

5 June 2026

s9(2)(a)

Tālofa lava s9(2)(a)

RESPONSE TO AN OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST (REF: DOIA043-2025/26)

On 30 April 2026, you contacted the Ministry for Pacific Peoples (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), information relating to documents, correspondence, and analysis on the impacts of Budget 2025 funding cuts on the Ministry for Pacific Peoples and Pacific communities. I have outlined your specific request and my response below.

RNZ Pacific is requesting the following information under the Official Information Act:

1. *Any and all documents* or correspondence sent to and received by the Minister for Pacific People's regarding the projected impacts from cuts to the Ministry of Pacific Peoples and its programmes as part of Budget 2025.*
2. *Any analysis by the Ministry for Pacific People's regarding the impacts to Pacific communities in the country from the cuts to the Ministry and its programmes as part of Budget 2025.*

In response to question 1, I have appended to this letter the relevant documents and correspondence sent to and received by the Minister for Pacific Peoples. These are itemised in **Appendix A – documents 1, 2 & 4**. However, we are withholding in full **document 3** titled '*Letter from Honourable Nicola Willis to Honourable Dr Shane Reti*' under section 18(d) of the OIA, as the information requested is publicly available.

In response to question 2, I have appended to this letter the relevant document. This is itemised in **Appendix A – document 6**.

With regard to documents 1 & 2, some information has been withheld under the OIA, pursuant to section 9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons.

Auckland

9 Ronwood Ave, Manukau
PO Box 97005,
South Auckland Mail Centre 2240
P: 09 265 3200

Wellington National Office

Level 7, 1 Bowen House
Wellington, 6011
PO Box 833, Wellington 6143
P: 04 473 4493

Christchurch

Level 1, BNZ Centre
120 Hereford St
Private Bag 4741,
Christchurch 8011

With regard to document 5, this has been withheld in full under the OIA, pursuant to section 9(2)(g)(i) to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty.

I am satisfied that there are no other public interest considerations that render it desirable to make the information withheld under section 9 of the OIA available.

In line with standard OIA practice, the Ministry proactively publishes some 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: ويا_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.

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Danilo Coelho de Almeida
Acting Deputy Secretary
Commissioning & Partnerships

Appendix A – Supporting documents

#	TITLE	DATE	DECISION ON RELEASE
1	Briefing – 2024/25 Supplementary Estimates and 2025/26 Estimates for Vote Pacific Peoples	9 April 2025	Some information has been withheld under the OIA, pursuant to section 9(2)(a).
2	Memo – Budget Breakfast events and communication	9 May 2025	Some information has been withheld under the OIA, pursuant to section 9(2)(a).
3	Letter from Honourable Nicola Willis to Honourable Dr Shane Reti	18 November 2024	Refused in full under the OIA, pursuant to section 18(d) as it is publicly available. Click here .
4	Letter from Honourable Dr Shane Reti to Honourable Nicola Willis	9 December 2024	Released in full.
5	Minister for Pacific Peoples Hearing Information Pack – Vote Pacific Peoples Estimates Examination 2025/26	June 2025	Withheld in full under the OIA, pursuant to section 9(2)(g)(i).
6	Budget 25 back-pocket information – Toloa, Pacific economic development, and Pacific Financial Capability programmes	May 2025	Released in full.

BriefingReference: **B027-2024/25**Security level: **Budget Sensitive****2024/25 Supplementary Estimates and 2025/26 Estimates for Vote Pacific Peoples**

Date	9 APRIL 2025	For	Approval
To	Hon Dr Shane Reti, Minister for Pacific Peoples		

Ministry contacts

NAME	POSITION	TELEPHONE	1 ST CONTACT
Danilo Coelho de Almeida	Deputy Secretary, Corporate Services	s9(2)(a)	✓
Lu Avia	Chief Advisor to the Secretary		

Purpose

- The purpose of this briefing is to provide you with letters relating to the 2024/25 Supplementary Estimates and 2025/26 Estimates for Vote Pacific Peoples that are due to be submitted to the Minister of Finance no later than Tuesday 15 April 2025.

