



Education Report: Update on Talanoa Ako

To:	Hon Aupito William Sio, Associate Minister of Education		
Cc:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
Date:	1 July 2021	Priority:	Medium
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1260300
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Messaging seen by Communications team:	No	Round Robin:	Yes

Purpose of Report

This paper updates you on the delivery of our parent programme (Talanoa Ako) and a suite of initiatives that were created from the 2016-2019 evaluation of the programme.

Summary

- We completed delivery of Talanoa Ako in April 2021. While the face to face engagement was disrupted, we engaged 1,250 parents and 531 learners face-to-face, over 122,000 engaged in the radio programme, and 2,500 via the Talanoa Ako app.
- Contracting has begun for the new round of Talanoa Ako delivery across 75 Ako Centres. Contracts will be for two financial years 2021/22 and 2022/23. The increase in numbers from 2020/21 is due to more school-led and ethnic specific communities delivering the programme.
- We will host partner Induction and Development workshops for all Talanoa Ako partners - Auckland on 3 August and Wellington on 4 August.
- The first set of resources for the Talanoa Ako Guided Resources are due to be completed in July 2021.
- We are progressing a range of initiatives that respond to the voices gathered during 2016-2019 through both Pacific PowerUP and Talanoa Ako evaluations. Further talanoa with Pacific principals, educators, leaders, and churches have strengthened these findings.

Recommended Actions

The Ministry of Education recommends you:

- a. **note** that we have confirmed 75 Talanoa Ako locations, 45 in Auckland and 30 across Aotearoa.
- b. **note** that you are invited to speak at the partner Induction and Development workshops in:
 - Auckland on 3 August at EFKS Sandringham
 - Wellington on 4 August at the West Plaza

Noted

- c. **agree** to launch the Talanoa Ako Guided Resources in Auckland at a Talanoa Ako secondary school. We will work with your office on suitable dates.


Agree / Disagree

- d. **agree** that the Ministry of Education release this briefing in full once it has been considered by you.

Agree / Disagree


Rose Jamieson
Deputy Secretary
Parent Information & Community Intelligence

01/07/2021


Hon Aupito William Sio
Associate Minister of Education

6.7.21

Background

1. Budget 19 provided \$9.2 million over 4 financial years to expand and strengthen the Pacific PowerUP programme, now rebranded as Talanoa Ako.
2. We continued to partner with Pacific community organisations, churches and schools to deliver the Talanoa Ako programme through to the end of the 2020/21 financial year. In addition, we developed two products to respond to Covid-19 - Talanoa on Air 10-week radio programme and the Talanoa Ako Digital App (METIS 1250416 refers).
3. There are a range of other initiatives we support based on the voices and insights of Pacific families.

Talanoa Ako Programme

4. The face-to-face Talanoa Ako 2020-2021 programme was completed in April 2021. There were:
 - 61 Ako Centres across Aotearoa, with 42 in Auckland. The number reduced from the contracted 65 due to impact of Covid-19 in regional Pacific communities.
 - 20 Ako Centres delivered their programme in full immersion. Languages included Gana Tuvalu, Gagana Samoa, Gagana Tokelau, Lea Faka Tonga, Na Vosa Vakaviti, Te Reo Māori Kuki Airani and Vagahau Niue. 14 Ako Centres were parent only participants, and 6 Ako Centres were with parents and their children participating.
5. The impact of Covid-19 meant that many of our partners had to be flexible with the delivery of the programme. Partners delivered the programme in a range of new ways such as online (through Zoom, Skype, YouTube) or multiple sessions in one day. Talanoa Ako reached 1,250 parents and 531 learners in the 2020/21 period. We had higher parent engagement from previous years due to the number of parent focussed Ako Centres.
6. In 2021/22 we will expand our school-led communities to more schools in Auckland delivering the programme and piloting the programme in school-led communities in Wellington and Rotorua. We have met with new partners to support them to deliver the Talanoa Ako programme in more ethnic specific communities such as Kiribati and Rotuman. This will see an increase in Ako Centres to 75 from 61 centres in 2020/21 with the majority still in Auckland.

