

30 June 2022

s9(2)(a)

Talofa lava s9(2)(a)

## RESPONSE TO AN OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

On 11 May 2022, you contacted the Ministry for Pacific Peoples (MPP) and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), information regarding the Dawn Raids apology. I am responding on behalf of MPP and have outlined your specific questions and my responses to each below.

1. *How many posted letters did the Prime Minister's Office and MPP receive about the Dawn Raids apology?*
2. *Can a table please be provided with a breakdown of the posted letter data by:*
  - *Which region did the person/s write from,*
  - *Ethnic and age (if included),*
  - *Whether they identified a school, or organisations they represented*
  - *How many writers personally stated they, or their family experienced the 'raids' or targeted checks (so called random checks)?*
  - *Whether in support, against, neutral, or stating another position?*
3. *How many emails did the Prime Minister's Office and MPP receive about the Dawn Raids apology?*
4. *Can a table please be provided with a breakdown of the email data by:*
  - *Which region did the person/s write from,*
  - *Ethnic and age (if included),*
  - *Whether they identified a school, or organisations*
  - *How many writers personally stated their family, or they experienced the 'raids' or targeted checks (so called random checks)?*
  - *Whether in support, against, neutral, or stating another position?*

MPP received 82 pieces of correspondence – 10 letters and 72 emails about the Dawn Raids apology. Of this, eight of the emails were received post apology. I have appended to this letter copies of the pre apology correspondence (Appendix A) and copies of the post apology correspondence (Appendix B). I have withheld the names, contact details and any other identifying personal details of the correspondents under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA to protect the privacy of natural persons. Please note there were some emails where the individual's name was the only text on the second page; as all names are being withheld, I have deleted these pages from the document as they do not contain any substantive text.

Please note that most correspondents did not disclose their region, ethnicity, age or organisation as part of their correspondence. It is not standard Ministry practice to seek these details when we receive correspondence. I must therefore refuse the part of your request for a breakdown in table format under section 18(g) of the OIA as a large majority of the information requested is not held by MPP and there are no grounds for believing that the information is held by another department.

In terms of correspondence received prior to the apology, you will see that most were in support of the apology. There was only one piece of correspondence received that was against the apology (refer document A14).

Regarding the correspondence received post apology, you will see that some were supportive of the apology event while others were not so supportive of the event. Additionally, while some correspondents were appreciative of the apology event itself, they expressed the sentiment that the apology was not sufficient and more needed to be done moving forward.

5. *Did people share their feelings in ways other than email or posted letters? If so please can a breakdown of what forms this correspondence took? (For example, did people make and send art?)*

MPP did not receive any other forms of communication from people regarding the Dawn Raids, such as art. However, several people shared their sentiments via social media. I have enclosed with this letter, email advice sent to the Office of the Minister for Pacific Peoples, Hon Aupito William Sio, which summarises the social media feedback and media coverage in the lead up to the apology (refer Appendix C). Some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA to protect the privacy of natural persons.

6. *Did other Ministers keep a tally of the representations made in writing or in person calling for a Dawn Raids apology? (DPMC Only)*

I note this part of your request specifies DPMC only, and I understand DPMC will be providing a response to this part of your request.

7. *How many correspondents specifically called for a Dawn Raids Debate in parliament?*

8. *Was there any briefings to Ministers written or verbal about a possible Dawn Raids apology debate. Can the dates and titles of any advice please be provided?*

Of the letters that MPP received, no correspondents specifically called for a Dawn Raids debate in Parliament. Further, I can confirm that MPP officials did not provide Ministers any advice (written or verbal) about a possible Dawn Raids apology debate. I must therefore refuse these parts of your request under section 18(e) of the OIA as the information requested does not exist.

### **All the correspondence**

9. *Is there a way we can please see all the letters / get copies of them that were sent to the PM's office and MPP that this OIA is referencing?*

I understand the Prime Minister's office will be responding to the part of your request seeking copies of letters sent to them.

As mentioned earlier, copies of the correspondence sent to MPP and the Minister for Pacific Peoples (either directly or via transfer) are enclosed with this letter (refer Appendices A and B).