Recommendations

- It is recommended that you:
 - Note** that as part of the standard Budget and Economic Fiscal Update process Ministers with Vote responsibilities must submit Supplementary Estimates and Estimates documents to the Minister of Finance. **NOTED**
 - Note** the letter to you from the Secretary for Pacific Peoples advising that the 2024/25 Supplementary Estimates and 2025/26 Estimates documents are fit for publication (attached as *Appendix 1*). **NOTED**
 - Sign** the letters to the Minister of Finance seeking confirmation that the 2024/25 Supplementary Estimates and 2025/26 Estimates documents are fit for publication (attached as *Appendices 2 and 3*). **SIGNED**
 - Note** the 2024/25 Supplementary Estimates and 2025/26 Estimates documents for Vote Pacific Peoples are being finalised and will be provided to you on 11 April 2025. **NOTED**


 Danilo Coelho de Almeida
 Deputy Secretary, Corporate & Support Services
 Date: 9 April 2025


 Hon Dr Shane Reti
 Minister for Pacific Peoples
 Date: 9/4/2025

The Ministry has confirmed Budget 2025 documents

3. On 9 April 2025, the Minister of Finance wrote to you confirming Budget 2025 decisions for the Ministry for Pacific Peoples (the Ministry). Subsequently, the Ministry has been working with Treasury to confirm information relating to the 2025 Budget and Economic Fiscal Update (BEFU).
4. The 2024/25 Supplementary Estimates and 2025/26 Estimates documents are now due to the Minister of Finance no later than Tuesday 15 June 2025.
5. The BEFU process dictates the Ministry must advise you, in writing, that the estimate documents are fit for publication. You must also formally seek confirmation from the Minister of Finance that the documents are fit for publication no later than Tuesday 15 April 2025.
6. To attend to these budget requirements, the following documents are attached for your consideration:
 - a. *Appendix 1* – Letter from the Secretary for Pacific Peoples advising that the 2024/25 Supplementary Estimates and 2025/26 Estimates are fit for publication
 - b. *Appendix 2* – Letter to the Minister of Finance seeking their confirmation that the 2024/25 Supplementary Estimates are fit for publication
 - c. *Appendix 3* – Letter to the Minister of Finance seeking their confirmation that the 2025/26 Estimates are fit for publication
7. The Minister of Finance wrote to you on 9 April 2025 to provide the final Cabinet proposals for Budget 2025. This means that the 2024/25 Supplementary Estimates and 2025/26 Estimates documents are currently being finalised by officials and will be provided to you on Friday 11 April 2025. The final proposals are outlined in the section below.

The Ministry is returning savings to the Crown

8. The 2025/26 Estimates document includes the return of permanent baseline savings for Vote Pacific Peoples of \$9.2 million per annum on average over the four-year forecast period, achieved through realising the following efficiencies:
 - a. \$5.5 million by scaling down the Tupu Aotearoa programme;
 - b. \$3.5 million by closing the Tauola Business Fund; and
 - c. \$0.2 million by returning partial funding from the Dawn Raids work programme.
9. There are no appropriation changes for the 2024/25 Supplementary Estimates.
10. Note that Treasury advised the Minister of Finance to seek additional savings from the Toloa Scholarships (\$0.6 million), the Pacific Financial Capability Programme (\$1.54 million), and the Pacific Business Village (\$2.84 million).
11. Following advice from the Ministry and your office the Minister of Finance has declined to seek these additional savings. This means the programmes will continue to deliver on Government priorities.
12. The Minister of Finance's 9 April 2025 letter to you includes proposal that funding associated with the *Adequately Resourcing Māori Wardens, Pasifika Wardens, and the Māori Women's Welfare League* initiative would be transferred to the Ministry. If agreed, the proposal would result in additional funding of \$0.250 million annually for Vote Pacific Peoples. This funding



would be ring-fenced for the Pasifika Wardens. Further work from officials is required to understand the full impact of these proposals and the Ministry will keep you updated.

