

## Introducing Sione



### **Slide 1** **Family Story**

Talofa lava, I'm Sione. I'm 43 years old and I'm Samoan. I came to New Zealand from Samoa with my parents in 1973. I have six brothers and sisters and I'm in the middle, the third oldest. My mother and father went back to Samoa, and me and my brothers and sisters send money for them. I went to primary school in Samoa and secondary school here in New Zealand.

### **Slide 2** **School Days**

When I went to school here I thought the teachers didn't really know about my language or my culture, and so they couldn't really give me the help I needed. I had one teacher who used to make me read out loud in front of the class and I felt ashamed because I wasn't very good at that, so I used to skip school and go to the shops and play spades instead.

### **Slide 3** **Literacy Issues**

I left school to start work, and my older sister, she used to help with my reading and if I needed to fill out forms or anything like that, and then I got married. My wife is a New Zealand Samoan, so she was born in New Zealand. She has a good job. She works as an office administrator. She helps me a lot with my reading and writing. We have five kids. I love them all very much. We want them to work hard at school and get a good education so my wife and I encourage them to read at home as much as we can and we have lots of books in our house. We speak mostly Samoan at home but English for the kids' homework.

### **Slide 4** **Working Life**

I work at night in a bakery. I've worked there for six years. The pay is not much but it's a good steady job and I can look after the kids when they get home from school. At work I understand everything if someone tells me, but I try not to get into situations where I have to do lots of reading and writing and so I'm a bit shy. And so I mostly stay quiet at work. I let the others do the talking. If I could read and write English better I could get a better job, maybe a supervisor's job.

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### Slide 5

#### Leisure Time

Every Sunday my family goes to church. We speak Samoan at church. And my wife and I run the Sunday school there. I'm the coach of our local rugby team so that keeps me really busy. Mostly my weekends are around these kinds of things. I also enjoy music and I like to sing and play the guitar. Tofa soifua.