



Briefing Note: Malanga Taha (Prayer Service) or special Pacific Early Learning Prayer Program to commemorate the opening of the Tongan Language Week 2023

To:	Hon Jo Luxton, Associate Minister of Education		
Cc:	Hon Jan Tinetti, Minister of Education		
Date:	30 August 2023	Priority:	High
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1311086
Drafter:	Amelia Ma'afu Senior Advisor – Early Learning Pacific Services	DDI:	9(2)(a)
Key Contact:	Amelia Ma'afu Senior Advisor – Early Learning Pacific Services	DDI:	
Messaging seen by Communications team:	Yes	Round Robin:	No

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this paper is to support you to speak at the Malanga Taha (Prayer Service) or special Pacific Early Learning Prayer Program to commemorate the opening of the Tongan Language Week 2023, on Sunday 3 September 2023.

This Briefing Note identifies key people, provides information about the Pasifika ECE Malanga Taha, and gives an outline of the confirmed program.

Summary

1. The Malanga Taha or special Early Learning Prayer program is to commemorate the opening of the Tongan Language week 2023.
2. The purpose of the Prayer Program is for the sector to come together for a combined service of prayers. This program is significantly aligned to the theme for Tongan Language Week 2023: **E tu'uloa 'a e Lea faka-Tongá 'o ka lea'aki 'i 'api, siasí (lotú), mo e nofo-'a-kāingá**, which means “The Tongan Language will be sustainable if used at home, church and in the wider community”.
3. Attendees will include the Tongan Akoteu (both Home-based & Centre based) in Auckland.

4. Other Pasifika Early Learning Services including Boards of Trustees, centre owners, managers, teachers, parents, families, church leaders and community leaders.
5. This will be the first prayer gathering for the sector providing an opportunity to stay connected, strengthen professional relational trust, stewardship, and leadership.
6. An acknowledgement that whilst the sector is struggling yet they are surviving and persevering through standing together for the best of Akonga.

Proactive Release

Agree that the Ministry of Education release this briefing in full once it has been considered by you.

☒ Agree / ☐ Disagree

Deidre Alderson
Director of Education
Auckland South and Southwest
Te Mahau | Te Tai Raro

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Hon Jo Luxton
Associate Minister of Education

3/9/23.

Malanga Taha (Prayer Service) or special Pacific Early Learning Prayer Program

Contact Name: Sulieti Pau'uvale Moa
Director
ECESTACS LTD

Phone Number: 9(2)(a) [REDACTED]

Address: Tokaima'ananga Methodist Church
3 Ormiston Road
Otara
Auckland

Key People

Guests/Keynote Speakers	
Minister Luxton	Associate Minister for Education
Yvette Guttenbeil- Po'uhila	Chief Advisor Pacific
Rev. 'Etuini Talakai	Ex-vice president, NZ Methodist Church Auckland Tongan Methodist ECE Service Provider Contact
Dr 'Ana Koloto	Director of Research & Evaluation MPP
Ministry of Education	
Yvette Guttenbeil-Po'uhila (Keynote speaker)	Chief Pacific Advisor
Vaiolupe Talakai	Manager, Integrated Services
Amelia Ma'afu	Senior Advisor – Early Learning Pacific Services

Background

1. The overarching theme of sustainability is aligned with the Ministry of Pacific People's [Pacific Languages Strategy](#) and feeds into the [UNESCO Decade of Indigenous Languages](#) to sustain and revitalise heritage languages. This theme of sustainability resonates strongly with Pacific communities, who have agreed to its continuation for Pacific Language Weeks 2023. This national celebration helps keep our Pacific Languages cultures and identities thriving in Aotearoa.
2. Supporting and engaging the Pacific language weeks strengthens the commitment to the Ministry's Action Plan for Pacific Education APPE 2020-2030 by supporting the growth of Pacific Languages in Education across Pacific early learning which in turn directly impacts the growth of bilingual and immersion education pathways,
3. Marking Tongan Language Week was an activity that came out of The Pacific ECE Summit in June 2023 – The Tongan ECE centres present at the summit agreed to lead the opening prayer ceremony of the Tonga language week.

4. ECE STACS as the lead coordinator will bring together representation from across the Pacific Early Learning sector, Boards of Trustees, Centre Managers, families and learners.
5. ECE STACS Ltd was launched in 2016 and became a registered Strengthening Early Learning Opportunities for children, whānau, families and communities (SELO) provider in 2017 offering Educational Support Services. The Director, Sulieti Pauuvale Moa has worked in collaboration with a number of providers, e.g., Core Education, Ama Associates, SAASIA and Teuila Consultancy, to offer the following across mainstream and Pacific ECE networks:
 - a. Teacher Professional development and learning as a SELO provider.
 - b. Intensive (PLD) specialist support to ECE Governance boards
 - c. Sector and community engagement
 - d. Member of the National Pacific Curriculum Advisory Committee
 - e. Member of the Regional ECE Advisory Committee
 - f. Director is the owner of 'Alaha Manongi Home Base services.
6. ECE STACS Ltd is an experienced and respected Tongan early learning provider across the Pacific ELS network with extensive and strong collaborations with Pacific Communities, Government Agencies, and community providers.
7. Aside from the Pacific ECE Summit in June 2023, ECE STACS also facilitated the first Pacific ECE Bling Bling Grand Ball in November 2022.

