



## Briefing Note: Pacific Languages Strategy and NZC refresh

<b>To:</b>	Hon Aupito William Sio, Associate Minister of Education		
<b>Date:</b>	19 October 2022	<b>Priority:</b>	High
<b>Security Level:</b>	In Confidence	<b>METIS No:</b>	1297438
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<b>Messaging seen by Communications team:</b>	Yes	<b>Round Robin:</b>	No

### Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to provide visibility about system curriculum changes and strengthening the place of Pacific languages in education in alignment with the Pacific Languages Strategy (PLS).

### Recommendations

- Note** how the Ministry is utilising the PLS to consider opportunities to strengthen the place of Pacific languages in the New Zealand Curriculum (NZC) refresh. **Noted**
- 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**

  
Pauline Cleaver  
Associate Deputy Secretary  
Te Poutāhū | Curriculum Centre

  
Hon Aupito William Sio  
Associate Minister of Education

19/10/2022

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## Background

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1. The *Update on the refresh of The New Zealand Curriculum Education Report* [METIS 1294869 refers] was tabled at Minister Hipkins' agency meeting on 3 October 2022.
2. Paragraph 22 of the Education Report refers to progress on refreshing the official languages statement from the current NZC. The intention was that this would be informed by the planned National Languages Strategy, but development of the strategy has been deferred [METIS 129183 refers] so further work on the languages statement is still needed.
3. The recently launched All of Government PLS is guiding work to strengthen the place of Pacific languages in education and specifically in the NZC refresh. This briefing provides you with visibility about how the Ministry is utilising the PLS to consider opportunities to strengthen the place of Pacific languages in support of the *Action Plan for Pacific Education* (APPE).

## New Zealand Curriculum Refresh

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4. The NZC (working title *Te Mātaiaho*) is being refreshed to make sure every child experiences success in their learning, and that their progress and achievement across the full educational pathway from Years 1-13, is responded to and celebrated.
5. Throughout the refresh of the NZC, we are partnering with Pacific peoples to ensure that all ākonga and their families feel safe, valued, and equipped to achieve their educational aspirations, guided by the APPE.
6. We are working with Curriculum Leads and other regional staff, who have existing relationships with groups who bring diverse Pacific perspectives. This will ensure we are developing a curriculum that is inclusive of all ākonga and provides supports that meet the needs of Pacific learners and their families.
7. We will work collaboratively with teachers to design local curriculum experiences that draw on the linguistic and cultural strengths of Pacific ākonga and align with the development of an inclusive refreshed NZC.
8. Pacific people are deeply involved in the design of each component of the NZC refresh. This helps to ensure that Pacific worldviews and values are integrated throughout the design of the refresh. Writers include:
  - a. Barbara Ala-alatoa, Principal Sylvia Park School
  - b. Phondy Siohane, Deputy Principal New Windsor School
  - c. Dr Rodie Hunter, Associate Professor Massey University
  - d. Josephina Ah Sam, Teaching Fellow University of Auckland
  - e. Marina McFarland, Teacher Auckland Girls' Grammar School
  - f. Natalie Faitala, Teacher Wesley College
  - g. Dr Rae Si'ilata, Academic Va'atele Consulting
  - h. Aiono Manu Fa'aea, Senior Pasifika Manager MIT
  - i. Dr Michelle Johansson, CEO Ako Mātātupu
  - j. Dr David Fa'avae, Lecturer University of Waikato
  - k. Saane Fa'afo-Oldehaver, New Zealand Pasifika Principals Association.

9. The PLS sets out the strategic direction for thriving Pacific languages in Aotearoa. The Strategy will be implemented by partnering with government agencies, including the Ministry of Education, through the PLS Government Action Plan.
10. The Ministry of Education (MoE) has worked closely with the Ministry for Pacific Peoples to support the development and design of the Strategy. Education has been identified as a significant component of Pacific language revitalisation and maintenance, and the focus on the status of Pacific languages in Aotearoa [Key Objective 1] and pathways to learn Pacific languages [Key Objective 2] will directly inform the refresh of the NZC.
11. The MoE curriculum team meets regularly with MPP officials to ensure alignment between the curriculum change programme and the PLS.

*Delivering curriculum actions as part of the Government Action Plan for the Pacific Languages Strategy*

12. You are due to receive advice from MPP on the Government Action Plan shortly. The following curriculum actions have been identified as contributing to the PLS and have been developed in collaboration with MPP to be included in the draft Government Action Plan for the Pacific Languages Strategy:
  - a. Refresh curriculum documents explicitly including place and value of Pacific languages in the curriculum.
  - b. Provide guidance on interpretation of NZC in Pacific bilingual contexts.
  - c. Develop resources, guidance, and tools to support literacy & communication learning for culturally and linguistically diverse ākonga.
13. The work to refresh the schooling curriculum documents is intended to make clear the place and value of Pacific languages in the official curriculum and will support Pacific languages to be heard, spoken and celebrated in classrooms and schools in Aotearoa.
14. We also expect to provide guidance for Pacific bilingual units on how to implement the refreshed NZC in the specific context of Pacific bilingual and immersion education. This will help strengthen pathways and resources for learning, and learning in, Pacific languages.
15. The resources, guidance and tools to support culturally and linguistically diverse ākonga will be informed by current initiatives that give prominence to biliteracy and bilingualism including the Pacific Early Literacy Project and Reo Moana (Pacific Bilingual and Immersion Education) PLD.

*Reflecting the intent of the PLS in Te Mātaiaho*

16. The Ministry is seeking feedback on the draft of Te Mātaiaho | the Curriculum Framework, and the draft English and Mathematics & Statistics learning areas between 28 September and 2 December 2022.
17. During the engagement period we are engaging with Pacific communities including Pacific Bilingual educators so that this feedback can be integrated into the final framework and content of Te Mātaiaho.
18. Specific components of Te Mātaiaho that will provide space to reflect the intent of the PLS are still under development. The section on Theories and Approaches will consider how the national curriculum gives prominence to Pacific ways of knowing. The statement that

will replace the current official languages statement will strengthen the place and value of Pacific languages in the curriculum. Feedback on these sections will be sought early in 2023.

19. The Learning Languages learning area of the NZC will be refreshed in 2024. This will be underpinned by key government priorities including those outlined in the APPE, the statement of National Education and Learning Priorities (NELP) and the PLS. This would include aligning with the new content on Pacific languages in education in the refreshed APPE [METIS 1291556 refers].
20. We are already strengthening the teaching and learning of Pacific languages in the Learning Languages learning area through the introduction of Gagana Tokelau and Vagahau Niue as NCEA subjects. We have begun planning for teaching and learning supports for these languages across the learning pathway that will support implementation.

#### Next Steps

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21. You are due to receive advice on Pacific languages in education as part of the refresh of the Action Plan for Pacific Education in October 2022.
22. Once the current round of engagement on Te Mātaiaho is complete, we expect to update you about changes that have been made to the content at the beginning of 2023.