### **After the Dawn Raids apology**

10. *What feedback did the PM's office and MPP receive in writing or other formats in response to the apology?*

In addition to correspondence received post apology this, several people voiced their opinions post apology on social media. I have enclosed with this letter a copy of the briefing: Dawn Raids apology post-event update (refer Appendix D). This briefing provides a summary of the feedback MPP received via correspondence, and social media as well as the media coverage of the event. Please note, some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA to protect privacy of natural persons, and some information has been marked as out of scope as it does not directly relate to feedback received post apology.

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 its responses to OIA requests. As such, this letter will 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 company.

Should you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact the Ministry at: [uia\\_requests@mpp.govt.nz](mailto:uia_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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Ia manuia



Agnes Sefo  
**Deputy Secretary,**  
**Office of the Secretary for Pacific Peoples**

**From:** s9(2)(a) on behalf of [Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern](#)  
**To:** s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: dawn raids  
**Date:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 1:45:46 pm

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Dear s9(2)(a)

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, to acknowledge your email of 31 March 2021. Please be assured your comments have been noted.

As the issue you have raised falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Pacific Peoples, Hon Aupito William Sio, your email has been forwarded to the Minister's office for consideration.

Thank you for writing, and take care.

Best wishes

s9(2)(a)

Office of the Prime Minister

**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 9:55 AM  
**To:** Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern <Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** dawn raids

Kia ora Jacinda

I want to add my voice to those calling for an apology for the dawn raids.

I am sure you are aware of the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the after effects of what had happened 50 years ago. Dawn Raids during the 70's was a traumatic event lasting decades which as a result, has led to generational-trauma. These include police bursting into rooms where Polynesian children would be sleeping, shining light on their faces and asking for I.D. Aggressive reinforcement epitomised the Police as an organisation creating a further distrust in the government, still prevalent today.

This one story is one of many episodes that took place during the 70's. This however wasn't an isolated racial movement against Polynesians living in Aotearoa. These very actions had been reinforced by Politicians and the media, which in turn placed our people in a bad light.

Although Pacific migration into Aotearoa was initially seen as temporary, the presence of our culture has been crucial in our global identity. The past has seemed to be implied as forgiven and forgotten; however, the effects of the past still linger in the fabric of our identity 50 years on.

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We ask for an apology and a guarantee this will not happen again. There are current overstayers still here and experiencing the effects resembling these traumas. We ask the government to heavily consider a pathway to residency for current overstayers, who have stayed for quite a long time.

#pathway2residency

Nga mihi

s9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

**From:** s9(2)(a) on behalf of [Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern](#)  
**To:** s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE:  
**Date:** Thursday, 1 April 2021 9:24:19 am

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Dear s9(2)(a)

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, to acknowledge your email of 31 March 2021. Please be assured your comments have been noted.

As the issue you have raised falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Pacific Peoples, Hon Aupito William Sio, your email has been forwarded to the Minister's office for consideration.

Thank you for writing, and take care.

Best wishes

s9(2)(a)

Office of the Prime Minister

**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 6:04 PM  
**To:** Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern <Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Subject:**

Dear Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern

I am sure you are aware of the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the after effects of what had happened 50 years ago. Dawn Raids during the 70's was a traumatic event lasting decades which as a result, has led to generational-trauma. These include police bursting into rooms where Polynesian children would be sleeping, shining light on their faces and asking for I.D. Aggressive reinforcement epitomised the Police as an organisation creating a further distrust in the government, still prevalent today.

This one story is one of many episodes that took place during the 70's. This however wasn't an isolated racial movement against Polynesians living in Aotearoa. These very actions had been reinforced by Politicians and the media, which in turn placed our people in a bad light.

Although Pacific migration into Aotearoa was initially seen as temporary, the presence of our culture has been crucial in our global identity. The past has seemed to be implied as forgiven and forgotten; however, the effects of the past still linger in the fabric of our identity 50 years on.

We ask for an apology and a guarantee this will not happen again. There are current overstayers still here and experiencing the effects resembling these traumas. We ask the government to heavily consider a pathway to residency for current overstayers, who have stayed for quite a long time.

