



**NEW ZEALAND  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE**  
MANATŪ AORERE



## **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

Between the

Ministry for Pacific Peoples

and

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Released under the Official Information Act

**This Memorandum of Understanding is made on 9 March 2023.**

## **PARTICIPATING AGENCIES**

1. This Memorandum of Understanding is made between:

The Ministry for Pacific Peoples (“**MPP**”);

and

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (“**MFAT**”)

Each is referred to as a Participating Agency and together they are referred to as the Participating Agencies.

## **BACKGROUND**

New Zealand’s home and heart is in the Pacific. Our engagement within the region is steered by a desire for a peaceful, stable, prosperous, and resilient Pacific. Decisions, actions, and events in New Zealand have great consequence and meaning for the Pacific. The Pacific in turn, shapes New Zealand’s identity and influences our security and prosperity.

The Pacific region is home to around 16 million people of diverse cultures living in 23 countries and territories, including New Zealand. The Pacific Realm of New Zealand includes the Cook Islands, Niue, and Tokelau, who share a constitutional and long-standing relationship with New Zealand. There are now over 380,000 Pacific people living in New Zealand, with the majority of this population living in Auckland. By 2038, one in ten New Zealanders are projected to be of Pacific heritage.

The New Zealand Government’s Pacific Resilience approach takes a Pacific-centric view of our collective interests in the region, shifting to a strengths-based approach and acknowledging that building long-term resilience across the region (including New Zealand) requires an ecosystem-wide response. This ecosystem context is a holistic concept, connecting the challenges of planet and people across a shared ocean continent.

Our values act as markers that guide our way towards the outcomes we seek through all of our foreign policy, development, trade, and security partnerships in the Pacific. Under a values-based approach, our impact will be measured not only in our delivery of strategic priorities, but also in how Pacific partners refer to our engagement and how well we meet expectations on what our partners determine as impactful.

The way that we work with Pacific communities in New Zealand is an important amplifier of our regional resilience objectives. Our goal here is to provide greater certainty and confidence of a strong Pacific future, experienced both in New Zealand populations and across the wider region.

This Arrangement sets out how the Participating Agencies will contribute to the accomplishment of this goal.

## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

### 1. Purpose

- 1.1. The Ministry for Pacific Peoples and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade agree to work together towards delivering better outcomes for Pacific peoples within New Zealand and in the Pacific region.
- 1.2. The Participating Agencies agree this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will:
  - 1.2.1. formalise a working relationship that is based on a spirit of collectivism and partnership; and
  - 1.2.2. develop a shared work programme in areas of mutual interest.

### 2. Scope

- 2.1. The scope of this MOU is as follows:
  - 2.1.1. work related to understanding the strategic ambitions for the Pacific region and for Pacific peoples in New Zealand, as set out in **Schedule One**: MPP's for Pacific peoples in New Zealand, and **Schedule Two**: MFAT's for the Pacific region; and
  - 2.1.2. deliverables set out in **Schedule Three** that relate to the strategic ambitions for the Pacific and Pacific peoples as agreed by both parties.
- 2.2. The scope of the MOU may include Pacific states that New Zealand has relationships with, particularly Samoa, Tonga, the Cook Islands, Niue, Tokelau, Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, and Tuvalu.

### 3. Principles

- 3.1. The Participating Agencies agree that they will work together to perform their functions under this MOU in accordance with the following principles:
  - 3.1.1. **Tātai Hono (the recognition of deep and enduring whakapapa connections)**: Shared history and meaningful relationships will shape our engagement, reinforcing New Zealand's depth of connection within the region and increasing understanding of Pacific peoples. These connections can further be enhanced by the shared value of reciprocity, shared national and regional priorities, shared language connections, and the recognition and celebration of the diversity between and within our indigenous values and those of Pacific partners.
  - 3.1.2. **Tātou Tātou (All of us together)**: Our cooperation will be underpinned by the principles of whanaungatanga and friendship, including honesty, trust, and respect. We will listen and have

conversations. We will act with predictability, consistency, and based on the values we share as people of the Pacific. We will harmonise our efforts with others. We will confidently share New Zealand's views and perspectives, being clear about the things we will do and the things we will not do. The strength of friendship allows us to communicate openly even when our views differ.

