Education Sector-wide
Monitoring the Pasifika Education Plan

**What we are trying to achieve**

*Continue ongoing development and monitoring of the Pasifika Education Plan that is driven by robust evidence and linked to education sector and theme strategies.*

**Target**

Finalise a monitoring and evaluation framework.

**Why this is important**

Monitoring, evaluation and reporting tools are important for knowing whether the education system is delivering on the Plan’s goals and targets and to assist in early risk identification and developing mitigation strategies. In other words, a monitoring and evaluation framework is a critical tool for knowing what we are doing, and whether we are achieving the outcomes we want, and allowing us to reflect on outcomes and update or change them if necessary.

**How we are going**

The *Pasifika Education Plan 2006-2010* monitoring framework was completed during 2007. As the Plan is a population strategy that includes all sectors of education and has many different stakeholders, this first year has concentrated on developing a collaborative approach which includes engaging stakeholders, establishing roles and responsibilities, and collating data nationally and regionally on Pasifika student achievement and participation.

The first monitoring report was released in July 2007. This second and final report on the *Pasifika Education Plan 2006-2010* will be released during 2008. Future annual reports will be based on the stepped-up *Pasifika Education Plan 2008-2012.*
Information Availability

What we are trying to achieve

Improve the quality of information available to Pasifika parents, families and communities through a variety of media, with strong linkages across a number of communications strategies.

Target

Implement the Pasifika Communications Strategy in a timely and effective way – through publication of *Talanoa Ako: Pacific Education Talk*, web maintenance, radio programmes and strategic fono series.

Target

Increase the availability of Pasifika research evidence.

Why this is important

Parents and families need to make education decisions based on good information provided through media that is easy to access and understand. Similarly, decisions on teaching and learning by teachers and educators, education providers, and education agencies need to be informed by the most up-to-date evidence available.

For parents and families specifically, engaging in their children’s learning, and knowledge and ability to access resources to support learning, amongst other things, contributes to student achievement.

How we are going

The Pasifika Communications Strategy focuses on providing quality information to Pasifika communities to enable better understanding of the ministry’s work and better engagement in education.

Media includes:

- *Talanoa Ako: Pacific Education Talk* published three times each year;
- web work on the ministry’s websites;
- Pasifika radio programmes; and
- the strategic fono series held across the country.

The ministry has achieved some level of success in implementing the Pasifika Communications Strategy since its inception in 2002. In particular, the annual strategic fono series led by the Secretary for Education has become a fixture on many Pasifika community and education calendars. Likewise, the distribution of *Talanoa Ako: Pacific Education Talk* has steadily grown since its first issue in 1999. Where possible, radio programmes communicating key education messages have been broadcast across the country both in English and in Pasifika languages.

The challenge over the coming year will be to ensure this work accurately reflects and reaches a hugely diverse population grouping. This will include an evaluation of the effectiveness of work contributing to the Pasifika Communications Strategy.

Part of that evaluation will include:

- a survey of *Talanoa Ako: Pacific Education Talk*;
- annual strategic fono series report-back; and
- radio programme milestone reporting.
While communications issues such as the advance of new technologies impact broadly across New Zealand and globally, the Pasifika Communications Strategy will continue to cater to issues more specific to Pasifika communities. These include Pasifika languages education, adult literacy levels in English, and lower levels of internet access in the home compared with other households.

This year sees the ministry reflecting on six years of annual strategic fono across the country and evaluating the extent to which outcomes were achieved. This will help the ministry prepare for the next series of strategic fono in 2008.

The Pasifika Communications Strategy has made strong links across other ministry communications strategies such as Team-Up and Mission-On and will continue to be a vehicle to disseminate research and evidence on Pasifika student outcomes.

Where to find out more

www.educationcounts.govt.nz

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Networking

**What we are trying to achieve**

*Build and sustain the ministry’s capacity, capability and networks to effectively deliver on the Pasifika Education Plan.*

**Target**

Finalise Pasifika capacity/capability development plans.

