



Education Report: Talking points on Pacific Education Budget 21 package for Ministerial discussions

To:	Hon Aupito William Sio, Associate Minister of Education		
Cc:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
Date:	12 March 2021	Priority:	High
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1253653
Key Contact:	Dr Andrea Schöllmann, Deputy Secretary, Education System Policy	DDI:	04 463 8097
Messaging seen by Communications team:	NA	Round Robin:	No

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this paper is to update you on the recommended prioritisation of the three Pacific education Budget 21 initiatives and provide you with talking points to support your upcoming Budget discussions.

Recommended Actions

The Ministry of Education recommends you:

a.

9(2)(g)(i)

b.

Agree / Disagree

- c. **Not release** the report at this time as Budget decisions have not been made.

Release/Not release



Dr Andrea Schöllmann
Deputy Secretary
Education System Policy

12/03/2021

Hon Aupito William Sio
Associate Minister of Education

___/___/___

Comment

1. You are progressing three specific Pacific education Budget 21 initiatives:
 - a. support for existing Pacific bilingual and immersion units (\$20.2m over four years)
 - b. build the cultural capability of teachers of Pacific learners through Tapasā, 9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

2. 9(2)(g)(i) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Next Steps

5. Talking points to support your upcoming discussions on the Pacific Education Budget 21 package are attached in Annex 1. These reflect the original order of prioritisation of the three initiatives.

Annexes

Annex 1: Talking Points for discussion re: Pacific education 2021 package

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There are some urgent priorities for Pacific learners and families in education that are not addressed in existing Education Budget commitments.

- My priorities for Budget 21 are in the following order:
 1. support for existing Pacific bilingual and immersion units (\$20.2m over four years)
 2. build the cultural capability of teachers of Pacific learners through Tapasā, 9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]

My top priority is to support the existing Pacific bilingual and immersion units.

- Providing a first injection of funding for Pacific bilingual and immersion units in schools is key to keep current units operating and to signal the Government's support of these being a valued pathway for Pacific learner success in the education system.
- 9(2)(g)(i) [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- We provide this kind of support for Māori Medium Education. It is important that we can do the same for Pacific learners and families.

My second priority is to make sure all teachers teaching Pacific learners are culturally competent.

- Tapasā Professional Learning and Development (PLD) is critical to enable the changes in teaching and leadership practices that are needed to counter the ongoing negative experiences felt by Pacific learners and families in education.
- 9(2)(g)(i) [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

- Not funding this bid will mean that teachers and leaders in early learning and schools will be burdened to making these changes themselves. This makes it unlikely that system-level changes in teaching practices for Pacific learners can be achieved by chance and individual goodwill alone.
- Deferring this bid until outyears will increase the ongoing negative impact of COVID-19 on Pacific families and further highlights the need for teacher and leader cultural competence development so that learners and families re-engage.

9(2)(f)(iv), 9(2)(g)(i)

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

I am confident that the funding from the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund (CRRF) for Pacific education will be fully utilised.

- The two most significant components of the CRRF funding are the Pacific Education Innovation and Support funds. **I expect these will be fully utilised, based on the experience of committing tranche 1 funding.**
- **90.7% of the \$5,198,000 Pacific Education Support Fund for 2020-2021 has been allocated by the 5 regions** to fund Pacific community providers and groups to assist Pacific students to attend and engage with education and training, and to support their wellbeing. \$485,770 is currently being reallocated to address extra needs arising from the most recent changes in Alert Levels in Auckland.
- **99.4% of the \$6m Pacific Education Innovation Fund for 2020-2021 has been allocated nationwide to support innovative practices for Pacific learners**, including in bilingual and immersion settings. The remaining 0.6% amounting to \$35,755 is currently being reallocated to specific regions which experienced an oversubscription to the bilingual and immersion fund, achieving a 100% final allocation of the \$6m.

- Funding agreements with providers for both funds are either in place and services being delivered; or, are in the final stages of negotiation, with all expected to be finalised by the end of March, and delivery to begin this school term. The process of negotiating and agreeing the funding agreements with providers gives the Ministry confidence that the allocated funding will be spent.
- As community awareness of the funds has grown during tranche 1, I expect a greater demand for future tranches of funding. Tranche 2 opened on 10 March 2021.