Induction and Development Workshops

7. One day induction and development workshops for partners will be held in August 2021 to support programme delivery and build partner capability and capacity:
 - Tuesday 3 August for Auckland and Waikato-based service partners
 - Wednesday 4 August for partners nationally
8. Two attendees from each partner will attend the workshop - the lead teacher of the parent workshops and the administrator or champion from each partner.

Talanoa Ako on Air

9. To date, the Talanoa Ako on Air programme has been viewed 122,346 times, shared over 885 times on Social Media, and had a weekly listenership of over 15,000.
10. Due to the successful reach to our Pacific community through the 2020 and 2021 Summer Radio Series, we have now developed a 4-week NCEA series to be aired from 12 July 2021, and another 5-week Summer series to run in January and February 2022.
11. These sessions will continue to be delivered by teachers on 8 of Pacific Media Network's Pacific language programmes (Samoa, Tonga, Niue, Cook Island, Fiji, Tokelau, Tuvalu and English).
12. Due to our limited access to teachers who are fluent in the languages of Rotuman, Solomon Islands and Kiribati we will provide key educational messages to the hosts on these language programmes. We will continue to work with NZPPA, PPTA Komiti Pasifika and community leaders to identify teachers fluent in these languages.

*Pacific?
What about Principals Ass.*

Talanoa Ako App

13. The Talanoa Ako App has been downloaded 2,500 times. The App is currently being updated to include additional information on Early Learning, Learning Support, and Education to Employment pathways.
14. A full external evaluation of the last two radio series and Talanoa Ako App is currently underway.

Talanoa Ako Guided Resources

15. The Talanoa Ako Guided Resources systematise the key learnings of the Pacific PowerUP to Talanoa Ako evaluations (2016-2019). This includes over 1,800 in-depth talanoa with Pacific parents, families, learners, and communities and aligns to the key findings from the Pacific Education fono series.
16. As the resources are aimed at building the capability of schools, principals, and Board of Trustee members they will be in English.
17. Pacific communities (through talanoa groups) have also requested access to the resources. Hard copies will be sent to Talanoa Ako centres as well as public access via the Ministry's Te Kete Ipurangi (TKI). Further talanoa will be held with Pacific communities to identify which of these resources should be translated into Pacific languages.
18. The Ministry will have a phased release of the resources over 2021 with the first set of resources and video vignettes ready for launch in July-August 2021. A list of the full toolkit of resources is outlined in Annex 1.
19. A series of Professional Learning Development (PLD) workshops will be constructed with Pacific experts to support the use of these resources in schools and with Boards of Trustees. In 2022 these Pacific experts will deliver the PLD as a pilot in two emerging Pacific regional areas where an Ako centre is not located (such as Timaru, Dargaville, Wairarapa, Balclutha or Wanganui). This will provide these regions with the education tools and support capability building within their communities. The PLD will also be available to several secondary schools and primary schools in Auckland which have the high Pacific learner populations but are not Talanoa Ako partners.

20. The Ministry would like to hold an event to launch the first Talanoa Ako Guided Resources at a secondary school in Auckland. We can work with your office if you agree to launch the resources.

✓
refer Mr Hargrave

At the Table TV Series

21. We have been working with Umbrella Multimedia to produce the *At the Table* TV series (METIS 1250416 refers). The 6-episode series has 24 Pacific panel members discussing the following topics: Pacific futures focus, Pacific languages/ bi-lingual education, leadership, learners, wellbeing, and community.
22. *At the Table* was filmed in Wellington over two days in March 2021 and is currently in post-production. Early feedback on the content has been very positive.
23. We are finalising a communications strategy for where *At the Table* will be released including Prime TV (in discussion), Oriana TV, Pacific TV (across the Pacific), the Pacific Media Network's Facebook and the Coconet.TV platform. As the episodes highlight current Pacific views and issues, Stuff.co.nz will preview the series and write articles of current Pacific world views and thinking to coincide with the release. *At the Table* will be released on these platforms over a 6 week period.
24. Once we have finalised post-production, we are expecting a proposed launch date around the end of August. We will work with your office on any potential launch date.

