The Taylor* family was referred to the Functional Family Therapy – Child Welfare (FFT-CW®) due to domestic violence and the father’s drug use. Despite these pressing issues and facing homelessness, like many other mothers in a similar situation, Kelly* avoided involvement of Family and Community Services (FACS) due to her fear of having her three sons taken away and having to return to her home country – New Zealand.

“Understanding their cultural background played a vital role in helping this family”, explained FACS caseworker. The family was matched with Jacqui - an FFT-CW® therapist, with Pacific Islander background (Samoan), who effectively engaged with both parents. Jacqui’s understanding of Kelly’s strong ties to her Maori family and her heritage helped to break the barriers and earned the family’s trust.

“The result was so much joy and hope for our family future and it warms my heart that we have been blessed to have you in our lives”. Kelly

The Taylor family remains together and FACS closed their case half way through the treatment as risk to the children was reduced. They continue to make progress with the support of Uniting and FACS.