

## COVER SHEET: PROACTIVE RELEASE – DRAFT PACIFIC LANGUAGES STRATEGY CABINET MATERIAL

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**Hon Aupito William Sio**

Minister for Pacific Peoples

**Date of issue: 7 June 2022**

The following documents have been proactively released in accordance with Cabinet Office Circular CO (18) 4.

Any information redacted in this document is redacted in accordance with the Ministry for Pacific Peoples' policy on Proactive Release and is labelled with the reason for redaction. This may include information that would be redacted if this information was requested under the Official Information Act 1982. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

No.	Document	Comments
1	<b>Proposal for targeted consultation on the draft Pacific Languages Strategy [SWC-21-SUB-0137]</b> <i>Cabinet paper</i> Office of the Minister for Pacific Peoples	Released in full.
2	<b>Appendix 1: The draft Pacific Languages Strategy – for targeted consultation</b> <i>Cabinet paper appendix</i> Office of the Minister for Pacific Peoples	This document is available at: <a href="http://www.mpp.govt.nz/assets/Pacific-Languages-Strategy-Consultation-/Pacific-Languages-Strategy-Ministry-for-Pacific-Peoples-.pdf">www.mpp.govt.nz/assets/Pacific-Languages-Strategy-Consultation-/Pacific-Languages-Strategy-Ministry-for-Pacific-Peoples-.pdf</a>
3	<b>Draft Pacific Languages Strategy: Targeted Consultation [SWC-21-MIN-0137]</b> <i>Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee minute</i> Cabinet Office	Released in full.
4	<b>Draft Pacific Languages Strategy: Targeted Consultation [CAB-21-MIN-0384]</b> <i>Cabinet minute</i> Cabinet Office	Some information is out of scope.

**IN CONFIDENCE****In Confidence**

Office of the Minister for Pacific Peoples  
Chair, Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee

**Proposal for targeted consultation on the draft Pacific Languages Strategy****Proposal**

- 1 This paper seeks approval for targeted consultation on the draft Pacific Languages Strategy.

**Relation to government priorities**

- 2 Pacific languages are widely recognised as the cornerstone of Pacific identity, culture and wellbeing. In 2018, Cabinet committed to ensuring Pacific languages survive within communities in New Zealand and the Wellbeing Budget 2019 delivered a \$20 million package to support the revitalisation of Pacific languages.
- 3 Building on Government's investment and Cabinet's commitments to Pacific languages in New Zealand, I have developed a draft Pacific Languages Strategy to establish a strategic approach to continued support for this work. I am seeking approval for targeted consultation with Pacific communities and agencies on this draft Strategy.

**Executive Summary**

- 4 Languages strengthen cultural identity, sense of belonging and potential to participate with confidence in society, and as such are broadly acknowledged as a cornerstone of wellbeing.
- 5 This Government has committed to embedding wellbeing into the way we work and has made meaningful progress towards breaking down agency silos to support the needs of present and future New Zealand communities.
- 6 While there is a particular importance to New Zealand communities of Pacific languages with current, special and historical ties to New Zealand, we do not yet have a consistent framework across Government for recognising or supporting Pacific languages. There is clear evidence that overall Pacific language use in New Zealand is in decline. As a consequence, the value of Pacific languages is being undermined, this is contributing to language loss.
- 7 In 2018, Cabinet committed to ensuring Pacific languages survive within New Zealand's Pacific communities and agreed to the Ministry for Pacific Peoples developing a new set of support functions to deliver tangible services focused on fundamental elements required for successful language revitalisation [SWC-18-MIN-0160 refers].

