

**Transcript: 'Young people living in two cultures'**

Introductory Statement

The following is a short discussion about the experiences of young people living in two cultures, specifically Samoan and Australian cultures.

Discussion

I = interviewer

S1, S2, S3, S4 = Speaker 1, Speaker 2, Speaker 3, Speaker 4

-----  
I: Hey guys. How are you all today?

S1: Good

S2: Good

S3: Not too bad

S4: Good thanks

I: So just to give some context to the people listening to us, I will ask three introductory questions. What country were you born in?

S4: I was born in Australia

S2: Same

S1: I was born in New Zealand

S3: And Australia

I: And what is your cultural background?

S3: Samoan

S4: Samoan

S2: Samoan

S1: Samoan

I: And how old are you?

S3: 22

S4: 22

S2: 16

S1: 18

I: Okay. Cool. So I would like to ask some questions that address alcohol drinking amongst young people from a Pacific background, if that is okay?

S3: Yep

S4: Yep

S1: Yep

S2: Okay

I: Okay. The following questions are about the experiences of young people living in two cultures. Some people talk about a culture clash between Pacific Islander and Western or Australian cultures. Have any of you experienced this?

S3: Yes

S4: Yeah a few times

S1: Not really

S2: No

I: Would any of you like to expand on?

S3: Um. Just. The clashing of cultures and what's expected from our culture is totally different from what the outside culture kind of tells us. It's a everything's opposite kind of thing.

I: Yep

S3: And if you try to live in one culture too much, say if you try to be more cultural or more Westernised, there's always going to be people talking about you, and there's always going to be problems, I think, so yeah.

I: Yeah, fair enough. Do you think there are differences between those born in Australia and those born overseas, with respect to a culture clash?

S3: Yes, I think so. I think those born overseas, they're more...

S4: They're more known to the culture...than we are...

S3: They're more aware of what is accepted...where us born here [Australia], we've grown up Westernised kind of thing, so we know both worlds, where they only know the one.

I: Do you think there are differences between those who moved to Australia prior to starting school, so before age 4 or 5, than those who moved at a school age?

S4: Yeah, for sure.

S1: Yeah

S2: Uh huh

S4: Because we, like as he said, we've grown up here, we're used to what we are obviously here, and they just come here like half way through school. So they still got to adjust to all the way, like the way that we live and stuff.

S3: And I think us being exposed to, like you said before, moving schools, they moved here before they started...like being exposed at a really young age to everything around us. But when you're young, you take everything you see, you want to do kind of thing, and you move in Year 7 or Year 12 or whatever...whenever you move in from overseas, I think it'll be a challenge for them. And then, that could cause problems, or that could be like pressure for them to fit in straight away kind of thing...so yeah.

- I: How do you think alcohol ties in with this?
- S3: Like I said, the pressure with trying to fit in quickly for them moving over from overseas and trying to get with it kind of thing. I think alcohol is a...um...I don't know like...it's a thing to help them settle in.
- I: Can you share any advice that you may have for people under the age of 18, or in your [directed at S2] case the same similar age group as you, who want to I guess rebel from Pacific culture or who are considering alcohol drinking as a means of stress relief?
- S1: Well I guess you have to be like in the right crowd...and don't feel like under pressure... yeah...just don't follow your friends if they're doing bad stuff...and just think about what you're doing...making wise choices before you regret it.
- S2: But like, I reckon in all situations, you can turn to God, and like just praise him. 'Cause, like, with our culture, we're pretty like, we're all religious, so yeah, just turn to God, and everything will be all good.
- S3: And just to add on to that, I think, um, for the rebelling and the drinking as a stress relief, there's always other ways to do it. But, um, if you are going to have a drink, I think just, be in a controlled environment with family or friends, and make sure there will be someone to look out for you. Especially if you're under the age of 18, and if you've just started drinking and it's all new to you.
- I: Well, that brings us to the end of this discussion. Thanks for your time.

#### Acknowledgments Statement

This recording was produced by DAMEC, the Drug and Alcohol Multicultural Education Centre; and made possible through funding from the Ministry of Health NSW.

I'd like to make a shout out to the youth group of Congregational Christian Church of Samoa in Emerton, for their help in designing and producing this recording.

If you need any drug or alcohol support, please contact DAMEC during business hours on 8706 0150. If you need urgent support, please call Lifeline on 13 11 14.