#pathway2residency

**From:** s9(2)(a) on behalf of [Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern](#)  
**To:** s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Apology for the Dawn Raids  
**Date:** Thursday, 1 April 2021 9:32:41 am

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Dear s9(2)(a)

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, to acknowledge your email of 31 March 2021. Please be assured your comments have been noted.

As the issue you have raised falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Pacific Peoples, Hon Aupito William Sio, your email has been forwarded to the Minister's office for consideration.

Thank you for writing, and take care.

Best wishes

s9(2)(a)

Office of the Prime Minister

**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 1 April 2021 12:01 AM  
**To:** Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern <Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Apology for the Dawn Raids

Dear Prime Minister/MP Jacinda Ardern,  
I am sure you are aware of the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the after effects of what had happened 50 years ago. Dawn Raids during the 70's was a traumatic event lasting decades which as a result, has led to generational-trauma. These include police bursting into rooms where Polynesian children would be sleeping, shining light on their faces and asking for I.D. Aggressive reinforcement epitomised the Police as an organisation creating a further distrust in the government, still prevalent today.

This one story is one of many episodes that took place during the 70's. This however wasn't an isolated racial movement against Polynesians living in Aotearoa. These very actions had been reinforced by Politicians and the media, which in turn placed our people in a bad light.

Although Pacific migration into Aotearoa was initially seen as temporary, the presence of our culture has been crucial in our global identity. The past has seemed to be implied as forgiven and forgotten; however, the effects of the past still linger in the fabric of our identity 50 years on.

We ask for an apology and a guarantee this will not happen again. There are current overstayers still here and experiencing the effects resembling these traumas. We ask the government to heavily consider a pathway to residency for current overstayers, who have stayed for quite a long time.

#pathway2residency

**From:** s9(2)(a) on behalf of [Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern](#)  
**To:** s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Polynesian Panthers Apology request  
**Date:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 1:42:34 pm

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Dear s9(2)(a)

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, to acknowledge your email of 31 March 2021. Please be assured your comments have been noted.

As the issue you have raised falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Pacific Peoples, Hon Aupito William Sio, your email has been forwarded to the Minister's office for consideration.

Thank you for writing, and take care.

Best wishes

s9(2)(a)  
Office of the Prime Minister

**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 9:22 AM  
**To:** Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern <Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Polynesian Panthers Apology request

