



## Briefing Note: The Review of Early Learning Professional Learning and Development and Sosaite Aoga Amata Sāmoa i Aotearoa (SAASIA)

|   |  |                     |         |
|---|--|---------------------|---------|
| <b>To:</b>                                    | Hon Aupito Su'a William Sio, Associate Minister of Education |                     |         |
| <b>Cc:</b>                                    | Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education                     |                     |         |
| <b>Date:</b>                                  | 07 December 2020   | <b>Priority:</b>    | Low     |
| <b>Security Level:</b>                        | In Confidence  | <b>METIS No:</b>    | 1245231 |
| <b>Drafter:</b>                               | Amy Bendall  | <b>MOB:</b>         | 9(2)(a) |
| <b>Key Contact:</b>                           | Nancy Bell   | <b>MOB:</b>         |         |
| <b>Messaging seen by Communications team:</b> | No   | <b>Round Robin:</b> | No      |

### Purpose of Report

The purpose of this paper is for you to:

- **Note** that the Ministry will engage with Sosaite Aoga Amata Sāmoa i Aotearoa (SAASIA) as part of the early learning review of Professional Learning and Development (PLD)
- **Note** that the review will consider whether approaches need to be strengthened, amended, or established to enable Pacific PLD providers to provide high quality PLD
- **Agree** that this Briefing will be proactively released.

### Summary

- This briefing provides a timeline for the Early Learning PLD review. The Ministry will meet with SAASIA during sector engagement. A second meeting will take place when we are testing recommendations with the sector.
- The PLD review will consider which approaches need to be strengthened, and which need to be amended, to enable Pacific PLD providers to provide high quality PLD to:
  - bilingual and immersion Pacific ECE services (bilingual education is 51-80% of the time in a medium other than English; immersion is 81-100% of the time); and

- all ECE services to support them to provide culturally sustaining local curriculum for Pacific learners



Nancy Bell  
Director, Early Learning  
**Early Learning and Student Achievement**

07/12/2020

Hon Aupito Su'a William Sio  
**Associate Minister of Education**

\_\_/\_\_/\_\_

Proactively Released

## Background

---

1. You met with Sala Pafitimai Dr Faasaulala Tagoilelagi-Leota, the National Chairperson for Sosaite Aoga Amata Sāmoa i Aotearoa (SAASIA), on Tuesday 17 November.
2. As background to your meeting we provided you with information about the Early Learning Action Plan [METIS 1244884 refers]. We noted that with respect to Pacific-led early learning centres, the Early Learning Action Plan has a focus on:
  - a. strengthening governance and management (action 5.4).
  - b. developing a teacher supply strategy to attract more people of Pacific heritage into Initial Teacher Education;
  - c. undertaking the review of early learning Professional Learning and Development (PLD) (action 3.6).
  - d. developing culturally and linguistically appropriate tools that support formative assessment and teaching practice in the area of social and emotional learning (action 4.2).
  - e. supporting the provision of high-quality Pacific language pathways through active network management.
3. In reference to paragraph 2.d above we note that Dr Tagoilelagi-Leota is part of a team of experts that is working with the Ministry and a Sector Reference Group to develop the conceptual and structural framing for a set of tools within the framework of *Te Whāriki, He whāriki mātauranga mō ngā mokopuna o Aotearoa*.<sup>1</sup> The team will also develop draft tools in the areas of social-emotional learning (SEL). The SEL tools will be ready for trialling with the sector by May 2020.
4. Following your meeting with Dr Tagoilelagi-Leota you requested a briefing on the review of PLD for early learning. You requested a timeline for the review and a summary of how SAASIA are being included at key points in the review. You also asked for information on how the outcomes of the PLD review will ensure that Pacific PLD providers are supported and enabled to engage in the provision of high quality PLD.

## Timeline for the review

---

5. Action 3.6 of the Early Learning Action Plan is to 'Develop a sustained and planned approach to PLD'. It states that the Ministry will:
  - a. review its current PLD design and delivery, funding and uptake with the sector
  - b. introduce a planned and coherent national programme of PLD to support the design and implementation of local curriculum in the context of *Te Whāriki*
  - c. design a national programme of PLD to grow the leadership capability of teachers, kaiako and educators in leadership roles; and

---

<sup>1</sup> 'Te Whāriki' is the national early learning curriculum document that sets out the curriculum to be used in New Zealand early learning settings and provides guidance for its implementation. It includes two documents in one: *Te Whāriki: He whāriki mātauranga mō ngā mokopuna o Aotearoa Early childhood curriculum* and *Te Whāriki a te Kōhanga Reo* (for ngā kōhanga reo). The two documents share a common framework while describing alternative curriculum pathways of equal status.