Next steps

13. The 2024/25 Supplementary Estimates and 2025/26 Estimates documents will be provided to you on Friday 11 April 2025.
14. These documents, alongside the letters seeking confirmation they are fit for publication as part of Budget 2025, are due to the Minister of Finance no later than Tuesday 15 April 2025.

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Appendix 1 – Letter from the Secretary for Pacific Peoples advising that the 2024/25 Supplementary Estimates and 2025/26 Estimates are for fit for publication

Attached separately.

Appendix 2 – Letter to the Minister of Finance seeking their confirmation that the 2024/25 Supplementary Estimates are fit for publication

Attached separately.

Appendix 3 – Letter to the Minister of Finance seeking their confirmation that the 2025/26 Estimates are fit for publication

Attached separately.

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982





9 April 2025

Hon Dr Shane Reti
Minister for Pacific Peoples
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Minister

**2025/26 Estimates and 2024-25 Supplementary Estimates Documents
for Vote Pacific Peoples**

Action Required

Attached, for your approval are:

- the documentation for the 2025/26 Estimates and Supporting Information for Vote Pacific Peoples,
- the documentation for the 2024/25 Supplementary Estimates and Supporting Information for Vote Pacific Peoples, and
- a draft letter to the Minister of Finance.

Background

The Budget 2024 process requires that:

- the Estimates documentation for Vote Pacific Peoples is completed by 15 April 2025, and
- as the appropriation Minister for all of the appropriations in the Vote, you confirm to the Minister of Finance that this material is correct and, in a form, suitable for publication.

The Estimates and Supporting Information Documents

I confirm that the information provided for your approval:

- is consistent with the policies and performance expectations of the government, and has been prepared in accordance with the Public Finance Act 1989
- is consistent with the proposed appropriations to be set out in the Appropriation (2025/26 Estimates) Bill, as entered by the Ministry for Pacific Peoples into the Treasury's CFISnet system
- is consistent with existing appropriations, financial authorities, and Cabinet decisions up to 15 April 2025

- has been prepared in the required format, and in accordance with the guidance that has been issued by the Treasury
- has been appropriately reviewed by the Ministry for Pacific Peoples' senior management team – with a particular focus on areas where new strategic information, such as statements about what an appropriation is intended to achieve, is now required, and
- has been through an appropriate quality assurance process and is free of material errors and omissions.

The Budget process requires that you review the Estimates documentation, and then confirm to the Minister of Finance that it is fit for publication.

Recommendation

I recommend that you **sign** the attached letter to the Minister of Finance.

Yours sincerely



Gerardine Clifford-Lidstone
Chief Executive

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9 April 2025

Hon Nicola Willis
Minister of Finance
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Minister

2024/25 Supplementary Estimates: Ministerial Sign-off for Vote Pacific Peoples

I advise that the *Supplementary Estimates of Appropriations 2024/25 and Supporting Information* documents for Vote Pacific Peoples, for which the Ministry for Pacific Peoples is the administering department, have been completed – and that it is accurate and suitable for publication. I confirm that the information provided:

- is consistent with the policies and performance expectations of the government, and has been prepared in accordance with the Public Finance Act 1989
- is consistent with the proposed appropriations to be set out in the Appropriation (2024/25 Supplementary Estimates) Bill, existing appropriations and financial authorities, and with Cabinet decisions up to 22 April 2025
- is provided in the required format, and has been prepared in accordance with the guidance that has been issued by the Treasury, and
- has been through an appropriate quality assurance process and is free of material errors and omissions.

In signing this statement, I acknowledge that I am responsible for the information for Vote Pacific Peoples administered by the Ministry for Pacific Peoples included in the *Supplementary Estimates of Appropriations 2024/25 and Supporting Information*.