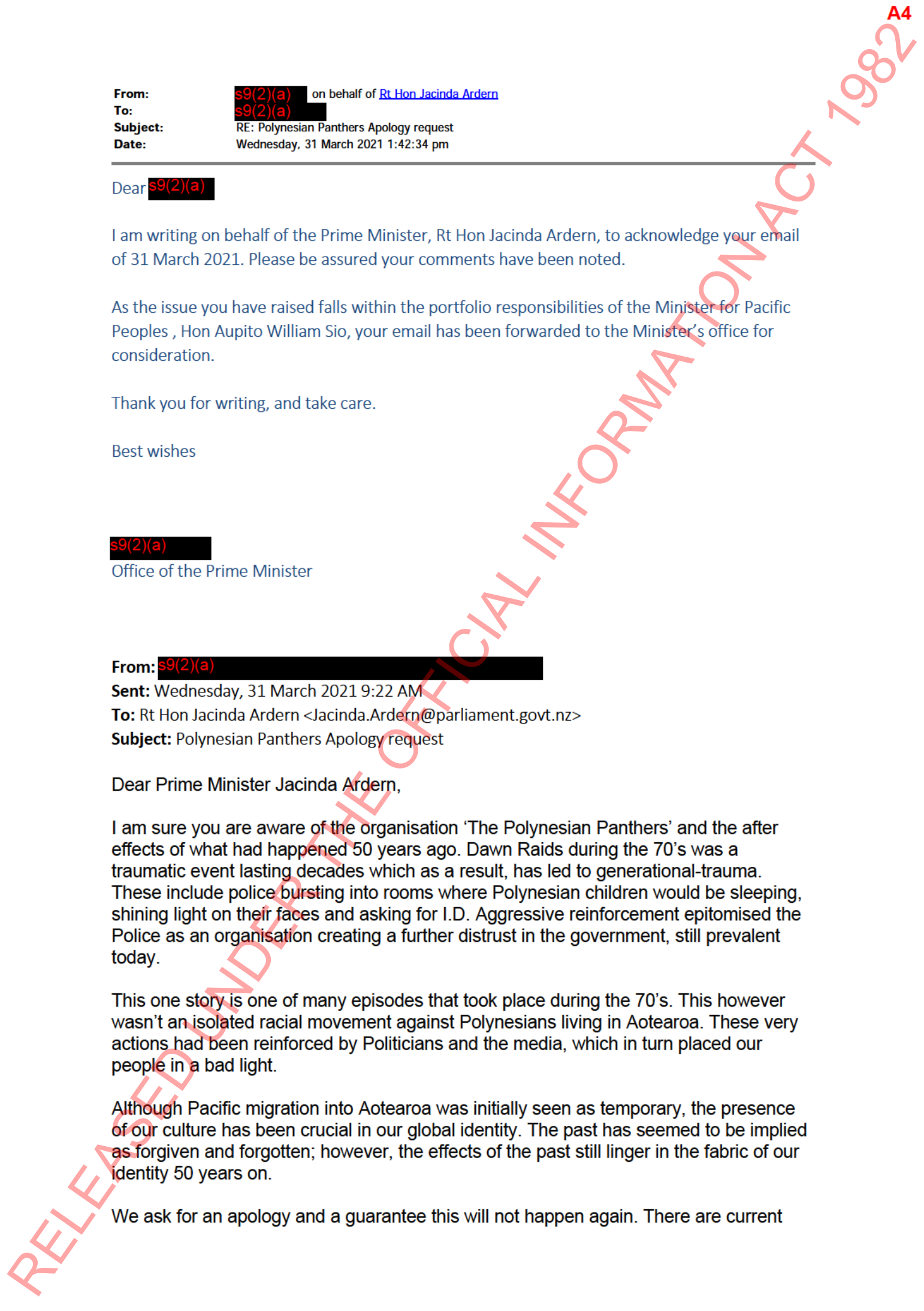
Dear Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern,

I am sure you are aware of the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the after effects of what had happened 50 years ago. Dawn Raids during the 70's was a traumatic event lasting decades which as a result, has led to generational-trauma. These include police bursting into rooms where Polynesian children would be sleeping, shining light on their faces and asking for I.D. Aggressive reinforcement epitomised the Police as an organisation creating a further distrust in the government, still prevalent today.

This one story is one of many episodes that took place during the 70's. This however wasn't an isolated racial movement against Polynesians living in Aotearoa. These very actions had been reinforced by Politicians and the media, which in turn placed our people in a bad light.

Although Pacific migration into Aotearoa was initially seen as temporary, the presence of our culture has been crucial in our global identity. The past has seemed to be implied as forgiven and forgotten; however, the effects of the past still linger in the fabric of our identity 50 years on.

We ask for an apology and a guarantee this will not happen again. There are current



overstayers still here and experiencing the effects resembling these traumas. We ask the government to heavily consider a pathway to residency for current overstayers, who have stayed for quite a long time.

#pathway2residency

Regards,

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s9(2)(a)

s9(2)(a)

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Fakaalofa atu ma Prime Minister Jacinda Adern,

My name is s9(2)(a)

The purpose of our Trust is to s9(2)(a)

One of the Pillars of our organization is s9(2)(a)

Therefore, we have a responsibility to our village, and the Pacific communities we come from to write this letter.

The Dawn Raids has been an ugly wart on the record of our nations race relations for many years, and the ramifications of such unjust policies has left a trail of trauma among our Pacific Communities.

Its hard to even to imagine such an event took place in New Zealand, that saw many of our Pacific families being torn apart, even those that were part of the Realm countries of New Zealand who were subject to such racist policies.

It is morally wrong for our government to stand back and not acknowledge that the Dawn Raids were unjust and racist, and formally apologize to the Polynesian communities here as well as to the Pacific Nations they were sent back to.

