

JOB GUIDE
- Artist
- Photographer

Aaron McTaggart

“My motivation and inspiration – I’d say 90% of it is my background, my cultural heritage.

What I love is that everyday I’m learning new things about my culture”
Mo’onia Gerrard was the first Polynesian netball player to represent Australia. She is also a rugby player and has the long term goal of playing Rugby Sevens in the 2016 Olympics. Not only does she play professional sport, but she is also very active within the community, mentoring youth to lead a healthy active lifestyle and teaches that it’s cool to be you and be unique.

Mo’onia is involved in many projects, both here in Australia and in Tonga. With the support of Netball NSW, she created the Oceania Netball Cup which provides an opportunity for girls from Polynesian background to play netball but includes an island flavour into the games and focuses on the fun side of netball. She mentors the sports programme at Matraville Sports High School and teaches the girls how to become leaders as well as lifestyle skills.

**FOCUS QUESTIONS**

1. Mo’onia says that she tries to speak on behalf of all Polynesians. What do you think she means by that?
2. Why does Mo’onia think it is important for parents to encourage their children to chase their passions, instead of getting a job straight out of school?
3. What advice does she give to all youth?
4. Mo’onia’s motto is “Be yourself, Be Unique”. How can you apply this to your journey in life?

**FURTHER RESOURCES**

Website: Oceania Netball Cup
Website: MonStar
Twitter: @Mon-Star9

**JOB GUIDE**

- Sportsperson
- Sports Administrator
- Sports Coach

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**Biography**

**NAME**

Mo’onia Gerrard

**CULTURAL HERITAGE**

Tongan

**VOCATION**

Athlete – Netball and Rugby Union

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Mo’onia Gerrard

“I don’t just play for myself, and my teammates, I got my family on my back and my culture aswell.”
Athlete: Rugby League

Biography

Sam Perrett was born in Auckland, New Zealand and moved to Australia when he was 13. He signed with the Sydney City Roosters for the 2004 season and played with them through to 2012. During mid-season of 2012, Sam signed with the Canterbury Bankstown Bulldogs and in 2013 he scored 18 tries in 25 matches. Sam has also played on the international scene, representing New Zealand between 2007-2013 making 19 appearances, including playing in the 2008 Rugby League World Cup.

Sam believes in living a balanced life and has created a pathway for himself outside of rugby league. Having this balanced life through further education and training has helped him enrich his wellbeing and future direction.

FOCUS QUESTIONS
1. What qualities does Sam say you need in order to be successful within the professional sporting field?
2. Identify some challenges Pacific people face within a team environment, and what can be done to overcome this.
3. Why is it important to also pursue further education and training outside of playing football?
4. What advice does Sam give to those who are pursuing a professional sporting career?

FURTHER RESOURCES
Website: National Rugby League
Twitter: @Sam_Perrett

JOB GUIDE
- Sportsperson
- Sports Administrator
- Sports Coach

Sam Perrot

“I’ve always found it important to have something other than football to focus on... it’s given me extra passion and drive in other areas.”
Tatafu Polota-Nau is a professional rugby union player and represents the NSW Waratahs and Australian Wallabies. He made his international debut in 2005 before he had played in a Super Rugby Match. Before this he played in the Australian U-21 rugby team and in 2005 was awarded the U-21 Player of the Year. In 2006, Tatafu signed with the NSW Waratahs and in 2010 was awarded the Player’s Player. Tatafu also works as an ambassador for sport in the greater western region of Sydney. In 2011, he received recognition for his work as the ‘face’ of Western Sydney, and was awarded the Parramatta Sports Person of the Year.

Tatafu has appeared in 50 rugby test caps for the Wallabies, but has always had a passion for academia. He has an advance diploma in Business and is completing a Master of Business Administration.

**FOCUS QUESTIONS**
1. What qualities does Tatafu say you need in order to be successful within the professional sporting field?
2. Identify some challenges Pacific people face within a team environment, and what can be done to overcome this.
3. Why is it important to also pursue further education and training outside of playing football?
4. What advice does Tatafu give to those who are pursuing a professional sporting career?