refer
Mr Hargrave

Writers in Communities

25. We partnered with Read NZ Te Pou Muramura (formerly New Zealand Book Council) to pilot a *Writers in Communities* programme. The programme has the same foundations as their successful 'Writers in Schools' programme which we have previously funded.
26. The programme involves writers working with communities over four workshops and is responsive to their community and may develop one story or multiple short stories or poems. The authors involved in this project are Vaughan Rapatahana, David Riley and Moira Wairama.
27. The benefits of the programme are communities are exposed to the process of developing a story and book, families are encouraged to be part of the writing process, and communities have the opportunity to share their own stories in their own languages.
28. We approached five Pacific (Niue, Cook Island, Tuvalu, Tonga, Fiji) communities to be part of this project. All 5 communities produced a book and they are due to be released next month with each community holding a book launch. We can provide the release dates to your office.
29. We will take learnings from this pilot to improve the programme going forward. A further 5 communities will be offered this programme to begin in September 2021.

What about Samoa & Tokelau?

Reading Together® and Early Reading Together®

30. The Reading Together® programme builds parents' capability to better support their child's reading, by providing them with a range of strategies that complement learning in the classroom.

31. Budget 21 provided funding to expand Reading Together® and Early Reading Together®. The programme will reach 37,000 families over the next four years with \$1.56m dedicated to reaching Pacific communities.
32. SAASIA were unable to pilot the Early Reading Together® programme earlier this year but are committed to doing so in the second half of 2021.
33. We evaluated the 2020 delivery of the Reading Together® programme and developed a case study on Ekalesia Fa'apopotoga Kerisiano Samoa (EFKS) delivery throughout 40 of their churches. The case study highlighted how EFKS's cultural knowledge and expertise enabled them to mobilise Pacific families. EFKS reached 512 adult family members that had direct involvement in the education of 1,072 children. *Is this Nat/Regional? which congregations?*
34. There will be an opportunity to launch the expanded Reading Together® programme in Pacific communities.

O A'u Lea (This is Me) Programme

35. A key learning from the PowerUP to Talanoa Ako evaluations 2016-2019 was that Pacific young men and women (11-17 years old) struggled with resiliency and empathy, issues of identity, mental health, relationships, expectations, being Pacific in NZ and transitioning through and from the secondary school to further education or employment opportunities. There are various programmes available but limited opportunity for Pacific solutions, delivery and inclusion of parents and families.
36. The O A'u Lea (This is Me) programme has been co-constructed with a group of Pacific community youth workers and teachers led by 3 Sons Limited, a local Wellington community partner. It is a 3-day Pacific bilingual programme based on Pacific values with a strong well-being element. This programme is delivered during the school holidays. *More info please*
37. In 2020 we piloted 3 programmes in Wellington Central and the Hutt Valley and over 350 young men attended. A 3-day Porirua programme is being planned for first week of the end of Term 3 school holidays in October.
38. An evaluation will inform the expansion of the programme to the South Island in 2022 to secondary school age young men and potentially to Auckland for secondary school age young women. It is envisaged each area will deliver similar programmes responsive and adapted to their communities.

Coconet.tv

39. We are partnering with Tikilounge Productions to set up a Pacific education space on their Coconet.tv platform. Coconet is a popular Pacific online space that produces and promotes content on Pacific stories, identity, language, and culture.
40. That Ministry has contracted Tikilounge Productions to:
- make changes to their homepage to include a tab for a new Pacific education space
 - produce videos that showcase Pacific knowledge and knowledge holders
 - publish a Pacific education blog space where Pacific role models will write about their lives, their experiences of education, what knowledge is important, what Pacific success is, and their dreams for Pacific in New Zealand, and how we might achieve this.

*Keen to know more
& outcomes/impact?*

41. The Ministry will work to promote this platform as another accessible space for communities to access Pacific education resources, programmes and initiatives.