On behalf of our Charity, we wholeheartedly request that you, as our Nations leader, expediate the apology and reservedly say sorry to every individual who was impacted by the racist policies.

Our young people are regularly faced with racism daily, and as an advocate of youth wellbeing, encouraging our leader to apologize and uplift our Pacific people would go a long way to start the healing of our communities.

Haau a fakamooli, Prime Minister Jacinda Adern

Nga mihi mahana

s9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982 A5

From: s9(2)(a) on behalf of [Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern](#)  
To: [a.sio@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:a.sio@ministers.govt.nz)  
Subject: FW: Apology/dawn raids - a pathway to residency  
Date: Wednesday, 31 March 2021 8:26:07 am

Hi Ana,

Another,  
s9(2)(a)

From: s9(2)(a)  
Sent: Wednesday, 31 March 2021 8:00 AM  
To: J Ardern (MIN) <j.ardern@ministers.govt.nz>  
Subject: Apology/dawn raids - a pathway to residency

Dear Prime Minister,

I am sure you are aware of the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the after effects of what had happened 50 years ago. Dawn Raids during the 70's was a traumatic event lasting decades which as a result, has led to generational-trauma. These include police bursting into rooms where Polynesian children would be sleeping, shining light on their faces and asking for I.D. Aggressive reinforcement epitomised the Police as an organisation creating a further distrust in the government, still prevalent today.

This one story is one of many episodes that took place during the 70's. This however wasn't an isolated racial movement against Polynesians living in Aotearoa. These very actions had been reinforced by Politicians and the media, which in turn placed our people in a bad light.

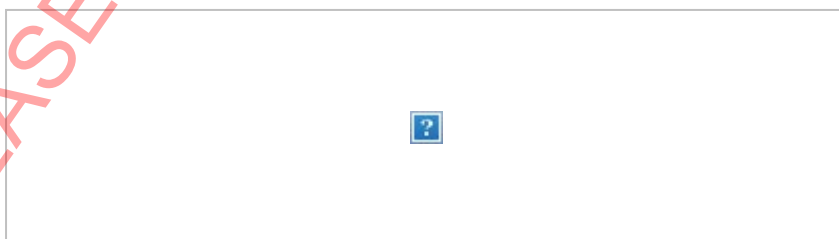
Although Pacific migration into Aotearoa was initially seen as temporary, the presence of our culture has been crucial in our global identity. The past has seemed to be implied as forgiven and forgotten; however, the effects of the past still linger in the fabric of our identity 50 years on.

**We ask for an apology and a guarantee this will not happen again. There are current overstayers still here and experiencing the effects resembling these traumas. We ask the government to heavily consider a pathway to residency for current overstayers, who have stayed for quite a long time.**

#pathway2residency

Regards,  
s9(2)(a)

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RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982



**From:** s9(2)(a) on behalf of [Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern](#)  
**To:** s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Dawn Raid Apology  
**Date:** Thursday, 1 April 2021 9:18:07 am

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Dear s9(2)(a)

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, to acknowledge your email of 31 March 2021. Please be assured your comments have been noted.

As the issue you have raised falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Pacific Peoples, Hon Aupito William Sio, your email has been forwarded to the Minister's office for consideration.

Thank you for writing, and take care.

Best wishes

s9(2)(a)

Office of the Prime Minister

**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 4:48 PM  
**To:** Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern <Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Dawn Raid Apology

Dear Prime Minister Jacinda Adern

I am sure you are aware of the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the after effects of what had happened 50 years ago. Dawn Raids during the 70's was a traumatic event lasting decades which as a result, has led to generational-trauma. These include police bursting into rooms where Polynesian children would be sleeping, shining light on their faces and asking for I.D. Aggressive reinforcement epitomised the Police as an organisation creating a further distrust in the government, still prevalent today.

This one story is one of many episodes that took place during the 70's. This however wasn't an isolated racial movement against Polynesians living in Aotearoa. These very actions had been reinforced by Politicians and the media, which in turn placed our people in a bad light.

Although Pacific migration into Aotearoa was initially seen as temporary, the presence of our culture has been crucial in our global identity. The past has seemed to be implied as forgiven and forgotten; however, the effects of the past still linger in the fabric of our identity 50 years on.

