**Pacific Disability Forum**

Personal Profile of

Candidate Standing for Election to the Board

Full Name: Tewai Halatau

Date and Place of Birth:

4 November 1956, at Rotorua, Aotearoa/New Zealand. I belong to the Tuhourangi hapu. Which is a sub-tribe of Te Arawa Iwi . I am the 7th of 10 children, and lost my sight at age 4 from a rare childhood disease. I have been educated through both special education school andmainstream

Organisation You Represent, Current Position and Function(5 lines maximum):

I am the delegate for Vision Pacific Charitable Trust, where I serve as its executive officer.

Other Relevant Committee or Board Governance Experience (10 lines maximum):

Along with the other Trustees who are all persons with disabilities, we established Vision Pacific as a charitable trust in 1998, to work towards our vision of the Pacific being inclusive of persons with disabilities; this is why we named our organisation “Vision Pacific”. Vision Pacific is governed and staffed by people with disabilities.

I served on the board of the NZ Council for International Development for 4 years . I have been involved in partnership projects with Pacific DPOs in Samoa and Fiji. In Aotearoa, Vision Pacific provides some sponsorship to Akamarama Advocacy, which is a peer support and advocacy organisation.

I am a founding member of PDF. By the time I stood down from being Co-chair of the Board in 2009, we had secured core funding from New Zealand AID, and Vision Pacific hosted the contract for the first year until the PDF Board appointed the CEO, set up the secretariat in Suva, registered the constitution, set up a bank account and PDF’s MYOB Accounting System , and written the policy framework in place today.

I was also a founding member of Ngati Kapo in 1983, now known as Kapo Maori Aotearoa.

I served on the Blind Foundation’s board for 12 years through to 2002. Notably during that time I was part of the Governance Taskforce who lead the movement for self determination for the members to change the Foundation from operating under an act of Parliament to being an incorporated society.

Educational Background (5 lines maximum):

* 1998: Masters in Executive Business Administration, Waikato University
* 1983: Diploma in Applied Social Studies, Auckland College of Education

Any Other Activities Relevant to the Work of the PDF (10 lines maximum):

I know how important sports is as a development tool as I represented NZ at the 1980 Paralympics in track and field Events and won the bronze medal for discus. I also promote the use of ICT with universally designed accessibility features, such as the iPhone, to live and work independently in the community, and to accelerate disability development.

Thank you for taking the time to read my profile.

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