**FURTHER RESOURCES**
- Website: National Rugby League
- Twitter: @tatafu267

**JOB GUIDE**
- Sportsperson
- Sports Administrator
- Sports Coach

**Tatafu Polota-Nau**

“Rugby is a finite opportunity to show your skills, that saying – it won’t last, so you have to do something away from it.”
Joe Swamy is the founder of the company Nesian Finance which is a finance business that prides itself in educating and assisting people from Asia and the South Pacific in understanding a range of financial products in the Australian market – in particular home loans, insurance and superannuation products.

Joe’s interest in sports saw him play rugby league for West Magpies, North Sydney Bears Premier League teams from 2004 to 2006. From there he decided to develop his career pathway as a business professional. In 2006, he founded a mortgage and finance business known as Nesian Finance. In 2011, he and his wife co-founded The Australian Coffee Embassy Pty Ltd. As a business owner, he is an advocate for sharing knowledge, particularly in Pasifika communities, about business, property and finance.

FOCUS QUESTIONS
1. How did Joe Swamy decide what pathway to pursue in order to reach his career aspiration?
2. How was Joe Swamy inspired to start his business, Nesian Finance?
3. What motivates Joe Swamy in his work?
4. What are the key messages you have taken from Joe’s story?

Joe Swamy

“Idea was to have a company specialising in educating Pacific Islanders, helping them to get their first home.”
Biography

Bridget Davis is the co-founder of The Internet Chef, and has been in the hospitality industry since the age of 14. Ever since she was young, Bridget’s family and cultural celebrations had a huge influence on her fascination with food, which naturally lead her to her chosen career path.

She has previously worked for celebrity Chef Bill Granger, and now creates innovative videos showcasing the art of contemporary cooking and healthy living through her very popular website, and YouTube channel.

**FOCUS QUESTIONS**

1. What factors motivated Bridget to further her education within the hospitality industry?
2. How has her culture influenced her as a Chef?
3. As Bridget states, she went down the teaching avenue and took to the Internet in order to help others in the kitchen. What made her choose this path and why does she love it so much?
4. What advice does Bridget give to those who are interested in becoming a chef?

**FURTHER RESOURCES**

Website: The Internet Chef – Bridget Davis

YouTube: The Internet Chef TV

**JOB GUIDE**

- Chef
- Caterer

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**Bridget Davis**

“The hospitality industry in itself is so varied, there is so many different things you can do.”
Child Care

Biography

Seta Teuhema was born in Tonga and currently resides in Bankstown, Sydney with his wife Leonora and two sons Leroy and Savinata. In 2004, he founded Leroy’s Academy which specialises in before and after school care and vacation care. He is currently the operations manager for Leroy’s Academy and since its inception, the business has expanded to now employing 12 staff members and 3 bus drivers. Leroy’s Academy currently provide care for 130 children per day from 26 schools within the Bankstown region.

In addition, Seta is a qualified Chef by trade, has attained a Certificate IV in Real Estate, and currently studying towards Property Development.

FOCUS QUESTIONS
1. What pathway did Seta Teuhema take to pursue his career aspiration?
2. What motivated Seta Teuhema to decide to develop Leroy’s Academy?
3. How can you overcome uncertainty in choosing a career others may not want for you?
4. What does Seta Teuhema enjoy about his career?

FURTHER RESOURCES
Website: Outside school hours care

JOB GUIDE
- Early Childhood Educator
- Family Day Care Educator
- Nanny

Seta Teuhema

“If you have a focus, no matter what you want to do in life... just go hard and strive.”
Maryjane McKibbin-Schwenke is the Director of Matavai Cultural Arts, based in Sydney Australia. Through her extensive experience in dance, she established a centre that promotes and teaches the foundations of Pacific cultural arts, including dance.

Maryjane’s experiences of promoting Samoan culture stems from travelling to tourism shows and festivals in countries such as Japan, America, New Zealand, Australia, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Hawaii, Fiji and the Solomon Islands to represents Samoa and the wider South Pacific region.

Matavai Cultural Arts provides a rich cultural experiences that promotes self-discovery, cultural awareness and identity through programs that transforms an individuals self-confidence through the art of cultural dance and traditional language.

