

Phylesha Brown-Acton



Phylesha Brown-Acton is a Niuean fakafifine rainbow rights activist. In 2019, she was appointed a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit to recognize her work with rainbow communities from the Pacific countries. She is the first Pacific trans woman to be recognised this way.

At the 2011 Asia-Pacific Outgames Human Rights Conference, she introduced a Pacific community alternative to the LGBTQ+ acronym, where Mahu, Vakasalewalewa, Palopa, Fa'afafine, Akava'ine, Fakafifine and Fakaleiti/leiti became MVPFAFF+. Brown-Acton has discussed how MVPFAFF identities are genders with specific cultural distinctions between them.