Yours sincerely

Hon Dr Shane Reti
Minister for Pacific Peoples

Hon Dr Shane Reti

Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology
Minister for Universities
Minister of Statistics
Minister for Pacific Peoples



9 April 2025

Hon Nicola Willis
Minister of Finance
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Minister

2025/26 Estimates: Ministerial Sign-off for Vote Pacific Peoples

I advise that the *Estimates of Appropriations 2025/26 and Supporting Information* documents for Vote Pacific Peoples, for which the Ministry for Pacific Peoples is the administering department, have been completed – and that it is accurate and suitable for publication. I confirm that the information provided:

- is consistent with the policies and performance expectations of the government, and has been prepared in accordance with the Public Finance Act 1989
- is consistent with the proposed appropriations to be set out in the Appropriation (2025/26 Estimates) Bill, existing appropriations and financial authorities, and with Cabinet decisions up to 15 April 2025
- is provided in the required format, and has been prepared in accordance with the guidance that has been issued by the Treasury, and
- has been through an appropriate quality assurance process and is free of material errors and omissions.

In signing this statement, I acknowledge that I am responsible for the information for Vote Pacific Peoples administered by the Ministry for Pacific Peoples included in the *Estimates of Appropriations 2025/26 and Supporting Information*.

Yours sincerely

Hon Dr Shane Reti
Minister for Pacific Peoples

IN CONFIDENCE

Memo

Reference: **MM026-2024/25**

Security level: **In-confidence**

Budget Breakfast events and communication

Date	9 MAY 2025
To	Hon Dr Shane Reti, Minister for Pacific Peoples
From	Danilo Coelho de Almeida, Deputy Secretary – Corporate and Support Services

Purpose

1. This memorandum provides advice and context on the Ministry for Pacific Peoples' involvement in Budget-related communication activities, including Budget Breakfast events.

Background

2. Since 2019, the Ministry hosted Budget Breakfast events in key urban centres to communicate the Government's Budget, and Pacific-specific investments, to community leaders and stakeholders. Events were initially held in Auckland and Wellington, and expanded in 2022 to include Christchurch, and 2023 to include Hawke's Bay, primarily due to the weather events in this region and increased need to engage with Pacific communities here. These events were designed to provide visibility and information of the Government's Budget and its implications for communities, specifically new funding across multiple Votes, including Vote Pacific Peoples.
3. However, the events attracted criticism in 2023, related to the cost associated with the events and neutrality of the Ministry's involvement. In 2024, no Budget Breakfasts were held. Instead, summary information was communicated through the Ministry's website, email newsletters, and direct stakeholder outreach.

Budget 2025 Context

4. Budget 2025 reflects a reduction in Vote Pacific Peoples funding, with limited new investments. This includes a combined \$9.2 million reduction across Tupu Aotearoa, the Tauola Business Fund, and the Dawn Raids apology-related initiatives. These reductions are likely to attract concern from providers, businesses, and communities who view the funding as critical to achieving Pacific wellbeing outcomes.

5. Funding for the sole new initiative - \$250,000 per annum for Pacific wardens, was led by Te Puni Kōkiri but fund and commission will be done by the Ministry.

The Ministry has established communication channels

6. Given the fiscal constraints and anticipated community response, the Ministry does not recommend hosting Budget Breakfast events in 2025.
7. The Ministry will support the Government's Budget announcements by disseminating information through its established communication channels, including the Ministry's website, stakeholder newsletters, and responding to queries from the community. A communications plan is being developed to ensure consistent and timely messaging.
8. In addition, targeted engagements will be undertaken with stakeholders from affected programmes outlining the rationale for funding changes and providing clarity on the next steps.
9. Work is also underway with your office on an opportunity to announce the new Pacific Warden's funding which may help reinforce visibility and alignment with broader Māori and Pacific outcomes.

Next Steps

10. Budget 2025 communications and post-Budget engagement will remain a standing item at the Minister's weekly officials' meeting through to the end of June 2025. The Ministry will provide updates on the implementation of the Communications Plan and feedback from key stakeholders.

Ministry contact: Danilo Coelho de Almeida, Deputy Secretary – Corporate and Support Services, s9(2)(a)





Document 4

09 DEC 2024

Hon Nicola Willis
Minister of Finance
Parliament Buildings

Dear Nicola,

Savings for the Pacific Peoples portfolio

Thank you for your letter of 18 November 2024 regarding savings for the Pacific Peoples portfolio.