We ask for an apology and a guarantee this will not happen again. There are current overstayers still here and experiencing the effects resembling these traumas. We ask the government to heavily consider a pathway to residency for current overstayers, who have stayed for quite a long time.

#pathway2residency

Regards,

s9(2)(a)

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Noho ora mai,

s9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**To:** [a.sio@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:a.sio@ministers.govt.nz)  
**Subject:** Apologise for the Dawn Raids  
**Date:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 12:35:43 am

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Tēnā koe Aupito,

I am sure you are aware of the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the after effects of what happened 50 years ago - the Dawn Raids of the 70's were a traumatic and systemic attack on Polynesian peoples lasting decades; an attack that has directly led to intergenerational-trauma for that community.

Again, as I am sure you are aware, these attacks included police bursting into rooms where Polynesian children would be sleeping, shining light into their faces and asking for I.D. This aggressive reinforcement epitomised the police as an organisation creating a further distrust in the government, still prevalent today.

This one example is one of many episodes that took place during the Dawn Raids of the 70's. This however wasn't an isolated racial movement against Polynesians living in Aotearoa. These very actions were wilfully and intentionally reinforced by politicians and the media, which in turn fed the mistrust and the racism already prevalent within and across white New Zealand at the time towards the Polynesian community.

Although Pacific migration into Aotearoa was initially seen as temporary, the presence of Polynesian culture here has been crucial in our global identity as a multicultural country. The past has seemed to be implied as forgiven and forgotten; however, the effects of the Dawn Raids still linger in the fabric of Polynesian identity 50 years on.

The Polynesian community (and myself, on behalf of) is asking for an apology and a guarantee this will not happen again. There are current overstayers still here and experiencing the effects of the traumas that arose from the Dawn Raids. We ask the government to seriously consider a pathway to residency for current overstayers, who have stayed for many years now.

#pathway2residency

Ngā mihi,

s9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982 A8

**From:** s9(2)(a) on behalf of [Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern](#)  
**To:** s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Time to apologise  
**Date:** Thursday, 1 April 2021 9:28:51 am

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Dear s9(2)(a)

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, to acknowledge your email of 31 March 2021. Please be assured your comments have been noted.

As the issue you have raised falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Pacific Peoples, Hon Aupito William Sio, your email has been forwarded to the Minister's office for consideration.

Thank you for writing, and take care.

Best wishes

s9(2)(a)  
Office of the Prime Minister

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**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 9:30 PM  
**To:** Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern <Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Time to apologise

