



**MINISTRY OF PACIFIC ISLAND AFFAIRS**  
*Social and economic prosperity for Pacific peoples*

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**11 July 2008**

**A new direction for the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs**

A REFOCUSSED and recharged Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs is firmly on track to become the sort of agency which the Government, key stakeholders and its own staff want to see.

Chief executive Dr Colin Tukuitonga says a year into the job he's confident the Ministry is in good shape to tackle some of the challenges ahead.

"One of the first things we did when I took up this role was to commission extensive feedback on perceptions of our strengths and weaknesses from a wide range of people," he said.

"We sought feedback from other Government agencies, from Pacific communities, our own staff, from Pacific academics, church leaders and others.

"We will be deepening rather than broadening our focus, concentrating on the 'vital few' issues that will deliver the greatest gains for Pacific communities.

"Chief amongst them are education and skills development, key pathways as we seek greater economic participation and independence.

"Our Statement of Intent for the next three years shows that we have listened, and we are responding," said Dr Tukuitonga.

The Ministry had reorganized to reflect two key roles: policy, and communications.

He said the Ministry had also strengthened its evidence and information capability, to enhance its ability to provide evidence-based best practice advice and direction.

Dr Tukuitonga said the past year had been tough for Ministry staff with the uncertainty associated with the process.

"I would like to thank our staff for their acceptance of the need for change, for their willing contribution to the process and for the goodwill which sees them continue to work with us for the success of Pacific peoples."

**ENDS**

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## **MINISTRY OF PACIFIC ISLAND AFFAIRS**

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### **“Forging a Path”**

#### **Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs Series of Community Meetings**

The Ministry will be holding a series of community meetings in the month of July as a follow-up from the media conference.

The purpose of these meetings is to communicate information about the changes that are in place at the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs to Pacific communities, central and local government workers in the Auckland, Christchurch and Wellington regions.

16 July	Media Conference 10-11am	Hotel Grand Chancellor Cnr. Kirkbride & Ascot Roads Mangere Auckland
16 July	Coffee at MPIA Local and central government officials 2pm -3:30pm	Hotel Grand Chancellor Cnr. Kirkbride & Ascot Roads Mangere Auckland
16 July	South Auckland Community Meeting 6-8pm	Hotel Grand Chancellor Cnr. Kirkbride & Ascot Roads Mangere Auckland
17 July	West Auckland Community Meeting 6-8pm	The Trust Stadium 65-67 Central Park Drive Waitakere City Auckland
23 July	Coffee at MPIA Local and central government officials 2pm -3:30pm	MPIA Christchurch Office Unit 6, Armagh Court 78 Armagh Street Christchurch
23 July	Christchurch Community Meeting 5:30-7:30pm	Latimer Square Hotel 30 Latimer Square Christchurch
24 July	Wellington Community Meeting 6-8pm	Te Akapuanga Hall 14 Mentor Lane Cannons Creek Porirua

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