- 8 While attempts have been made to coordinate support for Pacific languages, efforts to maintain these languages have remained the responsibility of Pacific communities. To establish a strategic approach to continued support for Pacific languages in New Zealand, I have developed a draft Pacific Languages Strategy. The development of this Strategy supports the goals set by the *Pacific Aotearoa Lalanga Fou*<sup>1</sup> report, and more broadly the *Living Standards Framework* and Government's commitment to wellbeing across all domains. This Strategy will be enacted and supported by an All-of-Government Action Plan.
- 9 I propose undertaking targeted consultation with Pacific communities and Government agencies on this draft before finalising the Pacific Languages Strategy ('the Strategy'). Through this consultation, I will seek feedback on this draft as well as to develop an All-of-Government Action Plan to operationalise the direction set by the Strategy.

### Background

- 10 According to comparisons from Census 2013 to Census 2018 Pacific languages in New Zealand are in overall decline. At the same time English is becoming more prominent in spaces that have been bastions or strongholds of Pacific language maintenance such as in homes and churches.
- 11 While Pacific communities have worked to maintain their languages through the establishment of Pacific language nests, media networks and education organisations, the low value-perception of Pacific languages has meant limited resource development and supports outside of schools. This in turn has contributed to a decline in the number of Pacific language speakers throughout New Zealand.
- 12 Pacific languages are broadly acknowledged as the cornerstone of Pacific wellbeing. Evidence suggests that the health and wellbeing of a language is directly correlated to wellbeing and productivity and can act as protective factors that support positive mental and physical health. The decline of Pacific languages carries with it a loss of indigenous Pacific knowledges and histories and has a negative impact on Pacific wellbeing in New Zealand.
- 13 In 2018, Cabinet noted the importance to New Zealand communities of Pacific languages and that New Zealand does not have a consistent framework across Government for supporting Pacific languages. As part of this commitment to ensuring Pacific languages survive within communities in New Zealand, Cabinet agreed to the Ministry for Pacific Peoples ('the Ministry') developing a new set of support functions to deliver tangible services.
- 14 These services so far have focused on fundamental elements required for successful language revitalisation: status, knowledge and acquisition, use,

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<sup>1</sup> Pacific Aotearoa Lalanga Fou report. Ministry for Pacific Peoples (2018).

critical awareness, and corpus<sup>2</sup>. The objectives agreed by Cabinet included that the Ministry:

- 14.1 support community-based language initiatives and education courses;
- 14.2 commission research and publishing information to support Pacific languages revitalisation;
- 14.3 establish technical conventions and standards of each language; and
- 14.4 provide advice to Ministers to give effect to the goal of revitalising and sustaining Pacific languages including the development of a Pacific Languages Strategy.

*A strategic and consistent framework for supporting Pacific languages is needed*

15 Since 2018, the Ministry for Pacific Peoples has engaged regularly with communities to accelerate the development of the new support functions and services as agreed by Cabinet. This has included:

- 15.1 Supporting 344 Pacific language learning initiatives; and
- 15.2 Strengthening community activity, through the implementation of Pacific Language Weeks, with a refresh of the overall Pacific Language Weeks programme to be implemented in 2022.

16 In addition to this immediate work, the Ministry has also focused on embedding an enduring framework that supports community voice and efforts. Of priority, has been the development of this draft Pacific Languages Strategy (the draft Strategy). The development of this draft Strategy is necessary to ensure efforts to sustain Pacific languages in New Zealand are appropriately supported and coordinated.

17 While previous attempts have been made to coordinate sustainable support for Pacific languages, efforts to maintain these languages have remained largely the responsibility of Pacific families and communities.

18 To specifically address this, I have developed a draft 10-year Pacific Languages Strategy that will support Government agencies in meeting Pacific communities where they are, and to take action in supporting Pacific wellbeing through the entry point that those Pacific languages provide.

19 This draft Strategy aims to provide a strategic and consistent framework for supporting Pacific languages with current, special and historical ties to New Zealand. This draft Strategy intends to bring together the work established throughout Pacific communities in New Zealand, with work being undertaken

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<sup>2</sup> The five key elements include: *status* (create a positive environment and culture in which the language is valued and flourishes); *knowledge and acquisition* (increase proficiency skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing the language); *use* (ensure the language is used as a form of communication in the person's community life); *critical awareness* (raise the level of awareness and consciousness about the value of the language); and *corpus* (establish a collective body of material that is publicly and freely available outlining how a language is generally written, spoken and used).

across Government to support thriving Pacific languages. This will also provide a framework against which progress, and performance can be regularly monitored and reported.