Dear Ms Ardern,

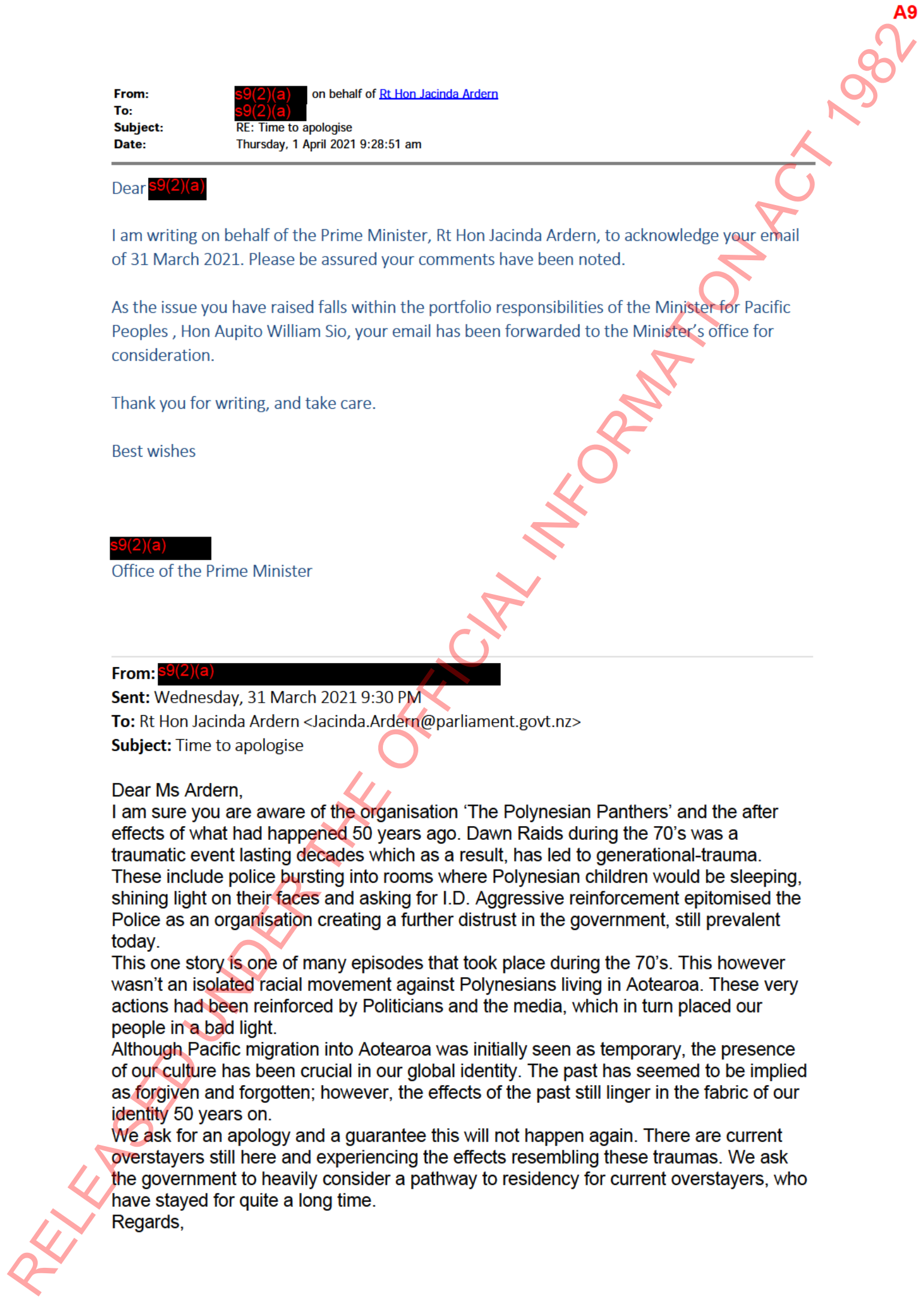
I am sure you are aware of the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the after effects of what had happened 50 years ago. Dawn Raids during the 70's was a traumatic event lasting decades which as a result, has led to generational-trauma. These include police bursting into rooms where Polynesian children would be sleeping, shining light on their faces and asking for I.D. Aggressive reinforcement epitomised the Police as an organisation creating a further distrust in the government, still prevalent today.

This one story is one of many episodes that took place during the 70's. This however wasn't an isolated racial movement against Polynesians living in Aotearoa. These very actions had been reinforced by Politicians and the media, which in turn placed our people in a bad light.

Although Pacific migration into Aotearoa was initially seen as temporary, the presence of our culture has been crucial in our global identity. The past has seemed to be implied as forgiven and forgotten; however, the effects of the past still linger in the fabric of our identity 50 years on.

We ask for an apology and a guarantee this will not happen again. There are current overstayers still here and experiencing the effects resembling these traumas. We ask the government to heavily consider a pathway to residency for current overstayers, who have stayed for quite a long time.

Regards,



Dear Prime Minister/MP (JACINDA ADERN)

I am sure you are aware of the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the after effects of what had happened 50 years ago. Dawn Raids during the 70's was a traumatic event lasting decades which as a result, has led to generational-trauma. These include police bursting into rooms where Polynesian children would be sleeping, shining light on their faces and asking for I.D. Aggressive reinforcement epitomised the Police as an organisation creating a further distrust in the government, still prevalent today.

This one story is one of many episodes that took place during the 70's. This however wasn't an isolated racial movement against Polynesians living in Aotearoa. These very actions had been reinforced by Politicians and the media, which in turn placed our people in a bad light.