- 3.1.3. **Whāia te Taumata Ōhanga (Journey towards a circular economy):** Our engagement will recognise that we may each take a different journey towards the same horizon. We will collaborate in support of the Sustainable Development Goals. The long-term inter-generational perspective these goals bring is consistent with New Zealand's and Pacific Island countries' enduring journey together. We will aim to achieve lasting resilience through Pacific Island countries' enhanced capability to deliver on national and regional priorities through supporting sustainable human, economic, and social development. We recognise each country's mana to determine and protect its own kaitiakitanga.
- 3.1.4. **Turou Hawaiiki (Navigating together):** Our engagement will recognise that we share common values and reflect the unique and substantial overlap with New Zealand domestic policy decisions in respect of the Pacific. The development of New Zealand regional and national policies will actively consider their implications for the Pacific. We will also actively consider the impact on Pacific Island countries from international treaties and agreements that New Zealand is negotiating.
- 3.1.5. **Arongia ki Rangiātea (Focus towards Excellence):** We will actively take an integrated approach across each New Zealand Government agency to recognise the centrality of the Pacific. We will amplify our value in the Pacific through encouraging impactful co-investment from actors outside the region, and by supporting regional architecture that reinforces Pacific ownership and priorities.
- 3.1.6. We will commit to a Pacific values-based approach to support Pacific wellbeing as outlined in the All-of-Government Pacific Wellbeing Strategy. We will also use the following principles to guide how we will express Pacific values in this MoU:
- Embed Pacific values in every aspect of government.
  - Ensure Pacific communities determine ownership of their wellbeing.
  - Enable Pacific peoples to lead decisions that affect Pacific lives.
  - Attend to Pacific needs and aspirations across all domains of wellbeing.

## **PARTICIPATING AGENCIES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **4. Roles and Responsibilities**

- 4.1. In pursuing the purpose of this MOU, the Participating Agencies recognise:
- 4.1.1. MPP has primary responsibility for providing advice to the Minister for Pacific Peoples and our New Zealand government agencies to support the development of policies, strategies and initiatives that target or impact Pacific communities within New Zealand; and
  - 4.1.2. MFAT has the primary responsibility for New Zealand's relationships with Pacific countries and their communities in the Pacific region.
- 4.2. The Participating Agencies will:
- 4.2.1. work together to develop and deliver a shared work programme as set out in Section 11;
  - 4.2.2. consult on matters of mutual interest;
  - 4.2.3. keep each other updated about relevant work programmes, strategic developments, policy developments, initiatives, media campaigns, and/or any operational developments that may affect or involve the other's mandated work with Pacific communities in New Zealand or in the Pacific region;
  - 4.2.4. establish effective channels of communication and regular opportunities for dialogue; and
  - 4.2.5. liaise with each other, to the degree practicable, prior to either party releasing any public statement referring to the other party.

### **Cultural Expertise**

- 4.3. The Participating Agencies agree to:
- 4.3.1. exchange and share knowledge of cultural networks, customs, and protocols for the mutual purposes of engagement and outreach in New Zealand and/or in the Pacific;
  - 4.3.2. provide assistance and guidance on cultural priorities and impacts for Pacific peoples in the region and New Zealand; and
  - 4.3.3. work closely together on any synergies identified by the Parties.

### **5. Engagement with Pacific Communities**

- 5.1. In respect of outreach connections with Pacific communities in New Zealand, MFAT will consult where appropriate with MPP on the appropriate connections and methods of engagement.
- 5.2. Where appropriate, joint engagement opportunities will also be advanced, which are of benefit to Pacific and New Zealand stakeholders and both Participating agencies.
- 5.3. Where appropriate the Participating Agencies will engage with each other in respect of outreach connections in the Pacific region.
- 5.4. MFAT and MPP will collaborate to advance the goals of organisations they each fund that seek to strengthen the bonds between New Zealand and the Pacific region.

## 6. Promoting Diversity and Capacity Building

- 6.1. The Participating Agencies will work closely together to identify opportunities to diversify their respective workforces through recruitment, employment policies, processes and practices, secondment, internship, training and workshops and any other avenues as agreed by the Participating Agencies.
- 6.2. The Participating Agencies will endeavour to:
  - 6.2.1. provide opportunities for MFAT and MPP employees to undertake secondments between the parties;
  - 6.2.2. provide access to MFAT and MPP employees to benefit from training and development opportunities delivered by the parties; and
  - 6.2.3. share guidance, resources, tools or otherwise that will enhance the capacity of each other's' staff.