Sponsorship and Funding

42. As a result of our strong Pacific relationships we are often approached to sponsor and support small Pacific community events or initiatives. We support initiatives that are 'as and by' Pacific, bilingual or full immersion support, better education outcomes based, or add to our understanding and knowledge of what is working in Pacific communities.
43. The sponsorship and support we provide is an important step in building Pacific community partners' capability. Our recent sponsorship and funding includes:

Provider	Initiative or Event	Funding
Amanaki STEM Academy	Support the Amanaki STEM Prizegiving	\$5,000.00
ASB Polyfest	Sponsor the Leaders Day	\$7,000.00
Atamu EFKS	Deliver a Samoan Bilingual programme for children. The programme is aimed at building children's identity, language and culture.	\$10,000.00
Bright Sunday	Develop a scoping report looking at exploring the establishment of a bilingual education unit where Pacific learners can thrive and succeed using an approach informed by research literature and best practice.	\$30,438.80
Fagasā National	Sponsor Fagasā national speech competitions run by Samoan educators and develops and celebrates Samoan oratory.	\$5,000.00
Fagasā Wellington	Sponsor the Samoan speech competition	\$5,000.00
New Zealand Kiribati Council	Create 5 books in Kiribati to support their next generation. In collaboration with David Riley.	\$7,500.00
Pacific Spirit Therapy	Deliver 10 Samoan Language Classes to respond to the growing demand.	\$7,380.00
Pasifika Hub	Support four* community programmes that have a commitment to bilingual Pasifika languages, education engagement and participation, reciprocal relationships, strategic collaboration, and are an existing partner of Pasifika Hub's collective action.	\$40,000.00 * \$10,000 per programme
Rongotai College	Rugby camp that explores identity, wellbeing and team culture.	\$3,500.00
SL1 Consulting	Create, design and print second Samoan Bilingual book [part of 7 book Chief series] to address the struggles Aotearoa born Samoans deal with and how hard it can be to connect with their culture. Note: First book MPP funded \$2,000.00	\$22,500.00
Sosaiete Aoga Amata Samoa i Aotearoa (SAASIA)	National conference due to be held August in Auckland. The conference theme and keynotes will address the whole Samoan education sector, inviting teachers, parents and communities from Aoga Amata, Samoan bilingual teachers and Samoan teachers at High School to provide their voice. A collective approach to provide clarity and continuity of children's language, culture and Christian values is important to have secured identities.	\$19,000.00
Tuvalu Community Trust	Produce 8 bilingual books	\$13,800.00

Next Steps

44. There are a range of upcoming event opportunities as outlined in this report. We will work with your office on any events you may wish to attend and will provide a communications plan to support any these activities.

Annexes

Annex 1: Talanoa Ako Guided Resources list and release schedule

Proactively Released

Annex 1: Talanoa Ako Guided Resource List & Release Schedule

Resource : July - August launch	
1. <i>PowerUP to Talanoa Ako</i>	Author Tagaloatele Professor Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop
2. <i>PowerUP to Talanoa Ako Case studies</i>	Author Tagaloatele Professor Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop
3. <i>Talanoa Ako Literature Review</i>	Author Dr Cherie Chu and Victoria University Education faculty
4. <i>Talanoa Ako Vignettes</i>	Filmed by Ministry of Education
Resource : August release	
5. <i>Ngaue Fakataha ki he Ako a e fanau report</i>	Author Dr Lesieli Tongati'o'
Resource : September release	
6. <i>Refresh of the Pacific building of BOT resource</i>	Refreshed by Mati Timaloa and a group of Pacific Board of Trustee
Resource : October release	
7. <i>PEP in STEP</i>	To be refreshed by the Pacific principals - Tautai o le Moana
Resource : November release	
8. <i>Pacific literacy booklet for Parents and learners (refresh from latest PISA results)</i>	To be refreshed from a Pacific literacy expert from the completed collated data sets
Resource : December release	
9. <i>Pacific Principals Best practice</i>	To be developed to highlight Pacific Principals best practice in schools and the Talanoa Ako school-led community model