



Education Report: Refreshing the Action Plan for Pacific Education- draft content about Growing Pacific Languages in Education

To:	Hon Aupito William Sio, Associate Minister of Education		
Cc:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
Date:	28 October 2022	Priority:	Medium
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1297700
Key Contact:	Tipene Chrisp Group Manager, Te Puna Kaupapahere	DDI:	
Messaging seen by Communications team:	NA	Round Robin:	No

Purpose of Report

This report provides draft content about Growing Pacific Languages in Education for inclusion in the refresh of the Action Plan for Pacific Education (attached at **Annex 1**). We seek your feedback on the draft content and the opportunity to discuss this work with you.

Summary

1. We are undertaking work to refresh actions within the Action Plan for Pacific Education. As part of this work, we are updating Key Shift 1 to reduce its focus on COVID-19 and re-emphasize its focus on Pacific Languages in Education (METIS 1291556). This approach will also frame our contribution to the Pacific Languages Strategy.
2. We have prepared some initial draft content about Growing Pacific Languages in Education (attached at Annex 1). We seek your feedback on the draft content and the opportunity to discuss this work with you at an upcoming agency meeting.
3. Following your feedback, we will continue to refine our approach to Growing Pacific Languages in Education within the context of the refresh of the overall Action Plan for Pacific Education, scheduled to be completed in early 2023. We are aligning this work to the development of the Pacific Languages Action Plan being led by the Ministry for Pacific Peoples.

Recommended Actions

The Ministry of Education recommends you:

a. **note** that the Ministry has developed some initial draft content about Growing Pacific Languages in Education for eventual inclusion in the refresh of the Action Plan for Pacific Education;

Noted

b. **note** we seek your feedback on this initial draft content;

Noted

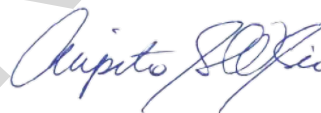
c. **agree** that this briefing is released at an appropriate time following confirmation of the Action Plan for Pacific Education.

Agree / Disagree



Tipene Chrisp
Group Manager
Te Puna Kaupapahere

28/10/2022



Hon Aupito William Sio
Associate Minister of Education

22/12/22

Minister Sio's feedback:

- strengthen the language. Words used in Pacific Languages Strategy and Pacific Wellbeing strategy include: 'ensuring our languages flourish and thrive'.
- acknowledges the initial focus on the Realm Nations and also Gagana Sāmoa and Lea Faka Tonga, supports MOE's approach.
- Important to work holistically and collaboratively with MPP / cross agency.
- Keen to accelerate this work.

[Draft section for 2023 Action Plan for Pacific Education]

Growing Pacific Languages in Education

Our Commitment

Pacific languages have a special place within Aotearoa. **We will support the growth of Pacific Languages in Education** across early learning, schooling and tertiary education. This includes supporting the **growth of bilingual and immersion** education settings.

There is significant domestic and international evidence that learners who are supported in their community languages **achieve improved education and wellbeing outcomes**.¹ This aligns with the goals of the [statement of National Education and Learning Priorities](#) and the [Tertiary Education Strategy](#).

Supporting Pacific Languages in Education will also make a **significant contribution to the overall health of these languages** and the vision of the [Pacific Languages Strategy](#) for *thriving Pacific Languages to build a prosperous Aotearoa*.

In this work, we acknowledge te reo Māori as the first language of Aotearoa, a taonga of iwi, hapū and whānau Māori and an official language of New Zealand². We will look for opportunities to strengthen connections between our focus on Pacific Languages in Education and te reo Māori.

Alignment with Pacific Languages Strategy 2022 -2032

The New Zealand Government has some specific responsibilities and commitments to Pacific languages. The first Pacific Languages Strategy was published in September 2022. It identified nine target languages and described the status, current health and aspirations for these languages in Aotearoa. It also described a tailored approach to different languages to recognise these circumstances.

¹ May, S. 2020. *Research to understand the features of quality Pacific Bilingual Education: Review of Best Practices*. [Research to understand the features of quality Pacific bilingual education: Review of best practices | Education Counts](#)

² Te Ture mō te Reo Māori 2016

Table 1: A Tailored Approach to Pacific Languages (the Pacific Languages Strategy)

A tailored approach to different languages The nine Pacific languages supported by the Pacific Languages Strategy are diverse with different needs, strengths and challenges. While guided by a broad vision and set of objectives, the Pacific Languages Strategy will take a tailored approach to each language. To support this, the languages have been grouped into three categories. This is based on the current state of the language, the demographics of the population, and their relationship with Aotearoa.	Urgent revitalisation <i>Te Gagana Tokelau</i> <i>Vagahau Niue</i> <i>Te Reo Māori Kūki Āirani</i> This group is characterised by high levels of language endangerment, low numbers of speakers, low intergenerational transmission and strong constitutional ties to Aotearoa. The largest populations of these groups in the world are found in Aotearoa, often in concentrated communities.
Strengthening Transmission and Maintenance <i>Gagana Sāmoa</i> <i>Lea Faka Tonga</i> This group is characterised by their large populations and relatively high numbers of speakers but also their sharp decline in total speakers and intergenerational transmission rates. New Zealand has a special relationship with Sāmoa, as expressed through the 1962 Treaty of Friendship. This group is a high priority for retention and maintenance efforts.	Support Community-Led Action for Language Revitalisation and Maintenance <i>Te Gana Tuvalu</i> <i>Fāeag Rotuam ta</i> <i>Vosa Vakaviti</i> <i>Te Taetae ni Kiribati</i> This group is characterised by smaller, emerging populations of language speakers with some degree of formal relationship with New Zealand. There are smaller numbers of people from these communities who are New Zealand-born and varying levels of language endangerment.