**FOCUS QUESTIONS**
1. What is Maryjane’s passion in life?
2. What are some challenges that Pasifika people can relate to when migrating to Australia?
3. List three key messages/lessons that Maryjane shared in her video.
4. What did Maryjane share in regards to the importance of education and studying?

**FURTHER RESOURCES**
- Website: Matavai
- Facebook: Matavai Cultural Arts

**JOB GUIDE**
- Dancer
- Arts Administrator
- Community Worker

Maryjane Mckibbin–Schwenke

“With performing I wanted it to be professional – so I would work very hard. 4 times a week training...”
Mummys Boy underwear was created in 2010 by founder Paul Muliaga, with the idea of designing a unique, affordable and comfy brand of underwear for men.

Mummys Boy embodies a sporting and outgoing lifestyle, inspired by an ever changing street and urban culture. Their custom designs and vibrant colours reflect the love, joy and happiness one shares with their Mum.

Paul’s journey into business comes from previously playing football, and his desire to achieve both individually, and for his family.

FOCUS QUESTIONS
1. What inspired Paul Muliaga to change his career path?
2. What is the background story behind the name of Paul Muliaga’s business, Mummy’s Boy Underwear?
3. What are some of the lessons that Paul Muliaga has learned along the way?
4. What was Paul Muliaga’s advice for starting a business?

FURTHER RESOURCES
Website: Mummys Boy
Facebook: Mummys Boy Underwear

JOB GUIDE
- Fashion Designer
- Fashion sales assistant
- Marketing Officer

Paul Muliaga

“Know your target market – if you don’t have that defined, there’s no point pushing your product cause you got to know who you’re marketing to...”
Barbara E’e was in her early 40’s when she began her career as a Juvenile Justice Officer. Through this position, she looks after young people who are subject to court orders such as bail and parole.

She also works with the families of the young people so that they can implement strategies within their family that can support their son or daughter. By working with her clients and their families she hopes they learn how to become productive members of society, which will lead them down a positive pathway, instead of coming back into the legal system.

Her role requires her to look after a case load of young people and support them towards achieving goals in many areas; including enrolling in further education and training, getting support for health needs, or accessing resources to assist the family. She also interviews people for background reports that they provide to court and monitoring legal conditions.

FOCUS QUESTIONS
1. What is it about Barbara’s role that she loves the most?
2. Why did Barbara want to work for the Juvenile Justice Centre and how did it lead her to attend University of Western Sydney?
3. How has her understanding of Pacific culture helped her work with young people and families?
4. According to Barbara, opportunities and benefits come from Pacific people completing a university degree. What do you think?

Barbara E’e

“It’s just about opening the door for them, and then allowing them to access those great services.”

NAME
Barbara E’e

CULTURAL HERITAGE
Samoan

VOCATION
Juvenile Justice Officer/Social Worker

FURTHER RESOURCES
Website: NSW Justice

JOB GUIDE
- Probation and Parole Officer
- Youth Worker
- Social Worker

Biography

Juvenile Justice
Make Up and Hair

Biography

Terri Smith is a Sydney based Makeup and Hair Artist. She has excelled rapidly in her career and has become renowned for her services internationally. Terri has worked for TV Station GZTV China, world supermodel pageant Fiji Fashion Week, established & up and coming fashion designers and catwalk shows.

Terri founded her own business – “MissTez Inc.”, providing makeup services for a range of different clients from music artists to models. Additionally, Terri provides training workshops across the Pacific region to support local and international events; and aspires to open a Hair & Make Up studio & school in Fiji.

FOCUS QUESTIONS
1. What inspired Terri’s vision for MissTez Inc. Make Up and Media?
2. In the beginning, how did Terri establish her business?
3. What are some of Terri’s professional highlights?
4. In growing MissTez what are some of Terri’s future goals?

FURTHER RESOURCES
Facebook: MissTez
Linked In: Terri Smith

JOB GUIDE
→ Make-up Artist
→ Hairdresser
→ Beauty Therapist

Barbara E’e

“I love making people feel beautiful – it’s awesome seeing the expression on people’s faces after I’ve worked with them.”
Juanita Tippins grew up in a musical family. After a number of years trying to balance a day job and her passion for singing and music, she decided to pursue a music career full-time. As a musician, she continues to perform across many different avenues; including teaching, and fronting the very successful live band Suite Az.

