



BRIEFING NOTE: Briefing and speaking points for visits to Favona and Māngere East Primary Schools

To:	Hon Aupito William Sio, Associate Minister of Education		
Cc:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
Date:	24 May 2021	Priority:	High
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1260389
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Messaging seen by Communications team:	Yes	Round Robin:	No

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this paper is to support your visits to Favona School and Māngere East Primary School on 25 and 26 May respectively.

These visits will be an opportunity to hear from teaching staff and students to gain a better understanding of how Pacific bilingual units operate on the ground.

Proactive Release

We recommend that you:

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


Jann Marshall
Associate Deputy Secretary
Sector Enablement and Support

24/5/2021


Hon Aupito William Sio
Associate Minister of Education

26/5/2021

Background

1. You requested visits to Pacific bilingual units during recess (25-26 May 2021) to engage with teaching staff and students to gain a better understanding of how Pacific bilingual units operate on the ground.

Māngere East Primary School

2. Māngere East Primary School has a Samoan Bilingual Unit which has been recognised by the community as providing responsive teaching to support dual language acquisition in South Auckland. The school has been involved in many initiatives to promote bilingual options.
3. Māngere East is involved in the *Measina Samoan Bilingual Innovation Project* led by Sutton Park School, alongside Robertson Road, Ōtāhuhu Primary and Richmond Road Schools. This project received 9(2)(i) from the Pacific Education Innovation Fund.
4. The *Measina Samoan Bilingual Innovation Project* will be used to:
 - facilitate and collaborate on the Project across the five participating schools;
 - provide digital resources for online teaching to Year 1-2 learners and potentially to Year 3-4 learners;
 - support 140 learners and families through the Samoan bilingual language classes and provide support for further learning opportunities;
 - provide six workshops for Samoa language teachers to Talanoa and Fa'afaletui to ensure that culturally appropriate procedures are followed to maintain the Va;
 - support the Bilingual network in Samoan language curriculum design and seek further opportunities.

Favona School

5. Favona School's Niuean and Tongan Language Units both started at the beginning of this year.
6. The establishment of the Niuean Language Unit at Favona School is a significant development because it is the first Niuean language unit in New Zealand in a primary school setting. The rest of the pathway for students who speak Vagahau Niue, from ECE (Early Childhood Education) through to high school has been in place, but primary learning has been the missing piece.
7. Favona School has strong support from the Niuean community.
 - Mele Nemaia, a staff member, is the Chairperson for Vagahau Niue Trust, which is one of the leading community providers of language and culture for Niueans living in New Zealand.
 - Maria Aka, the Chairperson for Favona School Board is the Treasurer of the Vagahau Niue Trust.
 - Vagahau Niue Trust runs a Talanoa Ako (PowerUp) 10 week parent education programme out of Favona School for the Niuean community.
8. Vagahau Niue Trust applied to the Pacific Education Innovation Fund to support the continuation of the Niuean Bilingual Unit at Favona School. In Round 1 of the Pacific Education Innovation Fund, the Trust received 9(2)(i) and Favona School received a small portion of that funding. Favona school has also applied for funding to expand provision up to Year 6 in Round 2.

9. Favona School has been a community hub for the Niuean community for a long time, including the use of school facilities for gatherings/ fono and celebrations.
10. The Tongan community has also asked for their children to learn in their Tongan language at school. The school started with two classes - one for Year 3 and 4 and the other for Year 5 and 6.
11. Tongan teachers at Favona School are receiving professional development by working closely with a group of Tongan Bilingual Teachers based at Sutton Park School.
12. Favona School has not reported having students enrolled in Level 1 or 2 Pacific language programmes. This will be required to receive the new operational funding. We will contact Favona School in June to make sure they provide the roll data needed to receive funding from 2022.
13. Favona School was identified as a potential Innovation Fund project for a Minister to visit [METIS 1259310 refers]. The school is currently organising an official opening celebration for their Niue Bilingual Unit some time in Term 2 (to be confirmed). The Education Gazette team visited Favona School on 18 May to prepare for a story on this project to be published in the 7 June edition.
14. Vagahau Niue Trust has applied to the Innovation Fund for Round 2, *Halavaka he Vagahau Niue (Vagahau Niue Pathway)*. The intent and overall vision remain the same as Round 1 and the second application is to enable work to continue to build their vision of a vibrant Vagahau Niue and build on the momentum generated with the Niue community and Vagahau Niue teachers.
15. We are currently undertaking the application assessment process with outcomes expected mid-June.

