

Pasifika Education Plan

Foreword

We all want our children to do well in education. They are our greatest assets and we dream that their successes will outweigh our own achievements.

As Minister of Education, I want an education system that lets Pacific children in New Zealand grow up with the same opportunities as all other New Zealand children. We are all different, but those differences should not be a barrier to achievement.

The Government is committed to reducing disparities and improving the well being of Pacific peoples in the New Zealand education system. The Pasifika Education Plan contains the Government's goals and targets for Pacific education. It supports the capacity building approach - a partnership between Government, early childhood education services, schools, education providers and Pacific communities.

We need to increase Pacific achievement in all areas of education through increasing participation, improving retention and focusing on effective teaching strategies.

There are four main areas where government policy changes are most likely to achieve the goals set out in the plan. These are:

- promoting more effective teaching with Pacific students;
- improving English language proficiency for Pacific students to support student learning and effective teaching;
- building capacity within Pacific communities to support effective teaching; and,
- raising achievement levels.

Within these areas we will need to promote educational strategies that have a proven record of overcoming socio-economic disadvantage. We have to recognise the unique experiences, contexts and needs of Pacific peoples. And our initiatives aimed at reducing disparity and raising achievement have to be intensive and with a long-term focus.

The Pasifika Education Plan provides a strong link with the Pacific Capacity Building Programmes of Action underway in eight Pacific communities throughout the country. Together we need to work in partnership towards achieving a shared goal in the education of Pacific peoples, focusing on making sure Pacific children participate in early childhood education, have strong early foundations in language and literacy, and are ready to participate in early schooling.

A report on the implementation of the Pasifika Education Plan will be published annually and we will continue to find better ways of making sure the Pasifika Education Plan is appropriate and responsive to Pacific education aspirations.

Reference
371.829994
PAS
(40754)
2001

CATION

Information Services
Library
Ministry of Education
PO Box 1666
Wellington
New Zealand


Message from Howard

Pasifika peoples in New Zealand must have the opportunity to succeed in education. It is clear that conventional approaches and thinking have not always been adequate in dealing with Pacific education issues. The Ministry of Education after discussions with Pacific communities, through conferences and regional Pacific community fono, and, in close alignment with the Government's strategic direction, wants to make sure that Pacific peoples not only have the opportunity to participate but also to succeed in their education.

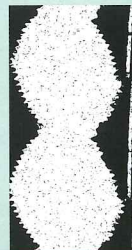
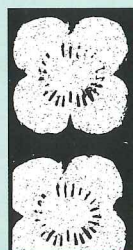
During the past year the Ministry has focussed on meeting the Government's priorities for Pacific peoples, and has also contributed to inter-agency work on Pacific capacity building programmes. A number of initiatives are already underway, contributing towards achieving the goals of the Government's Pasifika Education Plan, and we will continue to refine and ensure that targeting is as effective as possible to meet the education needs of Pacific peoples.

The Pasifika Education Plan provides a coherent and integrated approach to coordinating all policies which aim to improve education outcomes for Pacific peoples: provides a platform for more strategic analysis of factors limiting education achievement; more effective and focussed engagement with Pacific educators and communities; recognises that what goes on in Pacific families has a profound impact on education outcomes; strengthens the relationships between education, employment, health, welfare, housing and other social services; provides opportunities for Pacific peoples to understand and access policy; and, provides a framework for working with Pacific peoples to achieve their aspirations through the Pacific Capacity Building Programmes of Action.

The Pasifika Education Plan will require shifts in policy. This work takes time and it is important to canvass a wide range of views to ensure the direction of policy contributes to both Pacific peoples development in New Zealand as well as improved education outcomes. The Ministry is firmly committed in taking the Plan forward by working closely with the Pacific communities.



Howard Fancy
Secretary for Education



Early Childhood Education Participation Initiative

Early childhood education (ECE) has been identified by Pacific communities throughout the country as one of the most important areas of focus for improving educational outcomes for Pacific children. Currently, Pacific children aged under five have a lower rate of participation in recognised ECE than non-Pacific children. As an example, 35% of Pacific 3 year olds and 20% of Pacific 4 year olds are not participating in ECE whereas for non-Pacific children it is only 10% and 2% respectively.