- 20 The development of this draft Strategy directly contributes to goal one of Lalanga Fou *Thriving Pacific languages, cultures and identities*, and recognises the role of both community and Government in the overall Lalanga Fou vision of *a thriving, resilient and prosperous Pacific Aotearoa*. This draft Strategy also supports the Action Plan for Pacific Education (2020 – 2030).
- 21 I am proposing targeted consultation to seek feedback on this draft Strategy and to develop an All-of-Government Action Plan to operationalise the direction set by the Strategy. This plan will bring the community together with Government so that Pacific languages are supported in integrated, connected, and holistic ways.
- 22 This approach will empower Pacific communities to continue their leadership of language revitalisation and maintenance, while ensuring a shared Government commitment to Pacific languages.

### **The draft Pacific Languages Strategy**

- 23 Pacific families and communities have made it clear that their languages are key to their overall wellbeing, and that more investment and support is needed for Pacific languages to fully thrive throughout Aotearoa New Zealand.
- 24 The Ministry's engagements with Pacific communities have also highlighted the need for Government agencies to work more collaboratively through an approach that is tailored to the aspirations and values of Pacific peoples.
- 25 The development of this draft Strategy has been strongly informed by community feedback from across the Ministry for Pacific Peoples' ongoing languages work programme and regular regional engagements. It has also been informed by discussions with relevant Government agencies as well as local and international research and literature.
- 26 This draft Strategy sets a 10-year plan and takes a structured approach to weaving and binding together the strands of Pacific languages work from throughout Pacific communities and across Government. Included as Appendix 1 is the draft Pacific Languages Strategy – for targeted consultation.
- 27 Accordingly, the draft Strategy sets an aspirational vision, overarching actions across key language revitalisation areas and specific language groups.
- 28 The components of the draft Pacific Languages Strategy include:
- 28.1 **Vision:** this Strategy is guided by the overall vision of *thriving Pacific languages in Pacific Aotearoa*.
- 28.2 **Overarching actions:** this Strategy prioritises three overall actions for increasing Pacific language use in Aotearoa New Zealand:

- *Shift perspectives to ensure Indigenous Pacific languages are valued;*
- *Increase formal and informal opportunities and pathways for learning Indigenous Pacific languages; and*
- *Create environments for Indigenous Pacific languages to be used more often, and in more spaces.*

28.3 **Language revitalisation areas:** *the three overall actions in this Strategy are drawn from the literature on language revitalisation which suggests that for languages to thrive, they must be strong in: status, critical awareness, acquisition, corpus and use.*

28.4 **Approach needed:** this Strategy supports the nine Pacific languages that the Ministry for Pacific Peoples formally supports. These language groups are diverse with different needs, strengths, and challenges. This Strategy, while guided by a broad vision and actions, takes a tailored approach to each community and the Pacific languages supported by this Strategy have been categorised according to constitutional status, language vitality and demographic size as follows:

- *Urgent revitalisation: Te Gagana Tokelau, Vagahau Niue, Te Reo Māori Kuki 'Āirani*
- *Strengthening maintenance and transmission: Gagana Samoa, Lea-Faka Tonga*
- *Promoting and raising awareness: Te Gana Tuvalu, Vosa Vakaviti, Fāeag Rotūam, Te taetae ni Kiribati*

29 Taken together, the components of this Strategy provide high-level strategic direction to coordinate language revitalisation and retention efforts across Government and key stakeholders – to meet the needs of Pacific communities.

*My proposed targeted consultation on the draft Pacific Languages Strategy*

30 I am proposing targeted consultation with Pacific communities and Government agencies to gain insights into the relevance, appropriateness, and applicability of the draft Strategy.

