Ivan Yeo





Deputy Director at Asian Family Services

Topic - Navigating Culture Shock & Turbulent Waters in Pastoral Care. Strategies for Empowering Student Wellbeing.

Speaker Bio:

Ivan Yeo serves as the Deputy Director at Asian Family Services, a role he has held since 2018. Originally from Singapore and raised in Malaysia, Ivan moved to New Zealand in 2001 to pursue his education. After earning a degree in Social Science in 2004, he entered the mental health sector, focusing on health promotion.

Over the past 20 years, Ivan has been involved in various projects that reflect his expertise and commitment to the field. These include launching a Chinese Like Minds, Like Mine media initiative at the Mental Health Foundation, contributing to Suicide Prevention and Postvention efforts in collaboration with Auckland Te Whau Ora, and laying the groundwork for the inaugural Asian Health Week.

He has also worked on culturally and linguistically diverse programmes in health at Waitemata Te Whau Ora and emergency management preparedness in Auckland.

Ivan's keen interest in understanding cultural nuances stems from his own experiences as a migrant navigating a predominantly Western society. His upbringing in a collective culture occasionally led to conflicts and misunderstandings as he adapted to a new social context.

Through his ongoing learning and passion for the field, Ivan hopes to share valuable insights that can illuminate the complex interplay between culture and mental health, particularly for those who, like him, are navigating the challenges of living between two worlds.