- d. ensure that locally delivered PLD is responsive to the aspirations of mana whenua and Pacific communities
6. Phase one of this work is the review of current provision, including uptake and effectiveness. We are starting this work now for completion by June 2021. Phase two is expected to start mid-2021 and will involve designing for future early learning PLD provision including national and local provision.
7. Phase one has the following timeline:

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Discovery:<br>November – December 2020 | Establish a clear understanding of the current state using existing feedback, information, and research                            |
| Exploration:<br>January – April 2021   | Engage with stakeholders, including SAASIA, to explore themes, issues and opportunities arising from analysis of the current state |
| Reporting:<br>April – June 2021        | Develop recommendations to inform the design of a national programme of PLD and test with stakeholders, including SAASIA           |

8. We will be meeting with stakeholders between January and April 2021, as we explore themes, issues and opportunities arising from what we know and have been told to date. We will then test our recommendations with them between April and June 2021. We have written to SAASIA to ask them to meet with us as part of our stakeholder engagement.
9. We look forward to meeting with SAASIA and hearing more about the experience of Aoga Amata of PLD for early learning services. Through engagement on the Early Learning Action Plan and the Action Plan for Pacific Education we have heard that we need to consider how provide effective, meaningful PLD to support Pacific-led early learning centres to succeed and to support Pacific learners and families in all early learning services. We are keen to continue this discussion with SAASIA.

### Supporting Pacific PLD providers

10. The PLD review will consider whether approaches need to be strengthened, amended, or established to enable Pacific PLD providers to provide high quality PLD to:
  - a. bilingual and immersion Pacific ECE services (bilingual education is 51-80% of the time in a medium other than English; immersion is 81-100% of the time); and
  - b. all ECE services to support them to provide culturally sustaining local curriculum for Pacific learners
11. The Ministry provides professional development support to early learning services and teachers/educators through SELO (Strengthening Early Learning Opportunities for children and whānau, families and communities). SELO is grouped into three programmes and a service can receive more than one type of SELO at any time.

- a. Programme 1 provides in-depth professional development to strengthen governance and management practices and to support services to meet the licencing requirements.
  - b. Programme 2 focuses on community specific professional development to support services to be responsive to identity, language and culture. It is also available for certificated playgroups and for services with children/whānau with additional needs.
  - c. Programme 3 targets seven focus areas within the early learning environment. These are:
    - i. Infants and toddlers
    - ii. Curriculum (including Te Aho Tukutuku/early mathematics and early literacy)
    - iii. Māori leadership
    - iv. Pacific leadership
    - v. Leadership
    - vi. Communities of Learning | Kāhui Ako
    - vii. Digital technology
12. Regional SELO budgets are set by National Office. The Ministry's regional offices have full autonomy over how their budget is spent, though they must select a service provider from the Ministry's SELO Provider panel. There are currently a limited number Pacific PLD providers on the panel. Under exceptional circumstances an off-panel provider may be procured, but this is uncommon. We are next due to go tender in 2022.
13. We are in the process of planning engagement with Pacific services and providers with the Ministry's regional offices. This engagement will focus on PLD design and delivery, effectiveness, and uptake. It will explore how responsive current PLD is to Pacific communities.

#### **Targeted support for Pacific Learners and families**

14. Alongside the PLD review, work is underway to establish a four-year initiative to provide Pacific services with governance and management support, funded through the Budget 20 'Operating Contingency: Targeted support for Pacific learners and families' [See METIS 1245008 for more detail]. This initiative will include access to specialist PLD.
15. The initiative will begin with a Fono with early learning services, community and church organisations, PLD providers and others in January next year. The Fono will begin to develop approaches that work in Pacific contexts. SAASIA will be invited to the Fono, which will focus on governance and management support. In the context of that Fono there could be perspectives shared around the Ministry's wider programme of PLD, which would then be used to inform the review.

#### **Proactive Release**

---

16. We recommend that this Briefing is proactively released as per your expectation that information be released as soon as possible. Any information which may need to be withheld will be done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.