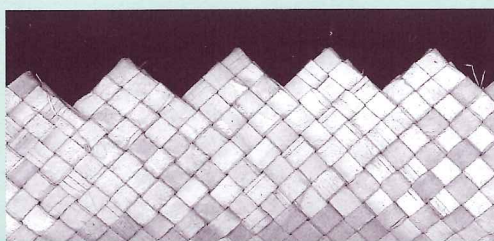
To help increase the numbers of Pacific children participating in ECE a new initiative is underway called the "ECE Participation Project". The objective of this initiative is empower Pacific communities to come up with solutions to increasing participation for their Pacific 4 year olds.

The project is being delivered through providers who have been contracted to work in local community groups in different communities. The providers will work with their local Pacific communities to identify the barriers to ECE participation and work out ways to address these barriers.

The communities that have been targeted for this work are in areas like South Auckland, Waikato, and some parts of the Wellington and Canterbury regions. These Pacific communities have participation rates that are substantially lower than national participation rates and have high numbers of Pacific children under 5 years old.

- The local office in Auckland has contracted four Pacific providers until the end of June to work amongst the local Pacific communities. These providers are Tautolo-Faafua Consultancy (Samoan community), Ana Koloto (Tongan community), Te Punanga Reo Kuki Airani o Aotearoa Inc (Cook Islands community) and Taha Fasi and Associates (Niuean community). These providers will aim to increase the attendance of Pacific 4 year olds by 200 children during this period.
- In addition the Auckland office is letting a contract till the end of June to look at barriers to participation in the Auckland region for Pacific children. This information will be used by contracted providers in the next financial year to improve the participation project. A selection process is currently underway to finalise the contract for this work.
- The local office in Hamilton has contracted Kaute Pasifika to work amongst Pacific communities in the Waikato region.
- Early Childhood Development (ECD) has been contracted to work amongst Pacific communities in the Wellington region.

If you would like further information on the Pacific Participation Project, please contact your local Ministry of Education office, their contact details are on the back of this pamphlet.



Early Childhood Education: The focus is on increasing participation and improving the quality of Pacific early childhood education (ECE) services.

Sub-goals

Increase Pacific children's participation in ECE.

Increase the number and quality of Pacific ECE services.

Strengthen the links between Pacific families, parents & communities and ECE services and schools.

Increase Pacific children's access to Special Education (SE) services as appropriate.

These goals will be achieved by:

Working with community groups to overcome barriers to access, promote participation, and recruit at least 400 three and four-year olds into early childhood education services annually.

Using the multi-media Pasifika Communications Strategy to provide information and to receive feedback from Pacific families.

Developing policies that are responsive to Pacific families and ECE services, including the ECE strategic plan and equity funding reports .

Working towards increasing the number of licensed and chartered Pacific ECE services in the next five years, by licensing and chartering at least 15 Pacific ECE centres annually .

Increasing the ECE Discretionary Grants Scheme for both the General and Pacific Pools, to which Pacific ECE services can apply.

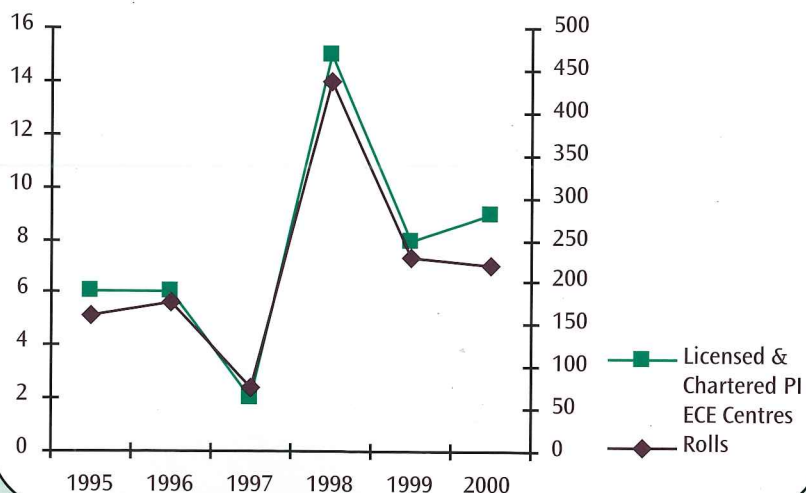
Increasing opportunities for Pacific peoples to gain ECE qualifications, by developing the Pacific ECE unit standards to be registered at level 7 on the New Qualifications Framework.

Providing additional support to Pacific ECE services to improve viability, enhance quality and encourage early literacy; extending pre/post-licensing support, and administrative upskilling for Pacific services; and, working with Pacific communities to increase ECE capacity.

Evaluating the effectiveness of programmes, such as those in Special Education, for Pacific families & centres where there are Pacific families, and using these to develop future responses.