Juanita has supported the development and recording of numerous studio albums, including the soundtrack for the Australian film, “The Sapphires”.

Juanita continues to achieve across the music industry, acknowledging that hard work and effort creates the opportunity to have a successful career in the performing arts.

**FOCUS QUESTIONS**

1. What led Juanita Tippins to decide to pursue a career in music?
2. Identify the places or roles that Juanita Tippins has worked and performed at within the music industry.
3. What does Juanita Tippins love about singing?
4. What is Juanita Tippins advice for people who would like to explore a career in music?

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**FURTHER RESOURCES**

Website: Suite Az
Facebook: Suite Az (Band)
Apple iTunes: Juanita Tippins

**JOB GUIDE**

→ Musician
→ Entertainer
→ Teacher – Music

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Juanita Tippins

“I love that you can be singing, and you look at someone, and they are singing along with you... you’re creating, evoking emotions – you’re creating a vibe.”
Lieutenant Commander Apikotoa is a first generation Australian of Tongan descent who joined the RAN in 1997, initially undertaking undergraduate studies at the Australian Defence Force Academy before going on to become the first person of Polynesian descent to drive an Australian warship at sea.

During her career to date Lieutenant Commander Apikotoa has served in various warships, including HMA Ships Anzac, Bunbury, Gladstone, Norman, Gascoyne, Sydney, Newcastle and Parramatta, as well as a variety of shore postings, including the key positions of Aide de Camp to the Chief of Defence Force and Navy Assistant Director Category Manager for Communications and Intelligence.

FOCUS QUESTIONS
1. What pathway did Rosemarie take in order to achieve her current success?
2. What attracted Rosemarie to the Navy?
3. What opportunities have been made available through her current role with the Navy?
4. Rosemarie talks about the difference between being humble, and being strong. What does this mean?

Rosemarie Apikotoa

“Seventeen years after joining the Navy I have a Bachelors degree and a Masters degree. I have sailed the world and had many great experiences.”
Tashia Hunuki is a registered nurse working at Nepean Hospital in New South Wales. She is passionate about serving people and the wider community. Tashia aspired to be a registered nurse when she was younger, and feels rewarded for being able to achieve this dream.

Recreationally, Tashia follow her other passion; traveling to local and international locations across the world. She believes having a profession enables her to support individual goals, and other family commitments.

Tashia is proud of her cultural identity and believes in the power of education; as it has the ability to transforms lives.

FOCUS QUESTIONS
1. What inspired Tashia to become a registered nurse?
2. What does Tashia’s role entail? List three interesting aspects about her job.
3. Which pathway did Tashia take in order to achieve her goal?
4. What is the importance of education to Tashia? How has this changed her life?

Tashia Hunuki

“What I love most about my job is the different cases, the people we meet – it’s exciting for me everyday to come to work.”
At a young age, Rosa Fali always knew that she wanted to become a Police Officer. After undertaking various jobs in her early adulthood, she graduated with an Associates degree in Policing practice and she joined the Police force at the age of 30 years. Her desire is to support and help people in need, particularly from Pasifika communities.

FOCUS QUESTIONS
1. Why did Rosa decide to become a Police Officer?
2. Which department in NSW Police did Rosa mention you can specialise in?
3. What was Rosa’s key advice about becoming a Police Officer?

FURTHER RESOURCES
Website: NSW Police recruitment

JOB GUIDE
- Police Officer – State
- Police Officer – Australian Federal Police

Rosa Fali

“I wanted to have a job that was diverse – everyday, I want a new challenge, but more so just to help people.”
Billy Kamisi re-located from New Zealand to Australia to play rugby union. In 2009, he decided to pursue a pathway in Policing. As a Probationary Constable, he wants to be a role model for the younger generation and in particular for the Pasifika community. His desire to help others was the most important factor in his decision to join the Police force.