I acknowledge that Budget is taking place in a tight fiscal environment, but I would like to raise a few potential risks that I have asked my officials to consider as they explore savings options.

In my engagements with Pacific communities and leaders in New Zealand and in the Pacific region, I have continued to hold a clear position regarding our Fiscal Sustainability Programme. On behalf of our Government, I have emphasised that the recent reduction to the Ministry was focused on reducing inefficiencies in personnel and associated overheads and, importantly, that funding dedicated to delivering programmes in the community was safeguarded. In parallel, I directed the Ministry to reorient its programmes where necessary to ensure the highest value for money is achieved, with tangible outcomes demonstrated.

While the Ministry is a small agency, its deep reach into Pacific communities is a critical enabler for our Government to connect closely with our growing Pacific population.

I have directed officials to undertake this savings exercise while ensuring we can continue to deliver in line with the needs and expectations of Pacific communities. I have also requested officials to be cognisant of the portfolio's impact on our wider foreign affairs priorities, as our work domestically is a key enabler for the positive partnerships and influence New Zealand hold in the Pacific region.

Lastly, I note that there is a discrepancy in the letter's annex, as some operational funding listed is not available for savings as it was realised by the Ministry in Budget 2024. I have asked officials to clarify this with Treasury.

I look forward to continuing to work with you on Budget.

Yours Sincerely,


Hon Dr Shane Reti
Minister for Pacific Peoples

B25 backpocket information – Toloa, Pacific economic development, and Pacific Financial Capability programmes

Key messages

- **The Ministry recommends retaining the Toloa Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) Scholarships and community funding programme (\$1.22M per annum) due to its strong alignment with government priorities focused on improving educational outcomes. The programme has medium-to-long-term potential to contribute to economic growth and innovation and reduce socioeconomic disparities for Pacific peoples by providing higher-skilled employment opportunities in STEM.** The risks of stopping or scaling the programme will impact Pacific students' ability to enter STEM pathways and, therefore, future STEM job opportunities. Given the programme's popularity and the high value placed on it by Pacific communities, any cuts may also negatively impact government relationships with Pacific communities and providers. This programme is crucial for building a skilled STEM workforce pipeline, driving innovation, and ensuring economic resilience and prosperity for Pacific communities and the New Zealand economy.
- **The Ministry recommends retaining the Pacific Economic Development (PED) initiative (\$6.14M per annum) due to its strong alignment with government priorities for economic growth and reducing jobseeker dependency. This initiative has medium-to-long-term potential to grow the Pacific business sector and its resulting contribution to the New Zealand economy.** Continued investment is important as Pacific-owned businesses have a 36% lower survival rate compared to other businesses, and the high Pacific unemployment rate of 9.6% in December 2024, compared to 5.1% for the total population. The risks of stopping or scaling the programme will slow economic progress, reduce job creation and employment opportunities for Pacific peoples, and risk the benefits of investing in the Pacific business sector that have already been achieved overtime. This initiative is crucial for supporting Pacific businesses, creating jobs, and ensuring economic growth and sustainability for Pacific communities in New Zealand.
- **The Ministry recommends retaining the Pacific Financial Capability Programme (PFC) due to its strong alignment with government priorities for housing and economic growth. The programme has demonstrated outcomes in increasing financial literacy and home ownership and preventing mortgagee sales.** Continued investment is important to support Pacific families and communities to improve financial literacy, which will support pathways to financial stability and home ownership, and ultimately foster intergenerational wealth creation for Pacific families in New Zealand.

