



GOVERNMENT OF NIUE

MEDIA RELEASE

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KNZM DR COLIN TUKUITONGA – KNIGHTS COMPANION ORDER OF MERIT AWARDED TO A SON OF NIUE

The GON congratulates Dr Colin Tukuitonga, who has received a knighthood in the 2022 Queen's Birthday and Platinum Jubilee Honours List.

6 June 2022 - Alofi, Niue – The Government of Niue (GON) welcomes the knighting of Associate Pacific Dean Dr Colin Tukuitonga in the 2022 Queen's Birthday Honours and is honoured that another son of Niue has received a knighthood.

Sir Colin has received the Knights Companion Order of Merit (KNZM), a top honour for his services to Pacific and public health.

Sir Colin is a proud son of Alofi Tokelau and is the third Niuean to receive a Knighthood after Sir Robert Rex (1984) and Sir Toke Talagi (2007). He is currently the Associate Dean (Pacific) and Associate Professor of Public Health at the University of Auckland.

Among achievements highlighted in his knighthood citation, Sir Colin:

- was one of the founding members of the Pacific Medical Association
- set up Pacific Heartbeat at the National Heart Foundation
- was one of the researchers who won the funding to establish the first longitudinal study of Pacific families at AUT (Pacific Islands Family Study) that is still active today
- wrote the first health report on Pacific Families and highlighted the inequities in New Zealand for Pacific people

Sir Colin has also held significant roles in the region and internationally, including Director General of the Pacific Community (SPC) and at World Health Organisation (WHO), developing international policies to control non-communicable diseases.

Premier of Niue, Hon. Dalton Tagelagi says Sir Colin has played a huge part recently in helping communicate vital information to Niue in the COVID-19 response.

“We are delighted for this honour received by Sir Colin for his services to his people and the Community. He has worked long and hard and I am pleased that his work has been recognised at the highest level.”

“Niue also recognises all Sir Colin's efforts for Niue, including his work in celebrating Taoga Niue and bringing together Niueans abroad with the people in Niue, and especially recently in our COVID-19 response, and we wish him the very best. I am sure that he will continue to support us here in Niue and the Pasifika community in New Zealand,” says Premier Tagelagi.

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