



Briefing Note: Pacific education initiatives in COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund (CRRF)

To:	Hon Jo Luxton, Associate Minister of Education		
Cc:	Hon Jan Tinetti, Minister of Education		
Date:	27 July 2023	Priority:	Medium
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Messaging seen by Communications team:	NA	Round Robin:	No

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this paper is to provide you with further information on the Pacific education initiatives funded through the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund (CRRF).

Summary

- The COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund in 2020 funded five Pacific specific programmes for a limited period of time through the initiative '*Targeted Supports for Pacific learners and families*':
 - a. Pacific Education Support Fund
 - b. Pacific Education Innovation Fund
 - c. Governance and management supports for Pacific early learning services.
 - d. Tautai o le Moana
 - e. Translations support
- Future processes for Budgets 24 and beyond have not been set. 9(2)(f)(iv)

Proactive Release

- **agree** that the Ministry of Education release this briefing once it has been considered by you, with the following information on future Budget intentions withheld due to protocol around not releasing Budget information.

Agree / Disagree



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27/07/2023



Hon Jo Luxton
Associate Minister of Education

5 p 22

Background

1. Budget 2020 was extensively impacted by the global pandemic and the public health and economic measures taken by the New Zealand Government in response to the COVID-19 crisis¹. As a result, Budget 2020 functioned as a Recovery Budget and was reframed to focus on cost pressures and responding to COVID-19.
2. The COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund (CRRF) was established in Budget 2020 as a temporary fiscal management tool to support New Zealand's response to and recovery from COVID-19². The CRRF process replaced the conventional Budget process for Budget 20.
3. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on Pacific learners and families' experiences of education and their ability to access education and have education-related needs met. The CRRF provided specific investment of \$80.2m over four years in the 'Targeted Supports for Pacific learners and families' initiative. This included five specific initiatives:
 - a. Pacific Education Support Fund
 - b. Pacific Education Innovation Fund
 - c. Governance and management supports for Pacific early learning services.
 - d. Tautai o le Moana
 - e. Translations support
4. On 11 May 2020 Cabinet agreed in principle to time-limited funding intended to provide targeted support for Pacific learners and families to engage in education, as part of the COVID-19 response, subject to further work on operational arrangements expected to be completed by June 2020 [CAB-20-MIN-0219.09 refers]. This involved Cabinet agreement to:
 - a. Establish a tagged operation contingency of up to \$80.236m over four years in Vote Education, to provide Targeted support for Pacific learners and families;
 - b. Authorise the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Education, in consultation with any Associate Minister of Education with a delegation for Pacific education, as appropriate, to jointly approve any drawdowns of the contingency; and
 - c. The expiry date for this tagged contingency being 30 November 2020.
5. The tagged contingency was drawn down in June 2020, following further operational work on the initiative [METIS 1230218 refers]. The components of the contingency were formally announced on 10 June 2020 through the online Pacific post-Budget discussions.
6. The funding breakdown of the initiative was:

Table 1: Funding breakdown

Component	\$m - increase/(decrease)				Total
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	
Pacific Education Support Fund	6.616	8.032	12.235	12.835	39.718

¹ Budget 2020 – Education in New Zealand www.education.govt.nz

² Overview of the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund (CRRF) www.treasury.govt.nz

(Brokerage support)					
Pacific Education Innovation Fund	7.114	7.129	7.129	7.129	28.501
Support for Pacific early learning centres	1.000	2.000	2.200	2.400	7.600
Tautai o le Moana	0.450	0.650	0.830	0.960	2.890
Translations	1.000	0.500	0.000	0.000	1.500
Total funding	16.180	18.311	22.394	23.324	80.209

7. CRRF initiatives, including the *Targeted Supports for Pacific learners and families'* initiative, provided regular reporting on implementation and impact to the DPMC Implementation unit as part of the requirements of the funding.

The Pacific Education Support and the Pacific Education Innovation Funds

Table 2: Funding breakdown of Pacific Education Support and Innovation Funds

Component	\$m - increase/(decrease)				Total
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	
Pacific Education Support Fund (Brokerage support)	6.616	8.032	12.235	12.835	39.718
Pacific Education Innovation Fund	7.114	7.129	7.129	7.129	28.501

8. There have been a total of three funding rounds for the Pacific Education Funds from 20/21, 21/22 and 22/23 with the final commencing 1 July 2023 and ending on 30 June 2024. Table 1 below provides the spend to date and Table 3 the number of projects in each round, please note that some projects have been funded for multiple rounds.
9. The procurement process for Rounds 1 and 2 followed an open process, which invited providers, organisations, community groups and places of learning to apply for funding to deliver a service that met the criteria of the funds. The procurement process changed for Round 3 and used a more direct approach with providers who were making a difference and having positive impacts in schools and the community (Metis 1294645 refers). This will also be the approach for Round 4.