## 7. Sharing of information

- 7.1. Subject to applicable security requirements, the Participating Agencies will continue to share information in an effective and timely fashion.
- 7.2. The Participating Agencies recognise their obligations under the Privacy Act 1993 and Official Information Act 1981.
- 7.3. Each Participating Agency undertakes not to use or disclose the other Participating Agency's Confidential Information to any person or organisation other than:
  - 7.3.1. if the other Participating Agency gives prior written approval to the use or disclosure;
  - 7.3.2. if the use or disclosure is required by law (including under the Official Information Act 1982 (NZ)) or parliamentary convention; or
  - 7.3.3. if the information has already become public, other than through a breach of the obligation of confidentiality by one of the Participating Agencies.
- 7.4. Each Participating Agency will ensure that their personnel:
  - 7.4.1. are aware of the confidentiality obligations in this MOU; and
  - 7.4.2. do not use or disclose any of the other Participating Agency's Confidential Information except as allowed by this MOU.
- 7.5. For the purposes of this MOU, Confidential Information means information that:
  - 7.5.1. is by its nature confidential;
  - 7.5.2. is marked by either Participating Agency as 'confidential', 'in confidence', 'restricted' or 'commercial in confidence';
  - 7.5.3. is provided by either Participating Agency, or a third party 'in confidence';
  - 7.5.4. either Participating Agency knows or reasonably ought to know is confidential; or
  - 7.5.5. is commercially or politically sensitive to either Participating Agency.

## 8. Commencement and term

- 8.1. This MOU will commence on the date of signing by both parties and will remain in effect until expiry on 9 March 2026 or unless terminated by either Participating Agency or by joint consent.

**9. Termination**

- 9.1. Either Participating Agency may terminate the MOU by three months' notice in writing, to the other Participating Agency.

**10. Dispute Resolution**

- 10.1. Any disputes between the Participating Agencies in relation to this MOU will in the first instance, attempt to be resolved at officer level at the earliest opportunity.
- 10.2. If resolution cannot be reached by referral to the above process, then the matter will be referred, in writing, to the Chief Executives of MPP and MFAT.

**11. Governance Arrangements and Shared Work Programme**

- 11.1. The signatories will be responsible for managing the relationship agreement and as part of this will:
- 11.1.1. agree on an annual work programme between the Participating Agencies for implementation by April of each financial year;
- 11.1.2. the Deputy Secretary Policy, Evaluation and Research, Housing, and Languages and Pacific Regional Division Manager will meet on a 6 monthly basis to discuss progress and opportunities on matters of mutual interest; and
- 11.1.3. Lead teams from each Participating Agencies will meet on a bi-monthly basis to monitor and discuss implementation of the work programme.

**12. Participating Agency Representatives**

- 12.1. The Participating Agencies specified addresses, telephone numbers and party representatives are set out below. Either Participating Agency may substitute an alternative person by notice in writing to the other Participant.

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**Ministry for Pacific Peoples**

**Te Manatū mō ngā Iwi ō te Moana-nui-ā-Kiwa**

Name: Deputy Chief Executive, Policy, Research, Evaluation, Housing,  
Languages  
Address: 101-103 The Terrace, P.O.Box 833, Wellington  
Telephone: +64 4 473 4493

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
Manatū Aorere**

Name: Divisional Manager, Pacific Regional Division  
Address: 195 Lambton Quay, Private Bag 18901 Wellington  
Telephone: +64 4 439 8000

**13. Costs**

13.1. Unless the Participating Agencies jointly determine otherwise, the cost of meeting activities under this MOU will be met by the Participating Agency incurring the cost.

**GENERAL**

**14. Review**

14.1. The Participating Agencies will review this MOU in three years from the date of signing.

**15. Variation**

- 15.1. Except as stated in this MOU, the terms of this MOU may be modified by jointly written decision of the representatives of the Participating Agencies.
- 15.2. The Participants recognise that the Schedules attached to this MOU are subject to change by mutual written agreement of the representatives of the Participating Agencies.