31 Pacific groups that will be targeted will include Pacific community language groups, many of which are regularly engaged by the Ministry for Pacific Peoples as part of ongoing languages work programmes including Pacific Language Weeks. Pacific education staff and stakeholders, Pacific researchers, church groups, youth organisations, disabled people and Pacific media and broadcasting organisations will also be targeted. These groups have been identified as critical to the ongoing support of Pacific language maintenance, retention and revitalisation in New Zealand.

- 32 This targeted consultation will take place over a six-week period, from 4 October to 12 November 2021. This will be led by the Ministry for Pacific Peoples. In the event of any changes to COVID-19 Alert Levels, targeted consultation activities will be managed through online channels where necessary.
- 33 The purpose of this targeted consultation will be to seek endorsement of the draft Strategy and to seek input on the operationalisation of the direction set by the draft Strategy. To ensure the aspiration of this Strategy is translated into tangible results, targeted consultation will therefore also seek feedback to develop actions that will operationalise this Strategy.

*Targeted consultation will seek input from Pacific communities on actions needed to operationalise this draft Strategy*

- 34 This draft Strategy takes a tailored approach to each of the nine Pacific community language groups supported by this Strategy. I intend for this tailored and specific approach to be enabled through the development of Pacific community-led actions.
- 35 Targeted consultation will identify actions to address the immediate needs of building language capability and capacity within each Pacific community. Actions to support longer terms goals of language sustainability will also be identified. As each Pacific community has different needs and strengths relating to their languages, I anticipate that feedback from targeted consultation may allow for the development of individual action plans for each Pacific language supported by this draft Strategy. It is critical that our Pacific communities be empowered to lead this work, and that a clear path from community need to Government action is drawn.

*This input from Pacific communities will inform an All-of-Government Action Plan*

- 36 To ensure the continued success of Pacific communities, Government must take a more cohesive and stronger role in thriving Pacific languages, cultures, and identities. To provide a structured approach to supporting this Strategy and responding to Pacific community-led actions that will be identified during targeted consultation, I propose an All-of-Government Action Plan is developed.
- 37 The education system provides many examples of how this draft Strategy may be supported by cross-Government work, including the Action Plan for Pacific Education which affirms the place of identity, culture language and wellbeing at the centre of Pacific success in education and beyond, and the Tertiary Education Strategy which asks tertiary providers to take actions towards valuing Pacific languages in the everyday experience of learners.
- 38 I also understand the Minister of Education has commissioned the Ministry of Education to develop a National Languages Strategy for schooling. Amongst other objectives, this would set out the Government's strategy for supporting Realm country languages in New Zealand schools and help recognise and promote the importance of other Pacific languages in New Zealand schools.

This would provide further support for this draft Pacific Languages Strategy in the schooling system and can be examined further during consultation.

- 39 Targeted consultation on the draft Strategy and proposed All-of-Government Action Plan will explore ways to support these commitments, among others, through the draft Strategy I am proposing today. I anticipate that key partner agencies who will contribute to the All-of-Government Action Plan will include the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Ministry for Culture and Heritage due to the potential direct contributions these agencies can make to this work. I intend to explore the roles and actions that other agencies can also take in supporting thriving Pacific languages.
- 40 Implementing this Strategy will require coordinated actions supported by new funding and investment. My proposed All-of-Government Action Plan will confirm and outline specific Government actions, investment, and future commitments for responding to Pacific community needs and to support language revitalisation and retention within a three-year timeframe. This shorter timeframe allows innovative ideas and programmes to be tested and built upon, with incremental progress to be assessed against the direction set by the Strategy.
- 41 The success of this All-of-Government Action Plan relies on the ability of agencies to centre community voice and ensure Pacific communities' perspectives are embedded in their policy thinking, design, and implementation.

