

MEDIA RELEASE

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GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUNG PACIFIC HIGH ACHIEVERS

A PAID internship at world-renowned WETA Workshops, tuition fees at Auckland University or an overseas trip are still up for grabs for three outstanding young Pacific people – but they need to act fast as time to apply is nearly up.

The offers are open to winners of the inaugural Prime Minister's Pacific Youth Awards, announced last month and open for nominations until 11 October. The awards are being administered by the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs, although selection is by an independent panel.

"We've already had some very high-quality nominations," Ministry chief executive Dr Colin Tukuitonga said today.

"But we know that there are many more fabulous young leaders out there in our Pacific communities – we would really like to see as many of them as possible take advantage of this opportunity."

"We know that the New Zealand of the future will have a greater proportion of Pacific people. To play our part as best we can we need good leadership. These awards will both recognise existing leadership potential, and encourage more."

The awards are in three categories: *Creativity*, sponsored by WETA Workshops, *Inspiration*, sponsored by globally successful software company COGITA and *Leadership*, sponsored by top tertiary institution the University of Auckland.

Nominees need to be 17-24, of Pacific descent with New Zealand residency, and able to demonstrate community involvement, integrity, and success in one of the three award categories. The closing date for nominations is 11 October, and winners will be announced 19 November.

All information, including entry forms and details of the awards, can be found at www.pacificyouthawards.org.nz

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For more information contact:

Janine Gray

Senior communications advisor

Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs

Tel: 04 471 8246 / 021 410 372

AUCKLAND
LEVEL 2 | 22 AMERSHAM WAY
PO BOX 97005 MANUKAU CITY
SOUTH AUCKLAND MAIL CENTRE 2240
PHONE 09 262 1513 | FAX 09 262 1518

WELLINGTON | HEAD OFFICE
LEVEL 2 | ASB HOUSE
101 – 103 THE TERRACE
PO BOX 833 WELLINGTON 6140
PHONE 04 473 4301 | FAX 04 473 4301

CHRISTCHURCH
Level 1 | 224 Cashel St
PO BOX 3740 CHRISTCHURCH 8140
PHONE 03 366 7202 | FAX 03 366 7218