



Briefing Note: Pacific Digital Stories Showcase 30 July 2022

To:	Hon Aupito William Sio, Associate Minister of Education		
Date:	19 July 2022	Priority:	High
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1291519
Drafter:	Margaret Vaka-Vivili	DDI:	9(2)(a)
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Messaging seen by Communications team:	Yes	Round Robin:	No

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this paper is for you to:

- **Note** the details of the Pacific Digital Stories Showcase event in Manukau City that you will attend on 30 July 2022
- **Note** how the initiative aligns with Pacific education policy and system-wide work achieving change for Pacific learners and their families.
- **Note** the event programme provided (Annex 1) and talking points for your closing comments at the showcase (Annex 2).
- **Agree** that this Briefing will be proactively released at this time. Any information that may need to be withheld will be done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

Agree/ Disagree

Summary

- The annual Pacific Digital Stories Showcase event will be held on Saturday the 30th of July 2022, from 1:30pm to 4:00pm, at the **Event Cinemas Manukau**, Level 1 Westfield Manukau City, Amersham Way Entrance.
- The event is hosted by the Director Theresa Tupuola-Sorensen and co-director Tatiana Marich-Tupou of Pacific Kids Learning (PKL), an EdTech company which creates digital learning resources focused on supporting Pacific learners.
- You have been invited to speak for 4 – 6 minutes in your capacity as Minister for Pacific Peoples and Associate Minister of Education. The event programme is attached as Annex 1. Talking points are provided as Annex 2.

- An audience of approximately 213 is expected: mostly representatives from government and local council, as well as officials from the Ministry of Education and Ministry for Pacific Peoples, Pacific language leaders, teachers and students, and local community leaders.



Dr Julia Novak
Director | Curriculum Design
Te Poutāhū | Curriculum Centre



Hon Aupito William Sio
Associate Minister of Education

19/07/2022

22/12/22

This was a wonderful event, thank you

Background

1. PKL is an EdTech company with a vision to enable culture and language immersion inside and outside the classroom through impactful digital learning resources, focusing on Pacific learners.
2. PKL create classroom resources and song animations to help engage children with their learning. They offer technological solutions to assist teachers and whānau with learning that can help children achieve higher literacy levels both in English and their Pacific heritage language. PKL works collaboratively with government departments, schools, local community groups and other organisations.
3. At the Pacific Digital Stories Showcase, PKL will be showcasing a collection of animated stories and songs in four languages: English, Lea faka Tonga, Te Reo Māori Kuki 'Airani and Gagana Samoa.
4. Some of this collection has been created in-house by PKL creatives, and other parts have been co-designed by local Pacific communities and students.
5. The Pacific Digital Stories project is in its second year of production and is sponsored by the Ministry of Education (the Ministry).
6. The Island Time song project is in its first year and is sponsored by the Ministry for Pacific Peoples (MPP).
7. The objectives for both projects are to provide culturally responsive educational and entertainment resources for young learners, to contribute to the revitalisation of Pacific languages in the digital space and to encourage young Pacific learners to consider STEM/STEAM career pathways.¹

Alignment with Pacific and system policy changes

7. The Action Plan for Pacific Education 2020-2030's vision is 'diverse Pacific learners and families are safe, valued and equipped to achieve their education aspirations'. One of the key shifts is to work reciprocally with diverse Pacific communities to respond to unmet needs. Developing bilingual resources in Pacific languages responds to community aspirations for bilingual provision.
8. Developing new bilingual resources for Pacific ākonga strengthens literacy learning and brings diverse Pacific languages, texts, and traditional knowledge into the classroom. New Pacific resources promote the sharing, transmission and learning of cultural values and beliefs through home literacies.
9. Language is integral to the identity and wellbeing of Pacific learners. One of the outcomes of the Government's Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy is that 'children and young people are accepted, respected and connected'. Having access to high quality culturally responsive resources enables teachers and families to support ākonga wellbeing.
10. The PKL project supports a key objective in the MPP Pacific Languages Strategy 2022-2032 to recognise the value of Pacific languages across Aotearoa. Developing curriculum resources for culturally and linguistically diverse learners is one of the

¹ 'STEM' refers to Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. 'STEAM' refers to the same areas of knowledge but also includes Arts.

actions the Ministry of Education is taking that contributes to creating the conditions for Pacific languages to thrive.