Funding arrangements of bilingual units

Funding arrangements prior to Budget 2021

16. Prior to Budget 2021, Pacific bilingual and immersion units in schools received no additional funding as part of their school operational grant to operate and deliver programmes, despite evidence of higher costs.
17. This is in contrast to te reo Māori bilingual and immersion programmes in schools. Schools offering te reo Māori language programmes at the current levels 1-4 of the language immersion level scale receive additional operational funding per student. This provides additional operational funding to support the design and delivery of programmes, including the production of resources.
18. Pacific bilingual and immersion units have had to provide programmes from within their general baseline funding and through locally raised funds.
19. Alongside no additional operating funding, there are also limited curriculum resources and professional learning and development (PLD). This underinvestment has put pressure on units that makes it hard to continue operating.
20. The Pacific Education Innovation Fund opened in 2020. This includes a specific Pacific bilingual and immersion funding stream to support the delivery of innovative practices in Pacific bilingual and immersion education. However, this funding is not expected to provide for the general operational delivery of established units, as additional operational funding would.

New funding arrangements

21. New investment has been secured through Budget 2021 to support Pacific bilingual and immersion units in schools. New funding from Budget 2021 will:
- Introduce a new component to the school Operational Grant to provide additional per-student funding for students enrolled at Levels 1 and Level 2 Immersion Level Programmes in Pacific languages from 2022.
 - Develop further curriculum resources to support teachers to teach in Pacific bilingual and immersion units.
22. Alongside this new funding, the Ministry of Education will continue to work with Pacific communities, educators and leaders to develop networked, peer-to-peer supports for PLD to grow capabilities for bi-lingual and immersion education in Pacific languages.
23. Additional operational grant funding for Pacific bilingual and immersion units will be available to schools from January 2022. Schools will be eligible for funding when they are reporting students enrolled in Level 1 and Level 2 Pacific language programmes in their Roll Returns.

Communicating changes to schools

24. Specific communications materials will be provided this week, targeting schools with known bilingual units. This will provide further technical information on the funding and how to access it. The expected timeframe of materials to be released is:

Product	Date released to schools
Website content	Thursday 27 May 2021
Letter and fact sheet	Friday 28 May 2021
School Bulletin	Tuesday 8 June 2021
Follow up as part of School Roll Return process	July TBC

25. Payments will be made from January 2022.

Your visits

26. Your visit to Favona School is scheduled for between 2 and 3pm on Tuesday 25 May. The school has asked you to speak for approximately 5-7 minutes. A runsheet for your visit to Favona School is provided below.

2pm	Welcome into the school. You will be met by Principal Diane Wiechern.
2.05	Welcome by Niue bilingual class
2.15	Your speech to the Niue bilingual class and teachers
2.20	Visit in Niue class
2.30	Welcome by Tongan bilingual classes
2.35	Your speech to the Tongan bilingual class and teachers
2.40	Visit in Tongan class
2.50	Cup of tea in staffroom
3pm	You depart.

27. Your visit to Māngere East Primary School, between 2 and 3pm on Wednesday 26 May, will start with a whakatu welcome, followed by a visit to classrooms and a discussion. The school has invited New Zealand Herald Education Reporter Dubby Henry (attendance is to be confirmed).
28. Speaking points are provided at Annex 1 (for Favona School) and Annex 2 (for Māngere East Primary School). Q&As about Budget 2021 are provided at Annex 3.

FAVONA SCHOOL (1273)

Contact Name: Favona School
09 275 8449
Wakefield Road, Favona, Auckland 2024

Key People:

Principal: Diane Wiechern
9(2)(a)

Board chairperson: Maria Aka
9(2)(a)

Ministry Official/s: Elizabeth Keresoma
Lead Advisor
9(2)(a)

Background information about Favona School

- 1 Favona School has strong, longstanding links to its local community underpinned by its vision of Rarangatia ngā rito akoranga (weave together the threads of learning) and lived values of aroha, manaakitanga, hauora and auaha.
- 2 The board and current principal have prioritised learning in students' first languages. One third of all students at the school have English as an additional language.
- 3 We recently met on site to interview staff and students in the Niuean Bilingual Unit about content for a potential story for the Education Gazette.
- 4 Te Wānanga o Aotearoa Māngere Campus supports the school with kapa haka and powhiri protocols.
- 5 All students have access to digital technologies.

