

14 February 2025

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Noa'ia s9(2)(a)

RESPONSE TO AN OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST (REF: DOIA032-2024/25)

On 17 January 2025, you contacted the Ministry for Pacific Peoples (the Ministry) requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), information relating to the Indo-Fijian ethnic group. I have outlined your specific request and my response below.

"I want to have all the email and discussion notes which talk about including or excluding "Indo-Fijian" under pacific groups.

The indo-fijians were brought to fiji and served the indigenous fiji and british. They were suppressed more than indigenous fiji. Then why is NZ creating another stigma for them.

"Why is NZ government Ministry of Pacific People and groups like Amotai discriminate them and their pacific status?"

The Ministry does not work to include or exclude Indo-Fijian people from Pacific groups. The Ministry operates on the basis that it is mandated to support indigenous Pacific communities that are outlined in the [Stats NZ's ethnicity standard classification](#). This implied mandate is confirmed by the exclusion of Pacific peoples from the Ministry for Ethnic Communities express mandate.

I am refusing part of your request, specifically for email and discussion notes relating to the Indo-Fijian group under section 18(f) of the OIA. Providing this information would require substantial collation or research, including reviewing a large volume of correspondence, which would unreasonably interfere with our operations.

According to Stats NZ, the 'Fiji Indian' ethnic group is currently classified under 'Asian,' in the subcategory 'Indian', along with other diasporic Indian ethnic groups. The current classification of Fiji Indians is in line with an ethnographic profile that includes people with a common language, customs and traditions, as opposed to ancestry, nationality or citizenship.

In line with standard OIA practice, the Ministry proactively publishes some of its responses to OIA requests. As such, this letter may be published on the Ministry for Pacific Peoples' website.

Your personal details will be removed, and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you or your organisation.

Should you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact the Ministry at: oia_requests@mpp.govt.nz.

If you are dissatisfied with this response, you have the right, under section 28(3) of the OIA, to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Faiākse'ea



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