



Briefing Note: Distribution of Digital Devices for Pacific Learners from the Pacific Covid-19 Response and Recovery Fund

To:	Hon Jan Tinetti, Associate Minister of Education		
Cc:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education Hon Grant Robertson, Minister of Finance Hon Aupito William Sio, Associate Minister of Education (Pacific Peoples)		
Date:	13 July 2022	Priority:	Low
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1289003
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Messaging seen by Communications team:	No	Round Robin:	No

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this paper is to:

Provide you with an update on the distribution process of devices to Year 9 and 10 Pacific learners, utilising an underspend in the 2021/22 FY from the Pacific Covid-19 Response and Recovery Fund.

Summary

- Regional allocation of devices has been agreed by the three regional Te Mahau Hautū
- Criteria have been agreed to guide the prioritisation of the distribution of devices.
- A single transactional supplier has been contracted to maximise the number of devices purchased.
- Devices have been sourced and await distribution decisions.
- Pacific provider network will be utilised to support distribution and support.
- Regional implementation plans are being finalised.

Proactive Release

agree that the Ministry of Education release this briefing once it has been considered by you, with the single transactional provider's information withheld due to commercial sensitivity

☒ **Agree** ☐ **Disagree.**



Sean Teddy
Te Pae Aronui

13/7/2022



Hon Jan Tinetti
Associate Minister of Education

17/07/2022

Background

1. On 24 May 2022 an Education Report received joint agreement from Minister Hipkins and the Minister of Finance to reallocate the underspend of \$1.2m from the Targeted Support for Pacific Learners and Families initiative in 2021/22, to Pacific providers to purchase new devices (METIS 1288229 refers).
2. The intent of the initiative is a one-off intervention to use the remainder of the targeted COVID response support funding for Pacific learners to address some of their key barriers to engage and re-engage in learning.
3. Ministers requested an update of the overall expected need and the final distribution plan for the purchased devices in the next month, and a report back in six months on the performance against the distribution plan.

Distribution Approach

Regional allocation

4. In June 2022, agreement was requested from the three Te Mahau regional Hautū for the purchase and distribution of additional digital devices to Pacific learners in their regions.
5. The three Te Mahau regional Hautū jointly agreed to allocate devices based on where the majority of the Pacific populations reside. Devices are to be allocated on the following basis: 50% Te Tai Raro, 25% Te Tai Whenua and 25% Te Tai Runga. A further regional breakdown is attached as Appendix 1.

Criteria

6. The following criteria was agreed on to guide the prioritisation of the distribution of devices:
 - a. Devices are prioritised for Years 9 & 10. This provides some assurance that these digital devices will support the learner's continued engagement in learning through to Year 13.
 - b. Pacific learners who are identified as needing a device to continue to engage in their learning must be enrolled with a school. This will allow them to access the same technology benefits offered to their peers.
 - c. These learners must have an active internet connection at home. We expect there is still some need for connectivity and where this need is identified, we recommend that notification be made to the Equitable Digital Access team as the connectivity support the Ministry offers remains in place until the end of 2022. Due to the very limited number of devices, priority will be given to those learners in households with active internet connection.
7. Data collection forms and privacy statements have been created to support the collection and assessment of the eligibility data.

Single transactional supplier selected

8. To enable this initiative to assist the maximum number of students, a single transactional supplier was contracted. A single provider was used to capitalise on the purchasing power of a single purchase order 9(2)(j) and to avoid additional costs such as shipping.
9. With support from Te Puna Hanganga, Matihiko (Infrastructure & Digital) we have engaged 9(2)(b)(ii) to procure the devices from their hardware supplier. We can confirm the hardware supplier is on the All of Government directory, where our goal is to leverage the buying power by facilitating a single purchase order.

10. 9(2)(b)(ii) has negotiated with the hardware provider to waive all shipping costs, and for all stock to be delivered within 4 weeks of purchase order creation.
11. They have confirmed that a purchase order for the 2,400 devices was issued to the hardware supplier in the week ending 1 July 2022, the stock has been allocated and is on hold for this initiative.
12. 9(2)(ba)(ii) will organise distribution to the community providers/and or regional Te Mahau offices, who will then distribute on to learners.

Utilising Pacific provider network

13. Utilising Pacific providers and community organisations provides the best assurance that resources and supports can be directed to those Pacific learners with the greatest and most urgent needs, within the criteria above.
14. The distribution of devices to learners will leverage Te Mahau regional relationships through the network of Pacific providers established for the Pacific Education Support and Innovation Funds. This will allow:
 - a. provision of other support services to learners and their whānau
 - b. confirmation of the criteria and need
 - c. administration of the opt-in process to apply for a digital device, and
 - d. support for the delivery and utilisation of devices.
15. Where these providers are providing a learner support function, contract variations have been developed. New contracts have been developed for emerging providers.

Regional implementation plans are being finalised

16. Regional Implementation Plans are being finalised to ensure consistent information is gathered on regional benefits, risks, deliverables and outcomes. These Implementation plans are expected to be completed in August 2022.

Key Risks and Benefits

17. Since December 2021, the Ministry of Education position has been not to purchase or distribute additional devices for learners. This messaging has also been communicated across the sector.
18. The underspend of \$1.2 million from the Targeted Support for Pacific Learners is being deployed to conclude a programme of targeted investment through this 2021/2022 appropriation to respond to where the need was highest and for those whose learning had been disproportionately affected by COVID-19.
19. Prioritising Pacific learners may be perceived as unfair from some outside of the Pacific community if considered out of context, but this intervention is not extending beyond the purpose of the targeted funding.
20. Clear and targeted communication will be provided to community providers and relevant stakeholders to confirm this is a use of targeted Pacific funding to support Pacific learners.

Next Steps

21. Regional Implementation Plans will be made available to you once completed in August 2022.
22. We will provide you with a 6 month outcomes report in December 2022.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Regional Allocation

Te Mahau	Rohe	# of Devices Allocated	Equivalent Funding for Devices
Te Tai Raro			\$600,000
	Te Tai Tokerau	200	
	Tamaki Makaurau	1000	
	sub total	1,200	
Te Tai Whenua			\$300,000
	Waikato	240	
	Waiāriki	80	
	Tairāwhiti-Hawkes Bay	140	
	Taranaki, Whanganui, Manawatū	140	
	sub total	600	
Te Tai Runga			\$300,000
	Wellington	300	
	Nelson-Marlborough West Coast	40	
	Canterbury – Chatham Islands	160	
	Otago Southland	100	
	sub total	600	
TOTAL		2,400	\$1,200,000