**Target**

Further develop and strengthen Pasifika Advisory Group and regional reference groups.

**Why this is important**

Everyone in the ministry is responsible for Pasifika education and therefore needs an understanding of the issues, processes, methodologies and Pasifika peoples’ education aspirations to be able to plan and implement strategies that effectively deliver on the *Pasifika Education Plan.*

Strong and effective networks add value to the ministry’s work, help to build strong and effective bridges with Pasifika communities and keep everyone focused on achieving the goals and targets of the *Pasifika Education Plan.*

**How we are going**

*Pasifika capacity and capability development plans*

Pasifika Caucus – the Caucus is one of the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) networks within the ministry with membership open to all Pasifika staff. Caucus work includes assisting the ministry in achieving its business goals, strategic priorities, and the *Pasifika Education Plan,* and promoting and raising the profile of Pasifika education within staff members’ work areas.

The Caucus played an important role in initiating ‘Pasifika Day’ held in June each year. Pasifika Day in both 2006 and 2007 was a huge success and there was an increased Pasifika visibility across the ministry.

Developing capacity – work during 2007 continued to focus on increasing the ministry’s capacity and leadership to raise Pasifika achievement in the Northern region through the Auckland Strategic Action Plan. The work of the Pasifika Project Manager and Schooling Improvement team has contributed to achieving the goals of the Plan in the Auckland region. Further joint developments are being finalised within regional offices.

*Pasifika Advisory Group and regional reference groups*

The ministry facilitates the National Pasifika Advisory Group, which has ethnic, sector, and professional association representatives and meets twice a year nationally and once regionally. The group’s role is to assist the ministry in:

- developing strategies to address education issues for Pasifika communities;
- further developing and implementing the *Pasifika Education Plan,* and
- providing effective connections and feedback loops to Pasifika communities.

The Pasifika Advisory Group continues to play a key role in the ongoing development of the annual strategic fono series.
Alongside the Pasifika Advisory Group are Pasifika reference groups that advise their respective local offices across all four ministry regions. Looking ahead this year, the ministry will work with reference groups to strategise how to provide more effective communication channels with Pasifika parents and families.

Where to find out more

www.educationcounts.govt.nz

PUBLICATIONS

The Ministry of Education’s Pasifika Advisory Group
Special Education

**What we are trying to achieve**

*Increase access to and understanding of special education services and identify and develop effective practices that reflect Pasifika perspectives on special education.*

**Target**

Include appropriate measurements of special education support interventions for Pasifika students in the Student Support Outcomes Monitoring Scheme.

**Target**

Establish systems for analysing and reporting indicator measures for a range of special education interventions for Pasifika students.

**Target**

Develop a screening resource to assist educators to identify, clarify and respond to the special education needs of Pasifika learners.

**Why this is important**

Assessing the effectiveness of special education support for Pasifika students and their families continues to assist in identifying the impact of current interventions and increase the understanding of services within the ministry and Pasifika communities.

**How we are going**

*Early intervention and quality information*

Increasing Pasifika access to early intervention services has been a focus for the Northern and Central South regions since August 2007 and continuing into 2008; Pasifika early intervention referrals have increased from 4 percent to 5 percent in 2007. This will be stepped up in 2008 to 2009 with a greater focus in Auckland, increased collaboration with the ECE teams and the Ministry’s Pasifika Advisory Group, and strengthening relationships with key Pasifika providers. Gathering quality information and data on the numbers of Pasifika students accessing special education will also be a focus.