11. The Literacy & Communication and Maths Strategy, released in March 2022 includes an emphasis on setting clear expectations for teaching and learning that will guide effective practices. Literacy communication and maths are foundational areas of learning from early learning through to senior secondary school. These skills are key to Pacific learners' progress, achievement, wellbeing, and participation [METIS 1284881 refers].
12. The PKL resources demonstrate the intent of the Literacy & Communication and Maths Strategy by recognising and valuing the diverse strengths and linguistic backgrounds of Pacific learners and their families.
13. The Literacy & Communication and Maths Strategy signals support for learners and their families to make secondary subject choices that enable them to pursue maths-rich careers. This aligns with the focus of the PKL project on encouraging Pacific learners to consider STEAM career pathways.
14. One of the goals of the work underway to refresh *The New Zealand Curriculum* is to create curriculum that is inclusive so that all ākonga see themselves and succeed in their learning. The Ministry is making sure that teachers and leaders have the supports they need to successfully implement the updated curriculum.
15. Increasing access to engaging and culturally responsive resources supports Pacific ākonga to see themselves in the curriculum and will support teachers to implement the refreshed curriculum.
16. The PKL provider is an example of "for Pacific by Pacific". The provider understands the needs and aspirations of Pacific ākonga and families and demonstrates this through whānau and community engagement. Partnering with whānau and community to design and deliver education sustains identities, languages and cultures, thereby bringing the intent of the National Education and Learning Priorities to life.

Ministry of Education sponsorship

17. In 2020, PKL received 9(2)(b)(ii) funding through the Pacific Education Support Fund. The project included the development of digital animation resources and implementation in schools to support attendance and engagement.
18. PKL worked with 49 students from Flat Bush School, Jean Batten School and Rise Up Academy to create their own stories and convert them into stop motion animation.
19. The Ministry provided a further 9(2)(b)(ii) to extend the reach of the project into the 2021-2022 financial year.
20. In 2021, the Ministry contracted PKL to digitise existing Pacific language books for Years 4-8 ākonga.
21. Digitising these reading resources supports system shifts identified in the Action Plan for Pacific Education. The shifts aim to enable every teacher, leader, and educational professional to become culturally competent with diverse Pacific learners.
22. 9(2)(f)(iv), 9(2)(g)(i)

Attendees

23. The Showcase will be hosted by the Pacific Kids Learning Director Theresa Tupuola-Sorensen, the co-director Tatiana Marich-Tupou and the team from Auckland.

(a) Attendees include:

- Representatives from government and local council,
- Ministry of Education (sponsor),
- Ministry for Pacific Peoples (sponsor),
- Centre for Pacific Languages (sponsor for Pacific Language Weeks),
- Academics in Pacific bilingualism and biliteracy,
- Pacific Creatives in Digital Arts,
- Pasifika TV,
- Representatives from the Pacific Business Hub,
- Representatives from Moana Connect (formerly known as Moana Research),
- ECE teachers,
- Teachers and principals of local Primary schools who have engaged in PKL workshops,
- Primary school students who had winning entries in the Tusitala story writing competition and their principals and teachers
- Local community leaders who assisted with translations and cultural advisory services on the animations produced by PKL.

(b) Other attendees include Josephine Bartley, Tauanu'u Nanai Nick Bakulich and Lotu Fuli.

24. Your Ministry of Education contacts at the event will be Esa Samani on 9(2)(a) Elizabeth Keresoma and Kiva Jackson.

Annexes

Annex 1: Pacific Digital Stories Showcase Event programme

Annex 2: Talking points

Annex 1: Event Programme

TENTATIVE RUNSHEET

Start	End	Activity	Presenter
13:30	13:55	Mix & mingle, interactive stop motion station, photos, movie snacks etc.	
13:55	14:00	All guests take your seats in the cinema	
14:00	14:05	Official Welcome	MC
14:05	14:10	Opening Prayer	TBC
14:10	14:13	Opening remarks	Lotu Fuli, Auckland Council
14:13	14:16	Why is digital storytelling necessary?	Theresa, PKL
14:16	15:15	Collection of animations by PKL	Cinematic experience
15:15	15:20	PKL acknowledgement of thanks	MC
15:20	15:25	Closing remarks, Hon Minister Aupito William Sio	Minister
15:25	15:28	Closing Prayer	Raemaki Karati
15:28	15:30	Final thanks	MC
15:30	16:00	Mix & mingle, photos, merchandise displays	