In 2000, Pacific early childhood services were the single largest provider of ECE services to Pacific families and their children.

Pacific Islands Education and Care Centres Licensed & Chartered in Last 6 Years



Compulsory Education: The focus is on increasing achievement in early literacy and numeracy, attainment of school qualifications and reducing at-risk factors.

Sub-goals

Increase Pacific students' achievement in education.

Increase the effectiveness of teaching & the responsiveness of schools to Pacific students.

Reduce the number of Pacific school-aged students out of school.

Increase access to & understanding of Special Education initiatives.

Increase & strengthen school liaison with Pacific parents and communities.

Increase the availability of useful assessment information on Pacific students, & school's ability to communicate these to Pacific parents.

Increase opportunities for schools with large numbers of Pacific students to work in clusters & with the community.

Increase Pacific peoples' representation on school boards of trustees.

Increase the number & proportion of Pacific teachers.

These goals will be achieved by:

Working with Pacific families, students, communities and schools to raise expectations for Pacific students' achievement, reduce the number of students leaving school without qualifications, and, increase the number of students achieving at the senior secondary school level by: (i) Promoting education with Pacific students, families and communities; (ii) Promoting effective teaching and school initiatives; (iii) Funding Study Support Centres providing tuition & supervised study for upper primary students.

Lifting the quality of education for Pacific children by: (i) Improving classroom practice, (ii) Developing initiatives that enhance school performance, (iii) Strengthening literacy and numeracy, (iv) Providing support for teachers of Pacific students and Pacific teachers, (v) Utilising other resources such as Resource Teachers Literacy, ICT Initiatives, and professional development, and (vi) Implementing the Pacific Teacher Supply Strategy.

Providing programmes that Pacific students can utilise to support their learning such as: (i) Financial assistance for at-risk students, (ii) Youth suspension reduction programmes, (iii) Education Advocacy Services (Office of the Commissioner for Children), (iv) Mentoring, and (v) Teen parent programmes.

Promoting close liaison between Pacific families, communities and schools by providing support for programmes such as Achievement in Multicultural High Schools (AIMHI), Strengthening Education in Mangere & Otara (SEMO), Pacific Islands School Parent Community Liaison (PISPCL) project and Home-schooling partnerships.

Developing a national profile of Pacific students, based on the information gathered by the National Education Monitoring Project (NEMP) oversampling of Pacific students. By 2012, the NEMP profile of year 8 Pacific students will match that of the total year 8 sample, with the difference halved by 2006.

Increasing Pacific peoples involvement in school governance by promoting the school board of trustees (BOT) elections this year and providing training for Pacific BOT members. These initiatives will help towards doubling the number of Pacific BOT members by the next election.

Developing a profile of Pacific students with SE needs including an evaluation of the effectiveness of programmes.

Developing policies that contribute to both Pacific peoples well being in NZ as well as improved education outcomes. These include policies such as bilingual education that is focused on Pacific students' achievement.

EDUCATION PLAN

Tertiary Education: The focus is on increasing participation and achievement, improving retention and encouraging higher levels of study.

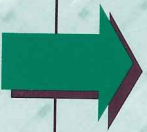
Sub-goals

Increase Pacific students' participation in tertiary education at all levels.

Improve Pacific students' achievement in tertiary education - closing the gaps with non-Pacific students completely in 20 years.

Improve Pacific adults' literacy over the next 5 years.

Improve Pacific peoples' access to and participation in adult and community education, and vocational education over the next 5 years.



These goals will be achieved by:

Identifying the barriers to access, finding solutions to participation and achievement for Pacific peoples in tertiary education so that by 2006, over 6% of tertiary enrolments and graduates are Pacific.

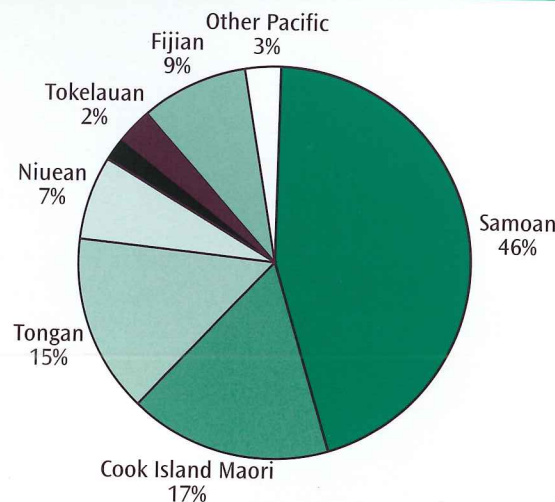
Increasing financial support for Pacific students such as TeachNZ and other scholarships assistance.