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

Toloo Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) Scholarships and community funding programme (\$1.22M per annum)

Description	Government priority alignment	Need – rationale for programme	Risks of stopping programme	Programme Outcomes
Toloo has two key components to support Pacific students into science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) qualification pathways: 1) Secondary and tertiary scholarships for Pacific students. 2) Contestable community funds in the form of digital hubs to expand STEM-related learning for Pacific young people in the community. This fund encourages families and students to engage and participate in STEM-related subjects that will lead to further STEM studies and careers.	This programme directly supports Government priorities for improving education, particularly; • Target 6: Increased student attendance. • Target 7: More students at expected curriculum levels. • Contributes to the Government's B25 Economic Strategy theme area – improved education and skills outcomes. Toloo Scholarships: • are an investment in New Zealand's economic growth, equipping Pacific learners with the tools to succeed in STEM and transition into STEM careers that are critical to New Zealand's future. • support the development of STEM skills and contribute to Pillar 5 of the <i>Going for Growth plan</i>, focusing on innovation, technology and science. • enhance the use of new ideas, knowledge and technology to develop better ways of doing things that will help the New Zealand economy grow. • contribute to more businesses investing in technology and innovation that will create higher-paying jobs for New Zealanders and diversify the economy into new industries and markets. By investing in Pacific students in the community, and at the secondary and tertiary stages of their education, the Toloo Scholarships are continuing to build a highly skilled STEM workforce that will drive innovation, economic resilience, and prosperity for New Zealand.	Toloo is the only programme focused on improving labour market outcomes for Pacific STEM through the education pipeline. Pacific learners disproportionately live in low socioeconomic conditions. Toloo scholarships address financial barriers Pacific learners are more likely to face when pursuing an education in STEM subjects. Despite evidence of strong interest in STEM subjects among Pacific peoples, there is a marked digital divide, and the education system is not delivering results for Pacific peoples with declines in mathematics and science achievement, and low rates of enrolment in science-related subjects across years 11-13. This limits opportunities for Pacific young people to pursue further tertiary-level study and career pathways in the natural and physical sciences, information technology and engineering. The net effect is that while Pacific peoples comprised 8.5% of the national working-age population in 2021, they made up a smaller proportion of all Bachelor graduates (3.5%) and Masters graduates (1.3%) in STEM fields in 2022. Toloo is the only government programme improving outcomes for Pacific learners in a broad range of STEM subjects by building the pipeline for more Pacific peoples accessing skilled, sustainable employment in STEM careers. This is further strengthened by the Toloo community fund providing broader support by involving learners, their families and immediate community in the learning process. This provides avenues for Pacific learners to grow their passion for STEM subjects and give their families and communities the necessary tools to support them.	Stopping or reducing this programme will negatively impact Pacific students' entry into STEM education (secondary and tertiary), negatively impacting education outcomes and as a result, decrease future high-skilled job opportunities for Pacific peoples in STEM. Short term: Less resources and support will result in reduced access to STEM education for Pacific students across secondary, tertiary and in the community. Medium term: Less resources and support will limit Pacific students' ability to enter tertiary STEM study, and ultimately skilled STEM employment. Long-term and intergenerational: • Potential to widen Pacific educational and socioeconomic disparities. • Reduced number of Pacific peoples entering sustainable high-skilled STEM employment, reinforcing inequities. • Fewer Pacific peoples in STEM will reduce the future diversity of New Zealand's STEM workforce, which may have broader impacts (e.g. innovation and problem-solving significant global and regional issues such as AI development or addressing climate change). This may require greater intervention and investment in the future to address. Stopping this programme risks government relationships with Pacific families and providers. Toloo has been running since 2015, introduced by a previous National government to boost careers in STEM. It is a well-known and highly valued initiative for Pacific students, families, schools and providers. Reducing Toloo risks Pacific communities' perception of support from and engagement with government.	The 2023/2024 results outline the benefits for those that access the Toloo programme: Scholarships 300 Pacific learners (250 secondary and 50 tertiary) received STEM scholarships for the 2024 academic year. Community fund The Toloo community fund reached 2,350 participants in secondary schools, with learners acquiring new foundational STEM skills, taking up further STEM subjects at school, and developing an interest and pathway in STEM tertiary and future careers. Community provider funding – case study School qualification attainment (NCEA Level 3) for Pacific peoples is 59.4%, which is almost 8% lower than non-Pacific students. In 2022, 28.7% of Pacific students achieved University Entrance, which is 21.2% lower than non-Pacific students. In contrast, one of the Toloo community providers – Amanaki STEM Academy (ASA) in Palmerston North – has the following results for students that participate in the programme. In 2023/2024, ASA students achieved: • 88% pass rate in NCEA level 1, 2 and 3 STEM subjects • 90% went on to pursue tertiary STEM qualifications, with the first ASA alumni graduating in 2023 with a Bachelor of Medical Sciences.

