



Briefing Note: TuTagata Festival 2022

To:	Hon Aupito William Sio, Associate Minister of Education		
Cc:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
Date:	15 July 2022	Priority:	Medium
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1289755
Key Contact:	Rose Jamieson	DDI:	9(2)(a)
Messaging seen by Communications team:	Yes	Round Robin:	No

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to provide you with information and speech notes to support your attendance at the TuTagata Secondary Schools Polynesian Festival.

Summary

- You have been invited to speak at the TuTagata Secondary Schools Polynesian Festival (Tu Tagata) on Wednesday, 27 July 2022, 6.30pm at the TSB Arena, Wellington Wharf. You will be speaking to an audience of approximately 5,000 people.
- TuTagata is the biggest and oldest Wellington secondary schools' festival. It's purpose is fostering student leadership and celebrating Pacific identity and culture through music, performance and dance. Approximately 850 students will be performing at the event.
- This year, 10 schools are participating - Wellington East Girls College, St Catherine's College, Wellington Girls' College, St Mary's College, St Patrick's College Wellington, Rongotai College, Wellington College, Taita College, Scot's College and Bishop Viard College.
- The festival is organised and managed by a volunteer Komiti which consists of one teacher and two students from each of the participating schools and an events team of alumni. The students are an integral part of the Komiti and are fully involved in all decisions.

Proactive Release recommendation

Agree that this briefing is proactively released as part of the next publication.

☒ **Agree** / ☐ **Disagree**



Rose Jamieson
National Director
Parent Information and Community Intelligence
15/07/2022



Hon Aupito William Sio
Associate Minister of Education
22/12/22

Background

1. TuTagata began as a mentoring programme for Pacific and Māori students, funded by the Native and Island Affairs Department in 1978. Hon Dame Luamanuvao Winnie Laban was a young staff member at the time and is now patron of TuTagata.
2. The mentoring programme involved students from the central Wellington schools of Wellington East Girls College, Wellington Girls College, St Patrick's College, Wellington College, Rongotai College, St Catherine's College, St Mary's College and Wellington High School. The mentoring programme encouraged and supported young Pacific and Māori people to *stand tall in their identity*.
3. When the mentoring programme ended the schools continued the annual performance celebrations sharing the responsibility across each school. After the start of the Kapa Haka competitions in the 1980s, TuTagata became a Pacific celebration. In 2001, the school principals from the original 1978 TuTagata cohort formalised their commitment to an annual TuTagata Festival and established a Komiti consisting of one teacher and two students from each of the schools to organise and manage the festival. This was led by the Pacific teachers and TuTagata Pacific alumni.
4. The Chair of the Komiti is rotated annually and is selected from the hosting school. Alongside the students and schools there is a huge volunteer base of 'TuTagata alumni' and an events team who work alongside the TuTagata Komiti to organise and run the production side of the festival and provide or seek stakeholder sponsorship.

2022 TuTagata Wellington Secondary School's Poly Festival

5. You have been invited to attend in your ministerial capacity as both the Associate Minister of Education and the Minister for Pacific Peoples.
6. The audience will be mainly parents, family members and friends of the students performing. This also includes the Principals, Boards of Trustees, and teachers from the participating schools. We anticipate an audience of up to 5,000 people.
7. The 2022 Tu Tagata host school is Wellington College. The host principal, Mr Glen Denham will be speaking. Hon Dame Luamanuvao Winnie Laban is unable to attend and will be represented by Fa'amatua'inu Aaron Noanoa who will also be speaking on her behalf. The Church Minister is likely to be Rev Au Liko from EFKS Upper Hutt. The Hon Carmel Sepuloni and Wellington Mayor, Andy Foster have yet to confirm their attendance.
8. The 10 participating schools include Wellington East Girls College, St Catherine's College, Wellington Girls' College, St Mary's College, St Patrick's College Wellington, Rongotai College, Wellington College, Taita College, Scot's College and Bishop Viard College.
9. This festival is organised by the TuTagata Komiti, a Charitable Trust. The Komiti is made up of a teacher and two student representatives from each participating school plus a Fau'fautua Gabby Makisi who provides support to the Komiti Chair and oversees production and event management of the event.
10. The TuTagata Komiti's key objectives are to:

- raise Pacific student educational achievement and strengthen Pacific heritage, language and culture through performance
 - foster leadership roles for Pacific students
 - award scholarship awards to Pacific students with leadership qualities pursuing tertiary studies (first year undergraduate) for participating schools
 - organise, plan and manage the annual festival.
11. The Komiti administers the TuTagata Leadership Awards. The value of each award is \$500 given to one student from each participating school for Pacific leadership. These awards are to help towards the cost of the student's tertiary study. These are sponsored by stakeholders. The Komiti has invited you to present two of the leadership awards.
12. This year, the Ministry has provided funding of \$2,000 to support production costs and one of the TuTagata leadership awards.
13. A copy of the programme will be provided to your office during the week of the festival. Your speech notes are provided in Annex 1.