

To Whom It May Concern,

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of the Aurosokwo Project and its community initiatives.

I attended the event "Talanoa with Hands: Now and the Future" and found it to be a welcoming, meaningful, and deeply inclusive experience.

I am originally from Shanghai, China, and although I am not Pasifika myself, many of my closest friends over the past ten years have been from Pacific communities. Attending this event gave me an opportunity to learn more about the cultures, stories, and traditions that have shaped the lives of people I care about.

What stood out to me was how the event created space for genuine connection through storytelling, conversation, and creative activities. The atmosphere was warm and welcoming, and people were encouraged to participate in ways that felt comfortable to them. Rather than feeling like an outsider learning about another culture, I felt included in the experience and welcomed into the community.

The event helped me gain a deeper understanding of Pacific cultures while also creating a sense of belonging and connection. It felt like being invited into a shared space where people could learn from one another, exchange stories, and build relationships across different cultural backgrounds.

I believe this is one of the strengths of the Aurosokwo Project. It not only creates opportunities for Pacific diaspora communities to connect with culture and one another, but it also helps build bridges with the broader community. Through initiatives like "Talanoa with Hands: Now and the Future," people from different backgrounds can come together in ways that foster understanding, respect, and friendship.

For me personally, the experience felt like home. Despite not being Pasifika, I left feeling more connected to the community and with a greater appreciation for the cultures and stories that enrich Canberra.

I strongly support the work of the Aurosokwo Project and believe it makes an important contribution to community wellbeing, cultural understanding, and social connection.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fiona Ye', enclosed within a hand-drawn oval border.

Fiona Ye | Attendee for Aurosokwo Events