**Penina’s story**

**Visual**

**The video begins. The screen is a white background. In the middle of the screen is the word ‘Listen” in large letters. Each letter is a different colour. Underneath that is a line, under which is written in smaller blue letters ‘Penina Fitisemanu’ and smaller again is written ‘Providing culturally responsive maternity care.’ This has another line under it.**

**Visual**

**The screen changes to show a woman speaking. This is Penina. She is wearing a grey cardigan with a white top. She has dark hair pulled back. She is sitting on a couch in a living room.**

Audio

My name is Penina Fitisemanu. I am a midwife, was a registered nurse for a long time, and then trained to be a midwife.

**Visual**

**The screen changes to two young children admiring a baby. The younger child, on the left, has short dark hair and is wearing a pink jumper. The older child on the right has short dark curly hair and is wearing a green jumper. The baby has on a grey onesie. The video then changes to show a woman standing up, holding and rocking the baby in her arms. It is a room in a maternity unit. The woman has long dark hair and is wearing a grey jumper and black pants. There is a baby changing table behind her, with a blanket on it. The screen then goes back to Penina.**

Audio

I’ve been an LMC midwife for over 20 years now. If a Pacific person comes to me, they would expect that I would understand, without saying it, how to look after them.

**Visual**

**The screen changes to the woman pushing a child on a swing in a park outdoors. The child is wearing a pink and white hat with a white pompom, and the woman has a grey jacket on over top of her clothes. They are both smiling. The angle changes to show there is another child on a different swing, also being pushed by the woman. The second child has on a purple hat .They are all smiling.**

**The screen changes to view of the first child on the swing from below, she is looking down and the sun is shining behind her. They are all smiling and laughing. It then changes back to Penina.**

Audio

And it’s very hard to teach non-Pacific people that, because I’ve grown up with it. My mum’s Samoan and my father’s European, but my mother ruled the roost, so I grew up as a Pacific person. So I understand the language, I understand the customs and traditions. It’s really important to be non-judgmental, cause there’s a lot of families who live in poverty, or who live in environments that probably non-Pacific midwives would never have experienced before.

**Visual**

**The screen changes to the mum and child playing on a round-about in the park, looking down at them from above. The camera pulls further back, showing the expanse of grass around them. The screen then changes back to Penina.**

Audio

So when they’re going into these homes, they’re caring for the woman. They’re obviously looking at the environment to make sure they’re safe, but not making any judgments. That’s really important for me.

**Visual**

**The screen changes a picture of the baby in their mother’s arms, looking at the camera with a smile on its face. The mother is looking down tenderly at the child. It changes to a picture of the curly-haired child with a huge smile. It goes back to Penina.**

Audio

You need to be able to say, “What can I help you with?” Obviously Pacific women are renowned for booking with an LMC when they’re about 28 weeks plus, so very late.

**Visual**

**The screen changes to the younger child going down a slide, then pulls back to show Mum watching both of them sliding. It is a metal slide on a wooden play structure. Mum is holding the purple hat. It then goes back to Penina.**

Audio

With midwifery, you are forming a relationship with this woman, you’re going to be with her for the next ten months, then you’re going to look after at her birth, then postnatally for another six weeks. So building that rapport in the first few appointments is so important, because they will feel if they don’t engage with you, and if you’re not gelling, they’re not going to give up anything. But if they can see that you’re genuine and that you really want to be there to help them and nurture them through this pregnancy, they will start just giving little bits of information. Obviously there’s information you need obtain from the woman, you know, to book them in, and to get them admitted.

**Visual**

**The screen changes back to the maternity unit, with the woman holding her baby and the other two children interacting with her and the baby. There is a closeup of the baby looking at the camera, then back to the family all sitting together. It then changes back to the park, Mum and child lying in a big swing together, and then shows the baby wearing a pink hat and sleeping in a red pram. It then shows the child in the purple hat in the park, and then the family all playing in the park. It then goes back to Penina.**

Audio

But it’s just having that rapport, being gentle, non-judgmental and not so pushy. I have a real passion and love to look after Pacific families because I really believe that your workforce should reflect who you’re taking care of.

**Visual**

**The video ends, and credits show.**