Table 3: Total number of Projects and spend for Rounds 1 – 3

Rounds	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3
Total Spend	\$10.7m	\$11.9m	\$16.1m
Total number of Projects	177 projects	163 projects	242 projects

Table 4: Total allocated amount *per region* for Round 1 – 4

Region	Pacific Education Support Fund ³	Pacific Education Innovation Fund
Auckland	\$21,654,320	\$18,679,765.4
Waikato	\$1,848,229	\$660,573.36
Hawkes Bay/Tairāwhiti	\$1,135,899	\$405,947.08
Wellington	\$5,057,036	\$1,806,755.48
Canterbury/Chatham Islands	\$2,373,115.42	\$929,022.20
Tai Tokerau	NA	\$158,959.6
Bay of Plenty/Waiariki	NA	\$365,388.76
Taranaki/Manawatu/Whanganui	NA	\$418,314.64
Nelson/Marlborough/West Coast	NA	\$170,963.36
Otago/Southland	NA	\$404,306.20

10. In April 2021, we commissioned Malatest International to evaluate the Pacific Education Funds, provide insights and evidence around development and delivery of the funds and inform ongoing improvements in how the Pacific Education Funds operate and support Pacific learners, families, and communities to seek better educational outcomes.
11. The first evaluation report was released and published October 2022 on The Education Counts website [Metis 1295552 refers]. The report outlines details, experiences, perspectives and outcomes for the Pacific Education Funds providers, Pacific learners, and families⁴. The information for this report is taken from case studies, provider close-out reports and an online survey of providers. A further and final evaluation report on Round 3 of the funds is currently being prepared for final release [METIS 1313477 refers].
12. 9(2)(f)(iv)
13. The overall Budget for 2023 had a focus on those areas that were impacted by unforeseen natural disasters in the north island regions of Te Tai Tokerau, Tamaki Makaurau / Auckland and Hawkes Bay/Tairāwhiti where many of Aotearoa's Pacific communities reside. 9(2)(f)(iv)
14. Many of the providers and community organisations funded through the Support and Innovation Funds, were fundamental in supporting Pacific families, communities and schools affected by the initial flooding in Auckland and the aftermath of Cyclone Gabrielle. Providers were able to 'pause' their initiatives and pivot quickly to respond to the basic and immediate needs of Pacific akonga and their families. Many families were cut off from being able to collect supplies, and their children unable to attend school.
15. Without ongoing funding, the Pacific Education Funds will be unable to continue. This will remove a significant resource that is targeted to supporting the well-being and

³ Note that the Pacific Education Support Fund are provided to the five regions with the highest Pacific populations.

⁴ Malatest International commissioned by Ministry of Education (Nov2022), Evaluation of the Pacific Education Support and Innovation Funds: Final Interim Report

education related needs of Pacific learners and their families accessing and engaging in relevant and meaningful education.

16. The provision of services from the Pacific education Support and Innovation funds are bespoke services prioritising Pacific ākonga, their families and communities. Ending funding will negatively impact on the value of the work that has been done over the last 3 years to build and reinforce positive education and wellbeing outcomes particularly with families and communities who were and are still heavily impacted by the global and national events of the last three and a half years.
17. The evaluation of the funds demonstrates the value of local Pacific providers working alongside ākonga, their families, community, and schools. Providers have successfully built capacity and strong relationships with Pacific communities and have been trusted conduits for schools and Pacific families and communities.
18. More information from the evaluation will be provided to you [METIS 1313477 refers], as well as an update on the roll out of Rounds 3 and 4 of the Funds [METIS 1311973 refers].

Support for Pacific early learning services

Table 5: Funding breakdown of support for Pacific early learning services

Component	\$m - increase/(decrease)				Total
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	
Support for Pacific early learning centres	1.000	2.000	2.200	2.400	7.600

19. The approximate spend on the Targeted support for Pacific Early Learning Centres in the 2022/2023 Financial Year is approximately \$828,339.76.
20. Supports provided include the delivery of Early Childhood Education Symposiums, held in two regions. The Christchurch Symposium (24th -25th February 2023) was attended by local Pacific Early Learning Centres and two Dunedin based centres. This received great feedback and the Early Learning services are also showing increased understanding of the different professional learning and development supports available to them.
21. The Auckland Early Childhood Education Symposium held over Kings Birthday Weekend 2023 had a reach of approximately 4,400 and contributed to achieving the following outcomes:
 - Confident Boards who are agile and responsive to the changing needs of Pacific learners and their whānau
 - Confident Kaiako who are skilled to support Pacific learners and their whānau to achieve their education aspirations.
 - Pacific centres having a strong network of support that allow them to be responsive to the needs of their learners and whānau.
 - Leadership in Pacific centres creating the conditions for innovative and creative delivery of teaching and learning in a Pacific language.