Increasing Tertiary Education Institutions' (TEIs) responsiveness to Pacific students, by incorporating 3 elements: (i) Amendments to the charters for the 2002 academic year requiring increased responsiveness, (ii) Funding grants conditional upon evidence of increased responsiveness, and (iii) A 'best practice' resource of what works for Pacific students.

Establishing pilot adult literacy programmes for Pacific people.

Increasing opportunities for Pacific peoples to participate and gain qualifications in adult, vocational and community education.

Pacific students in tertiary education by nationality - July 2000.



In 2000 Pacific peoples made up 4.5% of total students in tertiary education. In the same year, 51% of all enrolments at tertiary institutions were either at degree or post-graduate level. In comparison it was 37% for Pacific students.

Education Sector-Wide: The focus is on increasing the quality of information available to Pacific communities and strengthening networks supporting Pacific Education.

Sub-goals

Increase the availability, quality and provision of information to Pacific peoples, their families, communities and education providers.

Increase opportunities for Pacific peoples to be involved and consulted in the early development of policy, legislation, regulations and programmes.

Increase the responsiveness of Education Crown agencies to Pacific peoples.

Increase the proportion of learning and teaching materials produced in Pacific languages.

Strengthen and maintain networks that contribute to the implementation of the Pasifika Education Plan, and the Ministry of Education's responsiveness to Pacific communities.

These goals will be achieved by:

Using the multi-media Pasifika Communications Strategy to provide information to Pacific peoples on a regular basis. This includes fono, promotions, newsletters and other print information including reports, Pacific radio media and television, ICT and Pacific education web pages, and consultation guidelines.

Establishing the Pasifika Research Framework that will support the Ministry's work by: (i) Identifying key areas of research in Pacific education that will assist policy development, (ii) Developing guidelines for research and consultation, (iii) Co-ordinating and prioritising research and evaluation that will assist in monitoring the outcomes of the Pasifika Education Plan, (iv) Providing strong links with other strategic research priorities within the Ministry, and (v) Helping to make research reports available to Pacific peoples.

Consulting and involving Pacific communities and educators in the early stages of developing policies, and working alongside Pacific communities to achieve Pacific Capacity Building Programmes of Action milestones.

Producing more learning and teaching materials in Pacific languages such as the Tupu Series and other curriculum materials.

Increasing the responsiveness of Crown agencies by, (i) Incorporating targets in the Documents of Accountability for Crown Agencies to reflect Government's commitment to reducing disparities and improving the well being of Pacific peoples in NZ education (ii) Linking to the Pacific provider development work currently underway.

Establishing and maintaining strong internal and external national and local networks such as the Pacific Advisory Group, Policy Team, Pacific Team across Ministry offices, Pacific Caucus of Ministry Pacific staff, and, local reference groups in association with Local Offices.

Contact Details for the Ministry of Education

National Office, Wellington

45 – 47 Pipitea Street
PO Box 1666

Thorndon
Wellington

Ph. (04) 463 8000
Fax (04) 463 8001

Northern Regional Office

34 – 45 College Hill
Private Bag 3011

Ponsonby
Auckland

Ph. (09) 374 5400
Fax (09) 374 5460

Central North Regional Office

Cnr Grey and Bridge Streets
Private Bag 3011

Hamilton

Ph. (07) 858 7130
Fax (07) 858 7131

Wanganui Local Office

116 Victoria Street
Private Bag

Wanganui

Ph. (06) 349 6300
Fax (06) 349 6301

Central South Regional Office

65 Waterloo Road
Lower Hutt

Ph. (04) 463 8699
fax (04) 463 8698

Southern Regional Office

123 Victoria Street
Private Box 2522

Christchurch

Ph. (03) 364 3330
Fax (03) 364 3331

Otago/Southland Local Office

John Wickliffe House
Princess Street

PO Box 1225
Dunedin

Ph. (03) 471 5200
Fax (03) 471 5201

For further information on the Pasifika Education Plan, please contact Lesieli Tongati'o, Pule Maata Pasifika (Manager, Pacific Education), Ministry of Education, PO Box 1666, Wellington. Telephone (04) 463 8238 or fax (04) 463 8485. E-mail: pacific.education@minedu.govt.nz

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION



A0309184B