



GOVERNMENT OF NIUE

15 November 2021

INFORMATION RELEASE

POSTHUMOUS NIUE PUBLIC SERVICE MEDAL AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT

The Government of Niue, on Saturday 13 November 2021, awarded a Posthumous Niue Public Service Award to the late Colleen Figo Misa Kulatea Ioane for her dedication to the Niue Public Service. The award was presented to Figo's loving husband, Charles Ioane.

Public Service Award - Niue Public Service Medal (NPSM)

Colleen Figo Misa Kulatea Ioane, NPSM

The late Colleen Figo Misa Kulatea Ioane served an admirable 28 years and 7 months in the Niue Public Service.

She was a well-respected public servant, fearless and determined in carrying out her duties. She gave her all to serving the people of Niue and the government to the very end.

Figo joined the Public Service on 19 March 1993 at the age of 18 years, as a Temporary Typist and Data Processor with the Loans Business Development Unit. On 17 February 1999, Figo started working at Niue Bulk Fuel as the Administration and Accounts Officer. She spent seven years at Bulk Fuel and worked her way up to Office Manager. Figo got a promotional transfer to the Niue Fook Hospital as the Assistant Health Administration Manager and later took over the role of; Health Services Manager in September 2016, a post she occupied until her passing.

Figo's significant contributions to the developments in Niue are summarized as follows;

- She was instrumental in the efforts to keep Niue safe from the COVID-19 pandemic
 - Led the Department of Health's Risk Communications Team
- Her work for the people of Niue's health was tireless over many years
 - Engaged overseas Consultants, Specialists and Locums to visit Niue to provide health services.
 - Coordinated the Health Sector Support Programme funded by the New Zealand Government and was responsible for medical referrals through Counties-Manukau DHB.
 - Coordinated one of the longest-running community health programmes on the island – the Niue Health Circuit
 - Revived Medtech - our health information system
 - Helped source funding to provide health equipment and renovations to the School Clinic at Niue High School
 - Coordinated Air Ambulance Services to Niue and initiated Medical Evacuations
 - Introduced the screening program with the current Radiographer/Sonographer, which has detected and sent people to New Zealand to treat different forms of cancers.
- She was highly regarded by colleagues in Niue and overseas

The late Colleen Figo Misa Kulatea Ioane's name will be added to the 2021 Honours List.

Ends