### **Implementation**

- 42 I will provide a full plan implementation for this draft Strategy when I report back to Cabinet with a final version of the Pacific Languages Strategy.
- 43 Primarily, the implementation of this Strategy will be supported by an All-of-Government Action Plan to be developed through targeted consultation with Pacific communities and Government agencies. This will include any new funding and investment that will be needed to implement this Strategy through the proposed All-of-Government Action Plan.

### **Financial Implications**

- 44 While there are no financial implications arising from this paper, there may be new funding and investment required to deliver on the finalised Strategy and Action Plan. Any future funding and investment required will be sought through the Budget process following finalisation of this draft Strategy.

### **Legislative Implications**

- 45 There are no legislative implications arising from this paper. Legislation change may be required as part of embedding the Strategy and Action Plan. Any changes required will be progressed through the standard legislative process.



## Impact Analysis

- 46 There is no requirement for a Regulatory Impact Analysis or a Climate Implications of Policy Assessment for this paper, as there are no relevant regulatory or climate implications arising from this paper.

## Population Implications

- 47 This Strategy is intended to support the nine Pacific language groups formally supported by the Ministry for Pacific Peoples, thereby supporting nine Pacific population groups in Aotearoa New Zealand: Tokelauan, Niuean, Cook Islands, Samoan, Tongan, Tuvaluan, Fijian, Rotuman and Kiribati.
- 48 The direction set by this Strategy, and the All-of-Government Action Plan to be developed during targeted consultation will directly support the language maintenance, retention and revitalisation of these Pacific communities. This is intended to support improving wellbeing outcomes for Pacific peoples throughout Aotearoa New Zealand.
- 49 Pacific peoples have higher-than-average disability rates, after adjusting for differences in ethnic population age profiles. Pacific peoples are a growing population in New Zealand and in the disabled community, with nineteen percent of Pacific people identifying as disabled in 2013<sup>3</sup>. Given the size of the population, consultation with Pacific disabled people is necessary to ensure that their unique needs are considered in this strategy. The consultation will include the translation of summary information to alternate formats to allow for involvement from a range of Pacific disabled people.
- 50 Given the links between mental health and wellbeing and access to a person's culture, including their language, the implementation of this Strategy is likely to improve outcomes for Pacific disabled people, specifically those with mental health conditions and the wider Pacific disabled community. The Strategy will help honour the commitment made by the Government to Pacific peoples in Outcome 3 of the New Zealand Disability Strategy which states that Pacific disabled people "will be respected and (...) will have access to services that are culturally appropriate".

## Human Rights

- 51 The proposals in this Cabinet paper appear consistent with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 and the Human Rights Act 1993.

## Consultation

- 52 The following agencies were consulted during the development of this paper: Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education Commission, New Zealand Qualifications Authority, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ministry of Social Development, Office for Disability Issues, Office for Seniors, Ministry for Ethnic Communities, Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment.

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<sup>3</sup> New Zealand Disability Strategy 2016–2026. Office for Disability Issues. 2016.

## Communications

53 I propose that the Ministry for Pacific Peoples finalises the attached draft Pacific Languages Strategy for targeted consultation and will lead communications for this consultation. I will support targeted consultation by announcing the launch of consultation, and with my attendance at key consultation events.

## Proactive Release

54 I intend to proactively release this Cabinet paper. I intend to withhold any material relating to future Budget rounds, or any other material that could prejudice proper consideration of proposals by Cabinet.

## Recommendations

The Minister for Pacific Peoples recommends that the Committee:

- 1 **note** that Pacific languages are widely recognised as the cornerstone of Pacific identity, culture and wellbeing.
- 2 **note** that in 2018, Cabinet committed to ensuring Pacific languages survive within communities in New Zealand [SWC-18-MIN-0160 refers].
- 3 **note** that the draft *Pacific Languages Strategy* proposed in this paper aims to provide a strategic and consistent framework for revitalising and sustaining Pacific languages.
- 4 **note** that this draft Pacific Languages Strategy sets a vision of *thriving Pacific languages in Pacific Aotearoa*, and includes:
  - 4.1 *Overarching actions:*
    - 4.1.1 Shift perspectives to ensure Indigenous Pacific languages are valued;
    - 4.1.2 Increase opportunities and pathways for learning Indigenous Pacific languages; and
    - 4.1.3 Create environments for Indigenous Pacific languages to be used more often, and in more spaces.
  - 4.2 *Language revitalisation areas:* status, critical awareness, acquisition, corpus and use.
  - 4.3 *Approach needed:* nine Pacific languages are supported by this Strategy and are categorised as follows:
    - 4.3.1 Urgent revitalisation: Te Gagana Tokelau, Vagahau Niue, Te Reo Māori Kuki 'Āirani

IN CONFIDENCE

- 4.3.2 Strengthening maintenance and transmission: Gagana Samoa, Lea Faka-Tonga
- 4.3.3 Promoting and raising awareness: Te Gana Tuvalu, Vosa Vakaviti, Fāeag Rotūam, Te taetae ni Kiribati

- 5 **agree** that the Ministry for Pacific Peoples will undertake targeted consultation on the draft Pacific Languages Strategy with Pacific communities and Government agencies.
- 6 **agree** that during targeted consultation, the Ministry for Pacific Peoples will also develop an *All-of-Government Action Plan* to operationalise this draft Pacific Language Strategy.
- 7 **note** that I intend to bring a final *Pacific Languages Strategy*, and *All-of-Government Action Plan* to Cabinet for approval following targeted consultation.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Aupito William Sio

Minister for Pacific Peoples

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**Appendices**

Appendix 1: The draft Pacific Languages Strategy – for targeted consultation

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# Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee

## Minute of Decision

*This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.*

### Draft Pacific Languages Strategy: Targeted Consultation

**Portfolio** Pacific Peoples

On 22 September 2021, the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee:

- 1 **noted** that Pacific languages are widely recognised as the cornerstone of Pacific identity, culture and wellbeing;
- 2 **noted** that in 2018, the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee (SWC) agreed to commit to ensuring Pacific languages survive within New Zealand's Pacific communities [SWC-18-MIN-0160];
- 3 **noted** that the draft *Pacific Languages Strategy* attached under SWC-21-SUB-0137 aims to provide a strategic and consistent framework for revitalising and sustaining Pacific languages;
- 4 **noted** that the draft *Pacific Languages Strategy* sets a vision of thriving Pacific languages in Pacific Aotearoa, and includes:
  - 4.1 Overarching actions:
    - 4.1.1 Shift perspectives to ensure Indigenous Pacific languages are valued;
    - 4.1.2 Increase opportunities and pathways for learning Indigenous Pacific languages;
    - 4.1.3 Create environments for Indigenous Pacific languages to be used more often, and in more spaces;
  - 4.2 Language revitalisation areas: status, critical awareness, acquisition, corpus and use;
  - 4.3 Approach needed: nine Pacific languages are supported by the Strategy and are categorised as follows:
    - 4.3.1 Urgent revitalisation: Te Gagana Tokelau, Vagahau Niue, Te Reo Māori Kuki 'Āirani;
    - 4.3.2 Strengthening maintenance and transmission: Gagana Samoa, Lea Faka-Tonga;
    - 4.3.3 Promoting and raising awareness: Te Gana Tuvalu, Vosa Vakaviti, Fāeag Rotūam, Te taetae ni Kiribati;

- 5 **agreed** that the Ministry for Pacific Peoples undertake targeted consultation on the draft *Pacific Languages Strategy* with Pacific communities and government agencies;
- 6 **agreed** that during targeted consultation, the Ministry for Pacific Peoples will also develop an all-of-government action plan to operationalise the Pacific Language Strategy;
- 7 **noted** that the Minister for Pacific Peoples intends to submit a final *Pacific Languages Strategy*, and All-of-Government Action Plan to SWC for approval following targeted consultation.