We will tailor provision to reflect communities

There are **many possible approaches to Pacific Languages in Education**, including immersion education, bilingual education, teaching Pacific languages within the New Zealand Curriculum and supporting community education³. We will **work with Pacific language communities to develop a pathway forward** which best responds to their aspirations for Pacific Languages in Education, together with their community and sociolinguistic circumstances and relationships with the New Zealand Government. This work will be located within the context of our overall education system and will respond to the direction of the Pacific Languages Strategy.

In practical terms, this means we will have an **initial focus** on growing education pathways for **Gagana Sāmoa, Lea Faka Tonga, Gagana Tokelau, Vagahau Niue and te Reo Māori Kūki Āirani**.

We will support early learning services in these languages, bilingual and immersion provision in primary and secondary schools, opportunities for teaching these languages as subjects and pathways into tertiary education.

³ May, S, R. Hill & S. Tiakiwai (2004). *Bilingual | Immersion Education: Indicators of Good Practice*. [Bilingual | Immersion education: Indicators of good practice | Education Counts](#)

We will also work with the Ministry of Pacific Peoples to support community-led action for *gana Tuvalu*, *Vosa vaka-Viti*, *te taetae ni Kiribati* and *Fäeag Rotuam* that responds to local aspirations and needs.

We also recognise that there are other Pacific languages and communities in Aotearoa. We will work with the Ministry for Pacific Peoples to identify opportunities to support these communities through education.

Information about the learner populations from these language communities and current levels of Pacific Languages in Education provision is set out at [\[data hyperlink to be added\]](#). It will be important for the Ministry to continue to grow its data about learners, workforce and providers of Pacific Languages in Education.

We will use a range of levers to support Pacific Languages in Education

We will use a **range of levers** across **early learning, schooling and tertiary education** to support the growth of Pacific Languages in Education. Some of these levers have already been established, while some are still under development. We will **work with Pacific communities to support their leadership** of Pacific Languages in Education.

Early Learning

The Ministry of Education will:

- Grow the Pacific Languages in Education **workforce** by:
 - developing a **Pacific Workforce support package** with Pacific communities*;
 - supporting Pacific people to **meet the current English language requirements** to train and/or register as an **early learning teacher**;
 - reviewing language competency requirements for Pacific Early Learning Services (with the Teaching Council).
- Support the **governance and management** of Pacific Early Learning Services by:
 - providing professional learning and development (PLD) around **governance and management** for Pacific early learning services;
 - establishing a **national fono** for Pacific Early Learning Services and the Pacific Early Learning workforce to provide a platform to address issues and **plan for sustainability** and **future growth**;
 - [Placeholder/s for results of current fono re 80% qualified].

Schooling

The Ministry of Education will:

- Grow the Pacific Languages in Education **workforce** by:
 - developing a **Pacific Workforce support package** with Pacific communities*;
 - supporting Pacific people to **meet the current English language requirements** to train and/or register as a **teacher**;
 - continuing to provide **Reo Moana**, targeted **professional learning and development** (PLD) for Pacific bilingual and immersion teachers;
 - investigate the development of bespoke Pacific ITE options for the early learning and schooling workforces, in conjunction with the Teaching Council
 - [placeholder/s for results of current bargaining round]

- Support Pacific Bilingual and Immersion units through the ongoing provision of **Pacific Bilingual and Immersion Programme Funding** as part of the operating grant for schools [Operational funding components – Education in New Zealand](#);
- Strengthen the place of **Pacific Languages within the New Zealand Curriculum**, including the provision of teaching and learning resources in Pacific languages as part of the overall Refresh of the New Zealand Curriculum;
- Promote access to the **Guidance for Establishing a Pacific Bilingual or Immersion Unit** and review settings for network planning and provision
- Review **staffing settings and ratios** for **Pacific bilingual units** in schools to make sure units have the staffing they need to succeed
- Investigate opportunities to grow Pacific language pathways through **Te Kura**
- Investigate options to have an **NCEA scholarship pathway** for Pacific languages

Tertiary Education

The Ministry of Education and the Tertiary Education Commission will:

- Explore levers to strengthen **Pacific language delivery through tertiary education**, including to grow pathways to learn, and learn in, Pacific languages at the tertiary level and to support the work to grow the Pacific Languages in Education workforce.
- Support pathways for careers working in Pacific Languages, including education, translation and interpretation and other relevant fields.

Community Engagement and Leadership

The Ministry of Education will:

- provide support for communities through **Tatou Fa'amalosi**, the Pacific bilingual fund for communities
- Provide **information** to Pacific learners, families and communities about Pacific Languages in Education
- **Invest in Pacific Community Organisations** to enable them to provide leadership and advocacy for Pacific Languages in Education

We will measure and report on progress on a regular basis

The Ministry of Education will measure progress and report to Pacific communities on an annual basis through the Action Plan Progress Reports and the reporting on the Pacific Languages Strategy.

The **Education Review Office** is developing a **Pacific Bilingual and Immersion Education Quality Framework** to provide clear and consistent guidance to schools about the provision of Pacific bilingual and immersion education. This will become the basis for its review of relevant schools.

There is more work to do

There is more work to do to support Pacific Languages in Education in Aotearoa. In this Action Plan, we have identified the first wave of actions to provide a platform for growth. It will be necessary to update these actions on an ongoing basis.