



Briefing Note: Update on Tu'u Mālohi | Standing Strong - Pacific Wellbeing programme pilot

To:	Hon Aupito William Sio, Associate Minister of Education		
Cc:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education Hon Jan Tinetti, Associate Minister of Education		
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Drafter:	Gabby Makisi	DDI:	9(2)(a)
Key Contact:	Rose Jamieson	DDI:	
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Purpose of Briefing

This briefing provides you with an update on the testing and evaluation of the *Tu'u Mālohi Wellbeing programme* for Pacific young people, and next steps.

Summary

- Tu'u Malohi was developed from the findings of the PowerUP to Talanoa Ako longitudinal evaluation 21016-2019 as found in *Talanoa Ako: Pacific talk about education and learning* (Fairbairn-Dunlop, 2021) and a pilot programme 2019-2021 *O A'u Lea*. Its design was guided by the policy direction of the *Action Plan for Pacific Education 2020-2030*.
- The programme supports the wellbeing of Pacific learners in Years 9 – 13, their parents, families, communities, and schools.
- Four key areas were identified as core components of Tu'u Malohi:
 - Pou 1 – **Pacific values as a source of resilience** – who we are
 - Pou 2 – **Identity, Language and culture** – migration narratives, where we come from, Pacific in the diaspora, owning our narratives
 - Pou 3 – **Career pathways and goal setting** – the ability to dream
 - Pou 4 – **Racism** – identifying, awareness and strategies to combat.
- Tu'u Mālohi is part of the Ministry of Education's *Action Plan for Pacific Education* with an emphasis on supporting Pacific learners and their parents and strengthen capability within the education sector '*...to confront systemic racism and discrimination in education...*' (Key Shift 2). Tu'u Mālohi aligns with the Ministry of Pacific Peoples *Lalaga Fou* priority goals, in particular Goal 4 "*Confident, thriving and resilient Pacific young people.*"



Proactive Release

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



Rose Jamieson
National Director
Parent Information & Community Intelligence
Te Pae Aronui
2/11/2022



Hon Aupito William Sio
Associate Minister of Education

22/12/22



Tu'u Mālohi Pilot Programme Implementation and Delivery

1. In February 2022, we briefed you on the Pacific Wellbeing pilot programme Tu'u Mālohi I Stand Strong [METIS: 1281434]. This briefing provided you with an update on how the programme was progressing and next steps.
2. The programme supports the wellbeing of Pacific learners in Years 9 – 13, their parents, families, communities, and schools. Tu'u Mālohi has four key areas referred to as the programme pou (Poles that keep up a fale), these are:
 - Pou 1 – **Pacific values as a source of resilience** – who we are
 - Pou 2 – **Identity, Language and culture** – migration narratives, where we come from, Pacific in the diaspora, owning our narratives
 - Pou 3 – **Career pathways and goal setting** – the ability to dream
 - Pou 4 – **Racism** – identifying, awareness and strategies to combat
3. Tu'u Mālohi was piloted in ten locations from April to October 2022. Seven providers, a mix of community organisations and experienced Professional and Learning Development (PLD) organisations from across Aotearoa New Zealand were contracted as a result of an RFP process to deliver the programme. Several of the Ministry's current Talanoa Ako programme partners also delivered the Tu'u Mālohi programme.
4. The pilot locations were in Auckland (4), Palmerston North (1), Wellington (1), Hutt Valley, (1) Blenheim (1) and Christchurch (2).
5. Over 450 Pacific learners, Pacific parents and educators participated in Tu'u Mālohi.
6. Tu'u Mālohi consists of eleven workshops. The first eight Tu'u Mālohi sessions were delivered from April to June 2022. The remaining three sessions, known as '*Talanoa Circles*' involve the Pacific learners who participated in the programme and the social services experts.
7. The purpose of the *Talanoa Circles* is to provide Pacific learners with opportunities to engage or check-in and for social services experts to provide any further support post-programme, if required. The *Talanoa Circles* sessions were held from July to October 2022.