Rachel Clarke  
Committee Secretary

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**Present:**

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern  
Hon Grant Robertson  
Hon Kelvin Davis  
Hon Dr Megan Woods  
Hon Carmel Sepuloni (Chair)  
Hon Andrew Little  
Hon Nanaia Mahuta  
Hon Kris Faafoi  
Hon Peeni Henare  
Hon Willie Jackson  
Hon Jan Tinetti  
Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall  
Hon Aupito Williams Sio  
Hon Meka Whaitiri  
Hon Priyanca Radhakrishnan

**Officials present from:**

Office of the Prime Minister  
Office of the SWC Chair  
Officials Committee for SWC

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# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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### Report of the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee: Period Ended 24 September 2021

On 27 September 2021, Cabinet made the following decisions on the work of the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee for the period ended 24 September 2021:

out of scope



SWC-21-MIN-0137 / **Draft Pacific Languages Strategy: Targeted Consultation**  
Portfolio: Pacific Peoples

CONFIRMED

out of scope



out of scope



Michael Webster  
Secretary of the Cabinet

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# Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee

## Minute of Decision

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### Draft Pacific Languages Strategy: Targeted Consultation

**Portfolio** Pacific Peoples

On 22 September 2021, the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee:

- 1 **noted** that Pacific languages are widely recognised as the cornerstone of Pacific identity, culture and wellbeing;
- 2 **noted** that in 2018, the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee (SWC) agreed to commit to ensuring Pacific languages survive within New Zealand's Pacific communities [SWC-18-MIN-0160];
- 3 **noted** that the draft *Pacific Languages Strategy* attached under SWC-21-SUB-0137 aims to provide a strategic and consistent framework for revitalising and sustaining Pacific languages;
- 4 **noted** that the draft *Pacific Languages Strategy* sets a vision of thriving Pacific languages in Pacific Aotearoa, and includes:
  - 4.1 Overarching actions:
    - 4.1.1 Shift perspectives to ensure Indigenous Pacific languages are valued;
    - 4.1.2 Increase opportunities and pathways for learning Indigenous Pacific languages;
    - 4.1.3 Create environments for Indigenous Pacific languages to be used more often, and in more spaces;
  - 4.2 Language revitalisation areas: status, critical awareness, acquisition, corpus and use;
  - 4.3 Approach needed: nine Pacific languages are supported by the Strategy and are categorised as follows:
    - 4.3.1 Urgent revitalisation: Te Gagana Tokelau, Vagahau Niue, Te Reo Māori Kuki 'Āirani;
    - 4.3.2 Strengthening maintenance and transmission: Gagana Samoa, Lea Faka-Tonga;
    - 4.3.3 Promoting and raising awareness: Te Gana Tuvalu, Vosa Vakaviti, Fāeag Rotūam, Te taetae ni Kiribati;

- 5 **agreed** that the Ministry for Pacific Peoples undertake targeted consultation on the draft *Pacific Languages Strategy* with Pacific communities and government agencies;
- 6 **agreed** that during targeted consultation, the Ministry for Pacific Peoples will also develop an all-of-government action plan to operationalise the Pacific Language Strategy;
- 7 **noted** that the Minister for Pacific Peoples intends to submit a final *Pacific Languages Strategy*, and All-of-Government Action Plan to SWC for approval following targeted consultation.

Rachel Clarke  
Committee Secretary

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**Present:**

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern  
Hon Grant Robertson  
Hon Kelvin Davis  
Hon Dr Megan Woods  
Hon Carmel Sepuloni (Chair)  
Hon Andrew Little  
Hon Nanaia Mahuta  
Hon Kris Faafoi  
Hon Peeni Henare  
Hon Willie Jackson  
Hon Jan Tinetti  
Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall  
Hon Aupito Williams Sio  
Hon Meka Whaitiri  
Hon Priyanca Radhakrishnan

**Officials present from:**

Office of the Prime Minister  
Office of the SWC Chair  
Officials Committee for SWC

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