Context

8. The Associate Minister of Education will be attending the The Malanga Taha or special Early Learning Prayer program to commemorate the opening of the Tongan Language week 2023. This is a follow-on event from the Pacific ECE Summit in June 2023 where the Minister was a keynote speaker at the event and currently has a positive profile with the network.
9. This is a sector led collaboration between Tongan ECE Akoteu & Home-based providers. The Akoteu (Tongan Early Learning Service) contribution is important to the development of Pacific language, culture, and identity and vital to the provision of bilingual pathways for akonga.
10. The Kau Faiako Tonga (Tongan Early Learning Kaiako) collective have begun talks about creating a Tonga ECE association to build and support best practice.
11. The Pacific ELS sector continues to persevere in challenging conditions. These have pertained to teacher shortage, the current funding models, pay parity, consistent attendance of akonga, financial viability, declining provision due to closure.
12. In Auckland there are currently 16 ECE services and 22 Home- Based services that use Tongan Language as their primary language of instruction.
13. The confirmed run sheet for the event follows in Annex 1.

Key Risks and Benefits

14. This event presents an opportunity for the associate minister to meet Pacific early learning leaders, faiako and kaimahi and share her direction and priorities for Pacific and the importance of language culture and identity for learner success.
15. Akoteu Tokaima'ananga (located on the same compound as the church) are currently undergoing a licence transition from full to provisional status as a result of the service's recent ERO review. (Education Review Office) Regional Pacific team staff are working with Centre Management to address the identified issues.

Visit and Event Information

16. You are invited to address Malanga Taha prayer service event to deliver the first keynote address from approximately 7.05pm for a duration of approximately 10 minutes.

Annexes

Annex 1: Runsheets

Annex 2: Speech

Annex 1: Runsheet

Time	Duration	Agenda Item	Location	Lead	Action
5.00pm	30min	Seating of guests	Tokaima'ana nga Church	ECESTAC S & Tongan Language Committee	Greet guests and direct to seats. Hand out program.
5.30pm	15min	Group Singing	Main Church Area	ECE Services	ECE services will take turns in singing.
		Arrival of VIP Guests	Main Entrance at the back of the Church	Tongan Language Committee	VIP Guests will be given copies of the program before being guided to allocated seats at the front.
5.45pm	5mins	Arrival of Associate Minister of Education	Main Entrance at the back of the Church	ECESTAC S	The Minister will enter from the back and will walk down the aisle to her seat at the front.
5.50pm	30mins	Prayer Program	Tokaima'ana nga Church	Rev 'Etuini Talakai	Rev Talakai will chair the whole event and lead the prayer program.
6.20pm	5mins	Opening Hymn	Tokaima'ana nga Church	TBC	TBC
	5mins	Prayer	Tokaima'ana nga Church	TBC	TBC
	5mins	Bible Reading	Tokaima'ana nga Church	TBC	TBC
	20mins	Sharing from the Bible	At the front of Church	'Etuini Talakai	Rev Talakai will share the message from the bible and unpack it for everyone.
7.00pm	5mins	Group Singing	Main Church Area	Luseane Tolu & ECE services	Everyone will sing a Tongan song
7.05pm	15min	Minister's Speech	At the front of Church	Hon Jo Luxton	The Minister will address the sector about the importance of the Tongan Language. She will also share what the Government has in place for Pasifika ECE and also

					their proposed policies in this area & Bilingualism
	5mins	Group Singing	Main Church Area	Luseane Tolu & ECE services	Everyone will sing a Tongan song
7.25pm	5mins	Departing of Associate Minister of Education	Main Entrance at the back of the Church	Hon Jo Luxton	Everyone will remain seated when the Minister leaves.
7.30pm	20min	Speaker 1	At the front of Church	Yvette Guttenbeil Po'uhila	Chief Advisor Pacific will speak on the theme of Tongan Language Week 2023 from her role in the Ministry.
7.50	5mins	Group Singing	Main Church Area	Luseane Tolu & ECE services	Everyone will sing a Tongan song
7.55pm	20min	Speaker 2	At the front of Church	Dr 'Ana Koloto	The Director of Research & Evaluation will also speak on the theme of the Tongan language week 2023 from her role at MPP.
8.15pm	5min	Group Singing	Main Church Area	Luseane Tolu & ECE services	Everyone will sing a Tongan song
8.20pm	10min	Closing Speech	At the front of Church	ECESTAC S & Tongan Language Committee	TBC
8.30pm	5mins	Closing Hymn	Main Church Area	TBC	Last hymn of the night
8.35pm	5mins	Closing Prayer	Main Church Area	TBC	Closing of the event before meeting at the wharekai for a cuppa tea.