**FOCUS QUESTIONS**
1. Why did Billy decide to pursue a career pathway in Policing?
2. What are some of the responsibilities undertaken as a Police Officer?
3. Why does Billy enjoy his role as a Police Officer?

**FURTHER RESOURCES**
- Website: NSW Police recruitment
- **JOB GUIDE**
  - Police Officer – State
  - Police Officer – Australian Federal Police

**Biography**

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“Your decision making, when you’re young, can influence the way that you live your life later on.”
Lela Pikula and Cherish Nouata are the co-founders of Mamacita Sole – proudly proclaiming the motto “Big Shoes. Big Attitudes”.

They crossed paths when Cherish went to pitch her vision and idea to Lela who was working as the programme coordinator for the government programme “Employ Yourself”. Once Lela heard the idea, she left her coordinators job to partner up with Cherish to build a business together.

Even though they have faced many challenges and negative criticism, they have persevered and gone through the process with a positive can-do attitude. Their passion has enabled many young girls and women to not only walk out with gorgeous shoes but also walk out with confidence and high self-esteem.

**FOCUS QUESTIONS**

1. **Who is Mamacita Sole’s target audience?**
   Why did they want to specialise for this particular group?

2. **What tactics did they use in order to help their business grow?**

3. **With opening a business, they faced many people (some family), who did not believe they would succeed. What advice does Lela and Cherish give in order to gain success?**

4. **What are the key messages you have taken from the Mamacita Sole story?**

**FURTHER RESOURCES**

Website: Mamacita Sole

**JOB GUIDE**

- Retail Buyer
- Sales Representative
- Sales Assistant

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Lela Pikula and Cherish Nouata

“So under a tree, up in Claymore, we shook hands and we said – “let’s run” – we just had that dream up on a hill.”
Mary Greatz was born in Australia and raised in her early childhood years in the Kingdom of Tonga with her Grandparents. She holds her Grandparents in high regard as they continue to teach her the importance of cultural values that Pacific people uniquely and humbly uphold.

In February of her HSC year, her beloved Grandfather passed away and from that point on she dedicated her studies to him. He was her biggest educational motivator during her schooling. She is now a Primary School teacher and she hopes to be an educational motivator for the younger Pacific Islander generation.

As the dedicated community language teacher at Brookvale Public school, Mary engages Primary school students in the development of Tongan through interactive learning activities. Mary is passionate about the way in which language connects us to our Pacific culture, and finds great enjoyment in helping children develop such perspectives.

**FOCUS QUESTIONS**

1. What motivated Mary Greatz to decide to pursue a teaching career?
2. What does she do in her role as a Community Language teacher? How can learning about your Pacific language help?
3. What does Mary enjoy about her teaching career?
4. Identify the quote that Mary Greatz shares at the end of the video. Why is this powerful?

**FURTHER RESOURCES**

Website: teachNSW – teach languages

**JOB GUIDE**

- Teacher – Primary
- Translator
- Interpreter

Mary Greatz

“I just love the smile on their faces... learning the language, and new things about their culture and life outside the classroom.”
Leon Edward Pouli Latulipe was born in Christchurch, NZ and raised in Sydney, Australia. He grew up in a strong working-class Catholic home with four younger brothers. With a few of his family members already in the teaching profession, he was inspired to pursue Physical Education teaching while he was still in High School.

At first, he was unsuccessful in attaining a position as a student at a University but he discovered other ways and other institutes that can provide him with an opportunity to pursue his passion in Physical Education. His persistence paid off and an opportunity for higher education arose.

Leon Latulipe was accepted into the Australian College of Physical Education (ACPE) where he was able to pursue his passion to teach Physical and Health Education. He graduated in 2010 with a Bachelor of Education (Physical & Health Ed.) in the presence of his parents; one of the proudest moments of his life.

**FOCUS QUESTIONS**

1. What motivated Leon Latulipe to decide to pursue a career change?
2. What pathway did Leon Latulipe take to pursue a career in teaching?
3. What were the positive aspects about teaching that Leon Latulipe talked about?
4. What drives him to wake up at 6:30am every morning?

**Leon Latulipe**

“It’s about making the classroom as engaging as possible, helping them comprehend and understand what the concept is being taught.”