*Focus on Auckland*

The new Northern region Pasifika team, based in Auckland and managed by the Group Special Education national Pasifika manager, will play a critical role in achieving the Plan and developing the Auckland Strategy. A dedicated team of Pasifika Education Coordinators for the Northern region will provide excellent opportunities to engage with the various Pasifika communities in the Auckland area and grow their understanding of special education and the importance of early intervention.
Screening Tool – Better Information to Address Barriers to Learning (BITABL)

In 2007, the BITABL initiative provided better information and responses to address barriers to learning for children aged 0 to 8 years in early childhood education services and primary school. The Pasifika BITABL has been particularly successful in developing the Do You Know Me? resource.

A shift in focus will occur with the BITABL screening tool in 2008, with less of a focus on Pasifika. Future work will address the development of a new Pasifika screening tool that builds on the successes of the Pasifika BITABL tool.

Where to find out more

www.educationcounts.govt.nz

PUBLICATIONS

You and Your Child. An introduction to Special Education services for Pasifika families
Auckland Strategic Action Plan

What we are trying to achieve

Build and strengthen a significant strategic Pasifika focus on Auckland.

Target
Finalise the Auckland Strategic Action Plan.

Why this is important

Positive educational outcomes for Pasifika must be raised sharply, particularly in Auckland, where 72 percent of New Zealand’s Pasifika student population attend education services.

How we are going

The Auckland Strategic Action Plan is how the Pasifika Education Plan is realised in Auckland, working across all functional areas and with communities. This includes building a strong Pasifika team in Auckland with a focus on connecting educational activity across early childhood services, schools and tertiary providers, local communities and regional initiatives. This is about making sure that strategic priorities work really well on the ground. Features of an Auckland Pasifika Strategy include:

- a cohesive, whole-of-ministry approach;
- increased interagency collaboration and joint projects;
- a robust reporting and monitoring framework to report on progress;
- effective utilisation of data and research to inform; and
- focused community engagement initiatives.

The Auckland Pasifika Strategy will be made available late in 2008.

Priority has been given to increasing internal ministry capacity in the regional office to effect the stepped-up changes required across the region. The Auckland team is in place working across Early Childhood, Regional Education and Special Education. This is a significant first step, with the team currently making sure the actions around Pasifika are realised in the region.
Pasifika Language Curriculum

What we are trying to achieve

*Increase opportunities for building strong Pasifika language foundations through Pasifika language curriculum and resource development.*

**Target**
Finalise the development of Niuean, Tongan and Tokelauan curriculum guidelines for release during 2006.

Why this is important

Investing in Pasifika languages offers a way to strengthen productive partnerships between education providers and the multiple worlds Pasifika children and young people move in. International research shows there are benefits for learners who achieve competency in two languages. Where one of these languages is an ancestral language, learners benefit from a stronger sense of self and cultural identity with an enhanced capacity to operate in multiple cultural contexts.

Pasifika communities have also expressed, in many forums, their desire to retain and foster their languages in New Zealand. Although this is not the sole domain of education, there are various ways that education can contribute.

How we are going

The *Vagahau Niue in the New Zealand Curriculum* and the *Tongan in the New Zealand Curriculum* guidelines were launched in 2007. A review of the Samoan language curriculum is currently underway with a completion date late in 2008. *Tokelau in the New Zealand Curriculum* is expected to be finalised for release in 2008.

The Cook Islands Māori Learning Language Series (LLS) materials have been developed with an expected launch date during 2008. Development of LLS materials for Samoan is underway with an expected completion date in 2008.

The ministry also publishes the following resources to support Pasifika languages:

- the *Tupu Series* – books in Samoan, Tongan, Niuean, Cook Islands Māori, Tokelauan and English;
- *Folaga* – a Samoan journal for years 1 to 8 students that supports the achievement objectives of *Samoan in the New Zealand Curriculum* for all levels;
- *Folaga Ua Loa* – a magazine for years 9 to 13 students that will engage students with high-interest reading material to support literacy in Samoan; and
- *Pacific Song Series* – five song books and CDs in Samoan, Tongan, Niuean, Cook Islands Māori and Tokelauan.
Other initiatives supporting Pasifika languages:

- **Language Enhancing Achievement for Pasifika (LEAP) project**
  - LEAP aims to help teachers at all school levels to enhance the academic achievement of their bilingual Pasifika students and improve their educational experiences. The resource brings together all the factors that research has shown can support bilingual Pasifika students’ learning, especially those that relate to Pasifika languages and English; and

- **Achievement Through Pasifika Languages (ATPL) initiative**
  - The aim of ATPL is to support strong Pasifika language foundations outside of formal schooling. Three centres are operating in Auckland (Samoan and Niuean) and Christchurch (Tongan) and focus on students in years 1 to 4. Running after school, these centres offer language activities supported by communities and schools.

**Where to find out more**

www.educationcounts.govt.nz

**PUBLICATIONS**

- Tai’ala mo le Gagana Samoa: Samoan in the New Zealand Curriculum
- Cook Islands Māori in the New Zealand Curriculum
- Vagahau Niue in the New Zealand Curriculum
- Tongan in the New Zealand Curriculum
- Programmes for Teaching Pacific Islands Languages
- Tupu Series, Folauga and Folauga Ua Loa (Learning Media)
Whole-of-government Approach and the Pacific Region

What we are trying to achieve

Strengthen relationships with external agencies for closer, whole-of-government collaboration on education within New Zealand and across the Pacific region.

Target
Increase links between the Plan and other government strategies.

Target
Finalise a strategic framework for responding across the Pacific region.

Why this is important

To date, there are nine Pasifika strategies across government. Approaches that are linked across different education sectors and across wider government improve efficiency and effectiveness and minimise duplication. For Pasifika families and communities this means being able to benefit from services that are more streamlined and that have been developed from a client perspective.

New Zealand has historical relationships across the Pacific region that guide the way the ministry works with its counterparts in Pacific countries. In recent years there has been an increase in requests for joint projects from Pacific countries for educational services and/or resources from New Zealand. Working more strategically to respond to these requests means that Pasifika students in both New Zealand and Pacific countries benefit from the best quality education provision.

How we are going

Links between the Plan and other government strategies

The ministry continues to work closely and proactively with agencies that serve Pasifika communities.

The ministry has a protocol agreement with the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs to support close and effective working relationships between the two agencies. The protocol articulates a ‘no surprises’ approach which allows each agency to be involved in the early design phases of each other’s work. The following are mechanisms the ministry uses to align with other education and Pasifika strategies across government:

- membership and attendance at the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs Chief Executives’ and Senior Officials’ groups;
- education agency membership on the Pasifika Advisory Group; and
- information sharing and dissemination through the Pasifika Communications Strategy.
The focus continued in 2007 to be on re-establishing regular policy discussion groups across agencies focused on education issues.

The *Plan* has strong links to education agencies and sector strategies across early childhood, compulsory and tertiary education and other agency-driven strategies including the Pacific Economic Action Plan and the Pacific Women’s Action Plan (Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs); Family Violence (Taskforce for Action on Violence within Families); the Disability Strategy (Office for Disability Issues); and the Pacific Health Strategy (Ministry of Health).

**Strategic framework for responding across the Pacific region**

The ministry is currently working on joint projects with Pacific countries through the Treaty of Friendship with Samoa, a Memorandum of Understanding with Tokelau, and a Memorandum of Understanding with Niue. Work across the region also includes the development of Pasifika languages curricula.

The ministry was part of consultations by the Pacific Forum Secretariat in developing the Pacific Plan for the region. The ministry has supported all Forum Education Ministers’ Meetings (FEdMM) since the inaugural meeting in Auckland in 2001. At this meeting Ministers approved a Forum Basic Education Action Plan (FBEAP) for the region and its progress is reported on at their annual meeting. The ministry hosted the 2007 meeting in Auckland.

The ministry’s work programme for the year will continue to develop a strategic framework for responding across the Pacific region. An initial scoping paper was done during 2006 and this will be further progressed before the end of 2008.