**16. Liability**

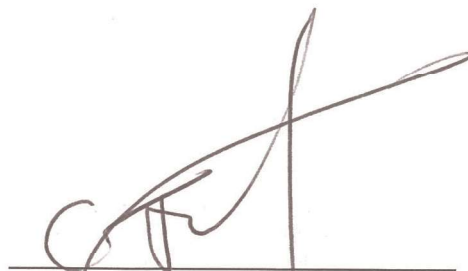
16.1. Nothing in this MOU will make either Participating Agency liable for the actions of the other or constitute any legal relationship between the Participating Agencies.

**EXECUTED:**

Signatories



Gerardine Clifford-Lidstone  
Secretary for Pacific Peoples  
Ministry for Pacific Peoples  
Date: 9 / 3 / 23



Chris Seed  
Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
Date: 9 / 3 / 23



## **SCHEDULE ONE: MPP STRATEGIC AMBITIONS FOR PACIFIC PEOPLES IN NEW ZEALAND**

### ***Pacific peoples in New Zealand***

Pacific communities in New Zealand are changing. The Pacific migration story that has historically underpinned Pacific communities in New Zealand, while continuing to be an important part of the Pacific community context, no longer provides an all-encompassing frame of reference.

In New Zealand today, Pacific communities have established and contributed to Aotearoa/New Zealand over generations. It is estimated that 62.3 percent of the Pacific population in New Zealand are born here. The population is young and growing with a median age of 23 years. The Pacific population totals approximately 381,642 and is estimated to increase to 480,000 by 2026 and to 650,000 by 2038 (2018 Census). These changing demographics present new opportunities and challenges for Pacific peoples in Aotearoa.

### ***Lalanga Fou vision for Pacific peoples***

In 2018, the Ministry launched a refreshed vision for Pacific peoples in New Zealand that was captured in the '*Pacific Aotearoa Lalanga Fou*' report. The report was a culmination of talanoa with over 2,500 Pacific peoples to better understand their needs, hopes and aspirations. The following encapsulates the vision of Pacific peoples in New Zealand and guides the work of our Ministry:

*Pacific values are our anchor, with each generation weaving the foundations for the next to stand on. Pacific communities are innovative leaders within Aotearoa, the Pacific region and the world. We are confident in our endeavours, we are a thriving, resilient and prosperous Pacific Aotearoa.*

To achieve this vision, we have identified the following priority goals which are foundational to the work that the Ministry undertakes:

- Goal 1: Thriving Pacific Languages, Cultures and Identities
- Goal 2: Prosperous Pacific Communities
- Goal 3: Resilient and Healthy Pacific peoples
- Goal 4: Confident, Thriving and Resilient Pacific Young People.

*Lalanga Fou* highlighted that, despite government investment, Pacific communities continue to be impacted by poor socio-economic outcomes and experience significant disadvantage compared to other New Zealanders – particularly in the areas of health, education, and wealth.

### ***All-of-Government Pacific Wellbeing Strategy***

In response to these long-standing issues, the Ministry is leading the development of a Cabinet mandated All of Government Pacific Wellbeing Strategy (AoGPWS) which aims to support the setting of Government's strategic approach to improving Pacific wellbeing outcomes. The AoGPWS provides a collective view on the progress of Pacific priorities across agencies. This collaborative approach will help build better visibility and stewardship of investment, initiatives, and programmes for Pacific peoples

across government and help ensure that investment is responsive to the needs and aspirations of Pacific communities.

The four key focus areas of the the AoGPW strategy are:

- Lalaga Potu - Values and principles
- Fale Fono - Partnerships and governance
- Vaka Moana - Performance and improvement
- Te Kupega - Capability.

### ***The Pacific Languages Strategy 2022-2032***

The Pacific Languages Strategy 2022-2032 provides a coordinated and structured approach to Pacific language revitalisation and maintenance in Aotearoa. The Strategy also recognises the critical role that Pacific nations have as 'owners' and knowledge holders of Pacific languages, cultures, and identities.

Pacific languages, cultures, and identities are the centrepiece of health and wellbeing for Pacific peoples. The vision of the Strategy states when their languages are thriving, Pacific people and Aotearoa as a nation is also thriving. There are three key objectives within the Strategy:

- recognising the value of Pacific languages;
- strengthening pathways and resources to learn and learn in Pacific languages; and
- creating environments for Pacific languages to be used more often and more spaces.

