



MEDIA RELEASE

16 December 2021

NRL announces Voice Against Violence program in Samoa

Australian High Commissioner to Samoa, Her Excellency, Ms Emily Luck was on hand with leading community representatives in Apia, Samoa to launch the NRL 'Voice Against Violence' campaign today.

The Voice Against Violence initiative is an education program, developed in consultation with expert partners in domestic violence cases, and is aimed at informing and empowering young men and women to stand up, speak out and take action against domestic violence.

The Voice Against Violence program will see increased efforts and workshops promoted throughout Samoa to spread the message that violence of any kind is not ok.

NRL Samoa Manager, Mike Felise said "The Voice Against Violence program is another step in the right direction for Rugby League to use its voice for good amongst Pacific communities and to create change for the better".

"Domestic Violence is a serious issue throughout the Pacific and through the power of Rugby League, we want to make sure that communities know the right thing to do and where to go for help".

Today's announcement means that the NRL's Voice Against Violence workshops are now being delivered across six (6) countries, Australia, PNG, Fiji, Tonga, NZ and Samoa.

The NRL will work closely with the Australian High Commission and expert partners such as the, Samoan Victim Support Group, over the short-term to put in place education objectives and plans, before commencing the roll-out of the program to local communities throughout Samoa in early 2022.

The launch of the Voice Against Violence program in Samoa was made possible with the support of the Australian Government's 'Team Up' program.

Further information:

Mike Felise, NRL Samoa Manager

- T: +685 7736167
- E: <u>mfelise@nrl.com.au</u>