Pacific Economic Development (PED) (\$6.14M per annum)

Description	Government priority alignment	Need – rationale for programme	Risks of stopping programme	Programme Outcomes
This initiative provides greater accessibility to localised and culturally responsive business support, creates employment pathways for Pacific peoples and supports sustained growth for Pacific Businesses.	PED is the Ministry's primary investment in lifting Pacific peoples' contribution to the New Zealand economy by strengthening the Pacific business sector and creating jobs that directly contribute to the government's target 5 (Fewer people on the Jobseeker Support benefit). PED strengthens economic contributions by supporting businesses with specialist advice to grow stronger and more productive operations, improve profitability and increase sustainability while continuing to contribute the government's economic growth priorities.	Pacific peoples make up the youngest and fastest growing population in New Zealand, particularly in South Auckland where Pacific people make up 40% of the total population. Workforce projections indicate that by 2026, Pacific peoples will make up a third of Auckland's total workforce. Despite a growing presence, with 1,500 Pacific employers and 4,100 self-employed individuals, the Pacific community remains underrepresented in business ownership and economic participation. Approximately 5% of the Pacific working population (aged 15-64 years) are self-employed or own a business they work in, compared with 16% of the total working population (aged 15-64 years). Pacific peoples are 75% less likely to start a business compared to other groups and Pacific-owned businesses have a 36% lower survival rate compared to other businesses. At the end of the September 2024 quarter, the Pacific unemployment rate was 8.4% compared to 4.8% of the total population. The December 2024 quarter saw the Pacific unemployment rate rise to 9.6% compared to 5.1% of the total population.	Stopping or scaling this initiative will negatively impact the Pacific business sector, increasing already high Pacific unemployment rates (9.6%), and have wider impacts on the New Zealand economy, benefit dependence, and wider Pacific societal social cohesion. Key risks include: • Reducing economic output: the initiatives support economic growth, attract investment, and support entrepreneurship. Discontinuing the initiatives could impact economic progress, job creation, and harm industries reliant on programme support. • Widening inequality: The initiatives are designed to support regional and demographic disparities. Stopping them could exacerbate inequalities, leaving vulnerable populations and underdeveloped regions further behind. • Increased unemployment: The initiatives support job creation, training, business growth, and regional development. Ending them could result in job losses, rising poverty, and higher demand for social assistance. • Reduction in long-term programme benefits: The initiatives have been shown to yield compounding benefits to Pacific businesses and ceasing them prematurely forfeits these long-term gains. • Reputational risks: Discontinuation risks damaging Government's reputation, potentially deterring future collaborations with the Pacific business community. • Reactivation Costs: Reinstating or restarting similar programmes later is likely to be more expensive and time-consuming than sustaining current ones. Short term: Immediate risks include service disruption, unmet employment and skills target, and potential backlash from Pacific communities and businesses. Costs may include managing contract termination processes and addressing reputational damage. Medium term: Gap in economic growth support for Pacific peoples, resulting in reduced workforce participation and a lack of skill development. This may increase demand for alternative support services (e.g., work and income employment services), adding future costs. Long-term and intergenerational: Potential to widen socioeconomic disparities and result in lost opportunities for Pacific peoples to achieve sustainable employment and skills advancement, which may require greater intervention and investment in future.	The PED supported 666 businesses across New Zealand during 2023/24, through the delivery of Business Networks (469), Providers (150) and funding investment to businesses for growth via the Tauola Business Fund (47) directly leading to the creation of 149 jobs.