The Strategy will be implemented through Community Action Plans and Government Action Plans as symbolised by the twin-hulled 'vaka' where each plan work together to realise the language aspirations of Pacific peoples here in Aotearoa and across the region. Opportunities to collaborate locally and regionally could be captured within the Government Action Plan. The languages work aligns well with the Pacific Wellbeing and Resilience priorities.

The Strategy also provides a framework for working collaboratively with Pacific nations through exchanges and sharing of information and resources and other means to support language revitalisation and maintenance in the region on various platforms including broadcasting, social media, online and others.

### ***Impact of COVID-19***

The onset of the COVID-19 global pandemic presented new challenges for New Zealand and Pacific nations. For many Pacific peoples and communities, COVID-19 also exacerbated existing inequities.

Reserve Bank forecasting indicates that the economic impact will be deeper and the recovery time longer for Pacific peoples. The COVID-19 response and anticipated ongoing impacts remains an important part of the Ministry's work.

## SCHEDULE TWO: MFAT STRATEGIC AMBITIONS FOR THE PACIFIC REGION

In November 2021, Cabinet endorsed *New Zealand's Pacific Engagement: from Reset to Resilience*. This outlined New Zealand's strategic ambitions for the Pacific region steered by our desire for a peaceful, stable, prosperous and resilient Pacific in which New Zealand operates as a true partner, collaborating with others in the shared stewardship of Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa.

The principles guiding our Pacific engagement as we move from a 'Reset' to a 'Resilience' approach are:

- Tātai Hono – the recognition of deep and enduring whakapapa connections;
- Tātou Tātou – all of us together;
- Whāia te Taumata Ōhanga – the journey towards a circular economy;
- Turou Hawaiiki – navigating together;
- Arongia ki Rangiātea – focus towards excellence.

Our strength and success as a region relies on Pacific countries acting together. We will need to continue to shape the regional architecture so that it draws strength from Pacific ways of governing, is fit for purpose, and can generate Pacific-owned solutions to the challenges of today. New Zealand's engagement will support a collective approach, and leverage off our own experiences under Te Tiriti o Waitangi of managing enduring relationships where we stand stronger together.

The Sustainable Development Goals are a shared horizon for our work. They hold the collective responsibility of all states to take action in order to improve the lives of our people and our planet. They provide us and our partners with an agreed global agenda from which to prioritise those issues that matter the most for our region, and where to focus our resources. They support an enduring inter-generational approach. Our Pacific engagement is also a key pillar of New Zealand's international identity, including through our investments in multilateral solutions to global challenges.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade is responsible for New Zealand's Government's aid budget which totals \$2.2 billion dollars over three years, 60% of this is invested into the Pacific region.

### SCHEDULE THREE: MOU DELIVERABLES

The Participating Agencies agree that they will work together on the following focus areas that relate to the strategic ambitions of each agency and where New Zealand's foreign and domestic policy interests intersect.

1. **Building Pacific cultural expertise and competency** across the Participating Agencies through the delivery of the Kapasa and Yavu tools and secondment opportunities for professional development to staff.
2. **Engagement with Pacific communities** by collaborating more effectively on matters where domestic and international issues intersect. Collaboration includes sharing intelligence and insights from community engagements that can help either agency to develop programmes, policy or for emergency response planning.
3. **Support the aspirations of Pacific young peoples** by working together to design a leadership development programme that delivers on the Dawn Raids scholarship programme for a cohort of Pacific young peoples in the Pacific region.
4. **Shared policy issues and priorities.** This includes actively contributing to the Pacific Languages Strategy with MFAT as a formal agency partner to the Pacific Languages Government Action Plan, providing oversight for the international relations domain. This includes:
  - Participating in the Pacific Languages Government Action Plan interagency working group as required.
  - Discussing with MPP and supporting any policy initiatives that involve collaboration with Pacific countries.
  - Liaising on any engagement with the Pacific region as related to language retention and revitalisation planning.
  - Identifying and resourcing opportunities where initiatives in the Pacific region might support mutually positive impacts on Pacific languages domestically and regionally.

Lead teams from each Participating Agencies will meet on a bi-monthly basis to monitor and discuss implementation of the work programme.

**ENDS**