22. Overall outcomes reported by the Regional Advisors across the motu include an increase in the governance and management capabilities of centre managers/head teachers as well as increased confidence in the governance and management of their centres. The targeted professional learning and development (PLD) provided for the Pacific Early learning services is also showing to be effective in improving services overall.
23. The funding for the supporting Pacific early learning governance and management work from the CRRF ends on June 30, 2024. Funding to continue the initiative for a further two years was received in Budget 23, through the initiative "*Pacific Early Childhood Education – Cost Pressure*". The initiative provided for \$5.306m over two years to continue the supports. This will enable the initiative to run until June 2026.
24. 9(2)(f)(iv)
25. An evaluation is underway with initial findings from the evaluation indicating that there is a continued need for the programme to sustain and strengthen the progress made with the Pacific Early Learning Services to date, as well as integrating this role into business as usual. More information from the evaluation will be provided to you [METIS 1313478 refers].
26. While it is beneficial to be able to continue the initiative for a further two years, the funding is not ongoing and there is still a risk to the delivery of the initiative. Without seeking further funding to continue the initiative, there will be limited effective supports to build the governance and financial management capabilities of Pacific early learning services. This poses a significant threat to the sustainability and overall network of Pacific early learning services.

27. 9(2)(f)(iv)

Tautai o le Moana

Table 6: Funding breakdown for Tautai o le Moana

Component	\$m - increase/(decrease)				Total
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	
Tautai o le Moana	0.450	0.650	0.830	0.960	2.890

28. The term of the contract of delivery of the Tautai o le Moana programme is from January 2022 to December 2024. At the end of the FY 22/23 a total of \$1,420,000 has been allocated.
29. In 2023, 21 principals are undertaking the programme, with 22 principals completing the programme in 2022, in the following areas of delivery:
- Auckland – South, West, East and North Shore
 - Wellington – Porirua, Tawa, Levin
 - Christchurch – Rolleston, Ashburton, Hoon Hay

d. Dunedin – Brockville

30. Tautai o le Moana strengthens the cultural capability of the workforce by engaging school principals on a journey designed to improve outcomes for Pacific learners and their families. The programme actively seeks to strengthen the capabilities of those in leadership, to improve outcomes and support the wellbeing of Pacific learners. Facilitators work with principals to challenge unconscious bias, promote high impact culturally and linguistically sustainable practices, and to lead schools in which Pacific learners thrive.
31. Tautai o le Moana continues to contribute directly to the Action Plan for Pacific Education 2020-2030, key shift 3: '*Enable every teacher, leader, and educational professional to take coordinated action to become culturally competent with diverse Pacific learners*' to meet the Government Action to transforming outcomes for Pacific learners and families.
32. Tautai o le Moana is delivered over a minimum of 12 months, with participating principals involved in group meetings, a Tautai cluster and facilitated individual support. The support scales back over time as the programme becomes embedded within the Tautai cluster. The model focuses on five key aspects: language, culture and identity, surfacing and addressing bias, engagement with Pacific aiga and community, developing a school action plan and the personal journey of the Tautai through the Pacific Wayfinding Educational Leadership framework.
33. A risk to the continuation of the programme is that current funding will end in December 2024 and there is no baseline funding available to continue the programme. There is no other existing or targeted PLD funding for Pacific leadership in the schooling sector, so sustainability is dependent on future funding decisions.
34. Any further funding for Tautai o le Moana would revert to the main pool of the Ministry's centrally funded PLD funding. All PLD funding is based on successful applications and is time-limited, assurances for ongoing funding are not possible. This was raised with the New Zealand Pasifika Principals Association, in their role as providers of Tautai o le Moana, at your meeting on 30 June 2023 [METIS 1312214 refers].

Translations support

35. *Table 7: Funding breakdown for translations*

Component	\$m - increase/(decrease)				Total
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	
Translations	1.000	0.500	0.000	0.000	1.500

36. \$562,954.35 has been spent to support translations from internal business groups within the Ministry and externally with partners.
37. Examples of materials that were translated include:
 - EFKS (Congregational Church of Samoa) Reading Together A3 translation to Gagana Samoa
 - Early Learning Centres working at Red Traffic Light
 - Talanoa Ako App translations peer review in 5 Pacific languages
 - NCEA ma le Pasifika presentation to 10 Pacific languages (NZQA)

- Tautai o le Moana - Resources for families - Create and Design Dice Activity and Introduction Cards Resources (New Zealand Pacific Principals Association)
 - Mana of the Pacific - Print and Design (Massey University).
38. Key learnings from the Pacific translations work include:
- By working externally across the sector directly and through regional offices, there is a significant demand for translation and development of resources in Pacific languages.
 - Due to budget consideration, business units had not always explored translating into Pacific languages as part of their processes when engaging with Pacific communities.
 - The Parent, Information and Community Intelligence (PICI) group developed strong relationships with the Pacific Education Centre and Internal Affairs for translation and peer review of Pacific resources.
 - Further socialisation across the Ministry regarding the Pacific translation service was needed.
39. The PICI group submitted an IPET (expense transfer) of \$900k for 2021/22 to support the Pacific translations work, however funding was reprioritised to support other Ministry priorities.

Next Steps

40. Future processes for Budget 24 and beyond have not been set. 9(2)(f)(iv)

Proactive Release

41. It is recommended that this Briefing Note is proactively released, with any relevant information withheld in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.