CASTING THE NETS TROLLING THE DEPTHS
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There is a biblical reference in Luke in which the disciples go out fishing and they are
told to go out further to the deeper part of the lake to cast their nets. When they do as
they are advised they end up catching more fish than they ever dreamed of. The
impetus for this first international Pasifika ECE conference is somewhat like this in that
the story of Pasifika ECE is about groups of Pacific women (mostly) stepping out in faith,
listening to inspired advice and their sense of destiny to head out into the depths of a
new situation and an adopted country, casting their nets of knowledge to set up Pasifika
playgroups, centres and services. We never anticipated what our harvests would look
like and sometimes it feels like we are overwhelmed. This presentation will review some
of the past and present achievements and challenges in Pasifika ECE in Aotearoa since
the 1980s. Some reflections on future directions for the sector nationally, regionally
and globally will be outlined using a critical sociological framework with a view to
possibilities of empowering Pacific families, teachers, researchers, academics and policy
makers so we are able to create opportunities for ourselves. Contexts in which our
languages, identities and knowledges are central and valued.