Pacific Financial Capability Programme (PFC) (2.72 m – 2024/25 FY)

Description	Government priority alignment	Need – rationale for programme	Risks of stopping programme	Programme Outcomes
The PFC programme focuses on improving financial literacy and capability for Pacific peoples, which leads to better outcomes through increased home ownership and intergenerational wealth creation. The programme looks at strengthening participants' financial management skills through financial literacy programmes and gaining access to financial services.	The PFC programme strongly aligns to the Government's priorities in housing, economic development and addressing cost of living pressures.	There is a clear rationale and need for government intervention to continue enhancing support and outcomes for Pacific home ownership, reducing households in emergency housing, intergenerational wealth creation and addressing the rising cost of living, for Pacific families who already experience greater economic disparities. Stable and secure housing can directly improve outcomes for health, education, employment, and the wider community. Data shows that, compared to all other groups, Pacific families have significantly lower median household income, a smaller asset base, and higher household debt. Being able to budget effectively, invest wisely, and manage debt is very important in determining and maintaining an appropriate standard of living for families. There is also an increasing diversity of financial products and services available to the New Zealand public. In particular, there are debt products (e.g. short-term loans) and investment opportunities (e.g. online trading apps, cryptocurrency) that could potentially put people at risk of incurring more debt and experiencing long-term damage to their household wealth. Pacific families, who have been disproportionately affected by the recession and rising cost of living, need to be able to understand risk and return and feel confident in navigating these products and services. Pacific peoples in New Zealand are less likely to own their own home compared to the total population. Since 2006, Pacific peoples have had the smallest proportion of people living in owner-occupied dwellings compared to all other population groups, and the rate of home ownership among Pacific peoples is declining faster compared to other ethnic groups. At present only 19.9% of Pacific peoples' own their homes, compared to 51.3% across the total population. Declining home ownership among people in lower deciles disproportionately affects their ability to build intergenerational wealth through home ownership. This is substantiated by the fact that Pacific peoples have the lowest median net worth at pre-retirement (55 – 64 years) (\$28,000), compared to other ethnic groups in New Zealand (e.g., \$439,000 for Europeans).	The PFC programme delivers tangible solutions to support Pacific families into suitable, health, warm and stable housing and ceasing the programme will negatively impact both the Pacific peoples who access the programme and Pacific providers who bring their financial and cultural expertise and knowledge to deliver the programme. Short term: Less resources and support for Pacific families to access financial literacy support, and impact on providers' frontline. This could result in increased vulnerability to predatory lending, financial hardship, and higher risk of mortgagee sales. Medium term: Fewer Pacific families entering home ownership and losing out on the associated benefits of home ownership e.g. stability, security, better health and educational outcomes, increased housing and financial instability. Long term: Increased housing and socioeconomic disparities for Pacific populations intergenerationally, reduced home ownership rates for Pacific peoples, and broader economic impacts e.g. reliance on public housing and support systems due to lack of intergenerational wealth and stability. Ceasing the initiative may result in: - a continual trend of declining home ownership rates and widening socioeconomic disparities for Pacific families. - increase in households including Pacific in emergency housing - the negative experiences of Pacific peoples with greater economic disparities accentuated by the rising cost of living - ongoing challenges and disparities for Pacific peoples in creating intergenerational wealth - negative impact on frontline Pacific providers delivering PFC programmes to Pacific peoples. Ceasing the PFC programme would be perceived negatively by Pacific communities as it may signal a withdrawal of government support aimed at uplifting and addressing the needs of Pacific peoples to achieve home ownership and building intergenerational wealth. Pacific media, in particular, are likely to cover cuts to programmes that support home ownership.	Over its four years of delivery to date, the PFC programme has met its targets and delivered financial literacy and capability education to over 3,289 individuals, helping Pacific families purchase 361 homes, and supporting 36 families to avoid mortgagee sales. Of the 361 homes purchased by Pacific families a projected injection of approximately \$325.6 million into the economy based on an average home value of \$902,000. Participants from the initial cohorts of the programme are now leveraging on initial properties purchased to purchase second and third properties with some beginning to create intergenerational wealth through investment portfolios.