Tu'u Mālohi Pilot Programme Initial Findings

8. Tu'u Mālohi is currently being evaluated by a Pacific-led evaluation company, Moana Connect. We will provide you with a copy of the evaluation report by the end of November 2022.
9. Preliminary observations and anecdotal participant voice supports the need for a programme such as Tu'u Mālohi. Pacific learners and parents endorse the programme as it creates a safe space for talanoaga | conversations about racism, uses Pacific values, identity and culture, and includes a focus on aspiring for a better future.



10. Some feedback from Pacific learner and parent voices who participated in Tu'u Malohi is outlined in Table 1.

Table 1.

<i>Pacific learner voices</i>	<p>"The support and encouragement that was given through the program was just what Pasifika students need to push them towards their future and their careers. I enjoyed listening to the stories of the leaders and many things that we could relate to, like racism, cultural obligations, conflict with family due to opposing ideas about our future careers and ideas"</p> <p>"We are the narrator of our own story, and we can change the stereotypes"</p> <p>"Safe space to be vulnerable and share experiences we face with racism"</p> <p>"Having a deeper knowledge of my ancestor's history... because it taught a lot about me a PI and it made me more confident of my identity"</p>
<i>Pacific parent voices</i>	<p>"How crucial and important the relationship, connection and understanding are between parents and their children. Parents being more aware and understanding of the current environment their kids are growing up in and for children to appreciate and understand the journey of their parents to support and nurture their upbringing"</p> <p>"Identifying, awareness and strategies to combat racism... definitions of key terms – e.g. racism, cultural bias, unconscious bias, discrimination"</p> <p>"I supported my child to attend Tu'u Malohi because it was a Pacific programme and I know it will be beneficial as it focuses on the well-being of a Pacific learner, it also aims to help my child fulfil their full potential"</p> <p>"This helped me to learn and strengthen my role as a parent in my children's education"</p>

11. Initial key findings also included:

- consideration for each location and community delivering the programme to be
 - as Pacific ethnic specific or pan-Pacific approach
 - age appropriate as needs differ across the Year 9 to 13 cohort that the programme cater to
 - gender-specific or co-ed designed.
- parent involvement is critical to ensure learnings from the programme is supported in the home, and parents receive advice and tools to continue conversations beyond the classroom and school settings
- the need for safe spaces where learners and parents can share their experiences



- Learners enjoyed learning about their cultural identities, historical migration stories, successful Pacific people's stories and being made aware of the different forms of racism
- Learners treasured the connections made with other learners, as well as the opportunities to grow, in terms of their self-identity, self-confidence and leadership skills
- Learners, parents, caregivers, educators and providers believe that Tu'u Mālohi is beneficial and impactful, and that it should continue to be run in Pacific communities to help improve the overall wellbeing of Pacific youth and communities in Aotearoa New Zealand.
- Some educators felt confident about addressing racism, but others felt unsafe in speaking out about racial biases in case there were negative repercussions from their employers.
- a call to strengthen the two sessions of the programme which worked in schools with staff to unpack racism. We are looking at developing a standalone programme of five sessions focused on racism in schools.

Contribution to Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy

12. We have also provided input into a paper titled '*Priority Action for Enhancing Child and Youth Mental Wellbeing*' led by the Ministry of Health 9(2)(f)(iv)

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Tu'u Mālohi (October 2022 to June 2023) Next Steps

14. The Ministry will use current funding to expand Tu'u Mālohi from ten to fifteen locations and deliver a separate *Racism in Schools* programme.
15. Tu'u Mālohi with Pacific learners and their parents will be delivered from November 2022 to July 2023.
16. The locations will be the current ten, South Auckland (3), East Tamaki (1), Christchurch (2) and one each in Palmerston North, Wellington Hutt Valley and Wellington Central and Blenheim. A further five locations will include one each in West Auckland, Wellington Porirua, Whangarei, Oamaru and Dunedin.



17. The *Racism in Schools* programme will be delivered as five sessions in six schools in Auckland. This is likely to be delivered by one provider.
18. The key objective of the *Racism in Schools* programme is to support educators (school leaders, teachers and school staff) to develop and deepen their knowledge of racism, as experienced by Pacific people. A key outcome of the programme is that educators' will have the ability to identify, address and respond to racism within their school and community.

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