

Background

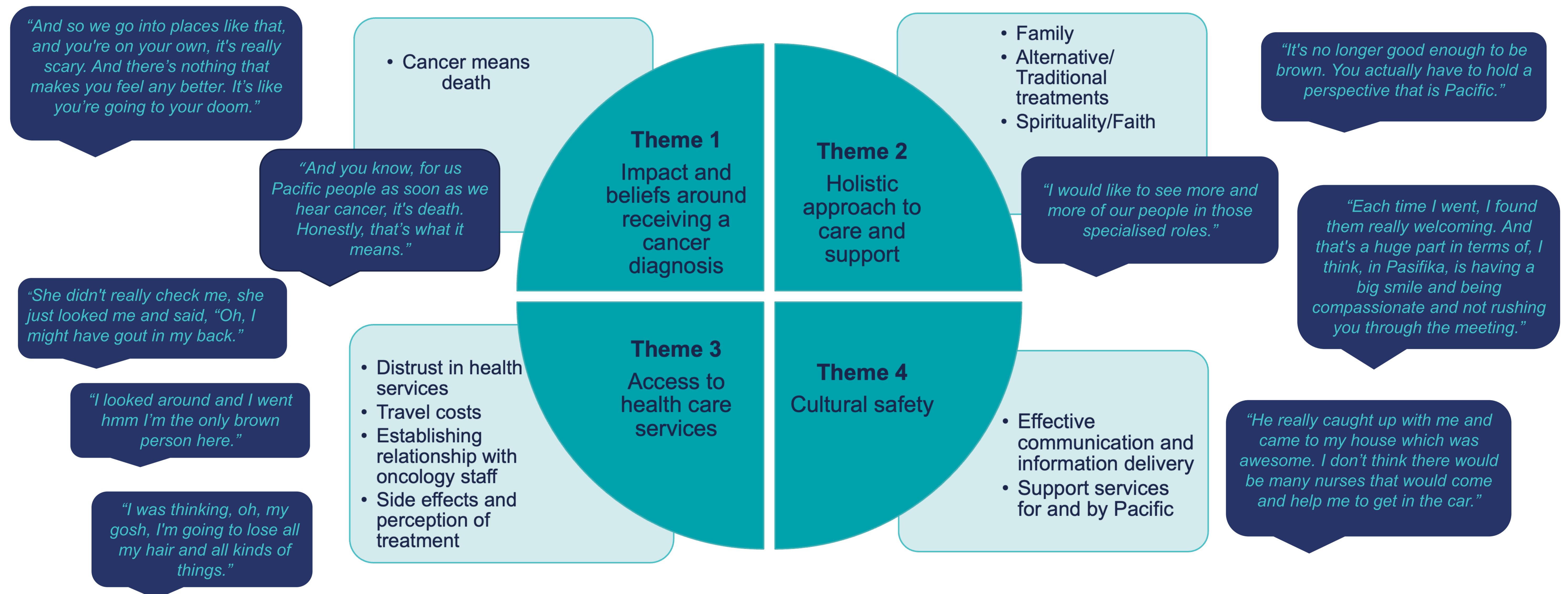
Within Aotearoa/NZ (Ao/NZ) there is inequity with Māori and Pacific having higher rates of preventable cancers and poorer survival.¹ According to the latest State of Cancer in NZ report (He Pūrongo Mate PukuPuku o Aotearoa) published in 2020, Pacific people experience higher incidence and mortality for breast, lung and uterine cancer compared with non-Pacific. They also have a disproportionate representation of cancers associated with infectious diseases such as cervical, liver and stomach cancers.²

Studies have identified potential factors which act as barriers to access of cancer care which include; cost, location of services, transport, culture, communication and health literacy.^{3,4,5,6} Pacific people also have lower rates of participation in screening programs available.² Despite these disparities, there remains limited research in Pacific people's experiences of cancer and cancer care.

This study aimed to add to the existing data, using talanoa methodology. Talanoa is a Pacific Island form of dialogue defined as an open, informal conversation between people in which they share their stories, thoughts and feelings.⁷ Talanoa has become a well-documented Pacific based approach to collect research information. It is likened to narrative interviews with the addition of cultural context and connectedness between those taking part.

Results

- Talanoa were held with 13 participants; 10 female and 3 male with ages ranging from 25 to 71 years. Participants identified as Samoan and Tongan in ethnicity.
- Cancer tumour types included breast (5), gastro-intestinal (4), neuroendocrine (1), sarcoma (1) and lung (2).
- Participants were receiving a mixture of curative (7) and non-curative (6) treatment.
- 4 main themes were identified with sub-themes.



Conclusion

This study sheds light on both positive and negative experiences of Pacific people living with cancer in AoNZ.

It highlights gaps in the current model of oncology care for this population which are multi-level and therefore require a multi-faceted approach.

It calls for priority towards reducing barriers to access of care and creating a more culturally safe pathway.

Potential areas for development of patient-centred care for Pacific include; strengthening cancer screening and awareness programs, increasing the Pacific workforce within the Oncology services, development of Pacific-led support groups and initiatives, involvement of family with decision making and expansion of Oncology services throughout the Auckland region to allow closer access to care.

Aims

- To explore the experiences of Pacific people with cancer in the Auckland region.
- Identify key areas which may have impacted their cancer care or potential barriers in accessing treatment.

Methods

Talanoa was used to collect data from Pacific patients with a diagnosis of cancer under Te Pūriri o Te Ora (Auckland Regional Cancer and Blood Service).

Eligibility criteria: Pacific in ethnicity, aged 18 years or over, diagnosis of a solid tumour cancer and referred to or under Medical Oncology services in Auckland.

Talanoa were held face-to-face at participants' homes, cafes, hospital clinic rooms and virtually over zoom between June to November 2022. Sessions were audio-recorded and transcribed verbatim. Interpreters were available and offered if required. Participants were given the opportunity to review their transcript and edit it accordingly within a period of four weeks. Participants received a supermarket voucher as a mea'alofa/token of appreciation.

A general inductive approach to thematic analysis was used to analyse the data.

Ethics was obtained from Auckland Health Research Ethics Committee (AHREC) AH24086 approved 14/04/2022.

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