

# THE CHARISMATIC LEADER

**H**e has had a humble beginning from a medicine scholar in Fiji, to becoming the first Tongan clinician to gain a Fellowship, to leading his country while his Tongan nation mourned upon the sudden loss of their King .

Currently the Chief Surgeon Specialist at Tonga's prime medical

Surgeon in 1983 by examination in any medical discipline upon successfully completing Part I of the Fellowship Examinations in 1979, and Part II of the Fellowships Examinations in 1983.

In acknowledging this achievement His Majesty King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV's Government promoted Dr Tangi to Surgeon Specialist in

Minister in 2006 for four and a half years and Acting Minister for Police, Prison and Fire Services for two years. During these years, Tonga's Ministry of Health went through major reform involving all areas of works with strong emphasis on Human Resource Development, Health Care Financing, Infrastructure Development and Health Information systems.

**“ Dr Tangi became the first Tongan clinician to gain a Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeon in 1983 by examination in any medical discipline upon successfully completing Part I of the Fellowship Examinations in 1979, and Part II of the Fellowships Examinations in 1983.**

**In acknowledging this achievement His Majesty King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV's Government promoted Dr Tangi to Surgeon Specialist in 1985 and Chief Surgeon Specialist in 1991. In 1985 Dr Tangi was seconded to the Government of Niue as a Paediatric Surgeon. Dr Tangi has been appointed Acting Medical Superintendent (Vaiola Hospital) and Acting Director of Health during the course of his employment. ”**

centre Vaiola Hospital, Lord (Dr) Viliami Tangi is a former student of Tupou College. He graduated from the Fiji School of Medicine in 1972 and joined the civil service back in his country immediately after.

From 1973 and for a span of five years (1973-1978), Dr Tangi was posted throughout the country as a medical officer which included Niuatoputapu Health Centre, Vaiola, Niu'ui and Ngu Hospital's respectively.

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Dr Tangi was appointed as the Tongan Minister for Health in 1999, a post which he was appointed to directly from the clinical settings. He served at this post for the following eleven and a half years.

He was appointed Deputy Prime

Dr Tangi was a member of the Executive Board of WHO in 2005-2007. Currently, he is involved in capacity building of young doctors both locally and in the region. He is a Senior Clinical Advisor to SSCSiP, an AusAID funded project in Strengthening Specialised Clinical Services in the Pacific. He is also a member of the Scientific and Technical Expert Group (STEG) which provides advises to the Public Health Division of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC).

Dr Tangi is the President of the Pacific Islands Surgeons

Association (PISA) and this year becomes a member of the Global Health Committee of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

During his training and pursuit of continuing education Dr Tangi took up appointments as Senior House Surgeon (Thames Valley), Medical Graduate Demonstrator in Anatomy (Otago University), Surgical Registrar (Northland Base Hospital and Middlemore Hospital), Lecturer in Paediatric Surgery (University of Newcastle, New South Wales), Senior Surgical Registrar (Newcastle Mater Hospital) and Senior Staff Surgeon (Griffith Base Hospital, New South Wales).

In 2010, His Majesty the King granted the honour of Life Peerage to Dr Viliami Ta'u Tangi, who was then the interim Health Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, in recognition of his dedicated service to the Crown and to the Kingdom, and appointed him to the title of Lord Tangi of Vaonukonuka in a Investiture ceremony by the Lord Chamberlain, held at the Tangi Residence at Tofoa. Vaonukonuka is a village in Hunga, Vava'u, Tonga.



## Lord Doctor Viliami Ta'u Tangi

CLASS OF  
1972

Fiji School of Medicine

### Qualifications

- Diploma in Dental Surgery - Fiji School of Medicine, 1972
- Diploma in Public Health Dentistry - University of Sydney, 1982
- Certificate in Dental Epidemiology - World Health Organisation, Fiji, 1985