Pacific Bilingual Units

- 6 Both the Niuean and Tongan Language Units started at the beginning of this year.
- 7 The establishment of the Niuean Language Unit at Favona School is the first Niuean language unit in New Zealand in a primary school setting, completing the education pathway for students who speak Vagahau Niue from ECE through to high school.
- 8 Favona School has strong support from the Niuean community.
 - o Mele Nemaia, a staff member, is the Chairperson for Vagahau Niue Trust. The Vagahau Niue Trust is one of the leading community providers of language and culture for Niueans living in New Zealand.
 - o Maria Aka, the Chairperson for Favona School Board of Trustees is the Treasurer of the Vagahau Niue Trust.
 - o The Vagahau Niue Trust runs a Talanoa Ako (PowerUp) 10 week parent education programme out of Favona School for the Niuean community.

- 9 Vagahau Niue Trust applied to the Pacific Education Innovation Fund to support the continuation of the Niuean Bilingual Unit at Favona School. In 2020, the Trust received 9(2)(i) of funding, and Favona School received a small portion of that funding.
- 10 The school has been a community hub for the Niuean community for a long time, including the use of school facilities for gatherings/ fono and celebrations.
- 11 The Tongan community has also asked for their children to learn in Tongan-medium classes at school. The school has started with two classes; one class is for Year 3 and 4 and the other for Year 5 and 6.
- 12 Tongan teachers are receiving professional development by working closely with a group of Tongan Bilingual Teachers based at Sutton Park School.

Profile Information

Authority	State
School Type	Contributing (Year 1-6)
School Gender	Co-Ed
Education Medium	English, Tongan, Niue
Decile	2
Electorate	Māngere

- 13 The July 2020 breakdown of roll information is shown below:

July 2020 Roll	Number	Percentage (%)
Māori	68	17.4
Pacific	291	74.4
Asian	15	3.8
Other	13	3.3
European/ Pākehā	4	1.0
International	0	0.0
Total	391	100

- 14 We are working with the new Special Education Needs Coordinator (SENCo) to enable effective provision for the Ongoing Resourcing Scheme (ORS) students at the school.
- 15 Favona School is holding Learning Conferences on 27 May to discuss students' learning and progress.
- 16 The school does not belong to a Kāhui Ako.

Impact of COVID-19

- 17 The school applied to the Urgent Response Fund (URF) to support students with attendance issues. The school was approved 9(2)(i) for three URF applications.
- 18 The three applications requested funding for:
- teacher aide and sensory resources to support students with attendance issues

- teachers to provide academic catch up, support staff, and resources to support 68 Niuean and Tongan Bilingual students who had been impacted by COVID
- a Basketball programme and a Kapa Haka mentoring programme for 40 Māori and Pacific students to re-engage in learning and improve their attendance.

Education Review Office

- 19 The school was last visited by the Education Review Office (ERO) in June 2019. ERO's overall evaluation judgement of Favona School's performance in achieving valued outcomes was well-placed. Strengths included:
- School leadership that was focused on improving outcomes for students.
 - Strategic direction and curriculum underpinned by the school's vision and values.
 - Commitment to building reciprocal learner-centred relationships.

Participation in government programmes

School Donations Scheme

- 20 The school opted into the School Donations Scheme for 2020 and 2021. They received 9(2)(i) in 2020 and are estimated to receive 9(2)(i) in 2021.

Ka Ora, Ka Ako | Healthy School Lunch Programme

- 21 Favona School began the programme in term one of 2021 and selected Eat My Lunch as its supplier.

Access to Period products

- 22 The school has not yet opted into the initiative. The initiative is available for any state and state-integrated primary, intermediate or secondary school or kura who wishes to opt in.

Learning Support Coordinators (LSC)

- 23 Favona School does not have a LSC as they do not belong to a Kāhui Ako.

Creatives in schools

- 24 Favona School did not apply for Round 1 or 2 Creatives in Schools projects.

Property

- 25 Favona School is generally in good condition, although there are potential weathertightness issues in the hall, Block D and Block E (all built in 1990s). We are considering next steps to address this.
- 26 A school-led admin block and classroom upgrade project was recently completed. The school is pleased with the significant assistance we provided to get this project completed. The school had been let down by its project manager and a contractor whose standard of work was well below requirements. We provided technical and additional financial support which has resulted in a very successful property outcome.

27

The school is planning to use its School Investment Package funding to convert the dental clinic into a community hub space, and to upgrade outdoor spaces and signage around the school.

Proactively Released