Although Pacific migration into Aotearoa was initially seen as temporary, the presence of our culture has been crucial in our global identity. The past has seemed to be implied as forgiven and forgotten; however, the effects of the past still linger in the fabric of our identity 50 years on. We ask for an apology and a guarantee this will not happen again. There are current overstayers still here and experiencing the effects resembling these traumas. We ask the government to heavily consider a pathway to residency for current overstayers, who have stayed for quite a long time.

#pathway2residency

Regards,

s9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982



**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**To:** [aupito.william.sio@labour.org.nz](mailto:aupito.william.sio@labour.org.nz)  
**Cc:** [a.sio@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:a.sio@ministers.govt.nz); [jacinda.ardern@labour.org.nz](mailto:jacinda.ardern@labour.org.nz); [pacific@younglabour.org.nz](mailto:pacific@younglabour.org.nz)  
**Subject:** Young Labour on a Dawn Raids Apology  
**Date:** Friday, 2 April 2021 8:53:18 am

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Tēnā koe e te Minita,

s9(2)(a) I write to you in support for, and in solidarity with, the Polynesian Panthers and their call for an official government apology for the Dawn Raids.

It has long been recognised by human rights organisations, political groups and of course the affected communities that the Dawn Raids caused immeasurable and lasting harm. They represented the racism manifest in the cultural and economic exploitation of Pasifika people that has underscored much of Aotearoa's history, and unfortunately continues to today. They were unjust, ignorant and vicious in their planning and execution.

We believe you have a moral and political responsibility to encourage the government to apologise officially for the ongoing harm of actions like the Dawn Raids, as part of centuries of colonisation, oppression and exploitation by the government.

We additionally urge the government to increase education about the Dawn Raids, and other stains on our history, in a general public sense and also targeted through the school curricula.

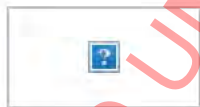
Finally, we urge the government to engage with Police and other aspects of our justice system to, in partnership with Pasifika communities, address the scourge of institutional discrimination that still permeates them, and organise redress for the harm of the Dawn Raids beyond the first step of an official apology.

We await your reply and further action on this issue.

Ngā mihi,

s9(2)(a)

[Redacted signature]



RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**To:** [a.sio@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:a.sio@ministers.govt.nz)  
**Subject:** Pacific Panthers Apology  
**Date:** Thursday, 1 April 2021 12:41:41 am

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Tēnā koe Hon Aupito Williams Sio,

I am sure you are aware of the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the after effects of what had happened 50 years ago. Dawn Raids during the 70's was a traumatic event lasting decades which as a result, has led to generational-trauma. These include police bursting into rooms where Polynesian children would be sleeping, shining light on their faces and asking for I.D. Aggressive reinforcement epitomised the Police as an organisation creating a further distrust in the government, still prevalent today.

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We ask for an apology and a guarantee that this will not happen again. There are current overstayers still here and experiencing the effects resembling these traumas. We ask the government to heavily consider a pathway to residency for current overstayers, who have stayed for quite a long time.

#Pathway2Residency

Nāku iti noa,

s9(2)(a)

Young Greens of Aotearoa

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Dear Prime Minister,

First and foremost, thank you for the work you do for our community. Your strong and empathetic leadership has been crucial to our country, especially with the complex global challenges we are currently facing.

I am sure you are familiar with the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the Dawn Raids of the 1970's. These events, which happened merely 50 years ago, have caused significant generational trauma and have done irreversible damage to the Pasifika population of Aotearoa. In case you are not familiar with these events, they were characterized by police invading the homes of Pasifika families, regardless of whether there was evidence that they were indeed overstayers, bursting into the rooms of Polynesian children, shining bright lights into the eyes of terrified minors and demanding identification. This pattern was repeated for decades. These aggressive attacks on Pasifika families epitomised the Police as a violent organisation that poses a threat to the Polynesian citizens of Aotearoa and reinforced feelings of distrust in the government.

Although the raids happened repeatedly throughout the 1970's, they were not the only injustices done to Polynesian New Zealanders. These actions were promoted by Politicians and the media, which portrayed Pasifika people in a very unfavourable light before the people of New Zealand. The stereotypes and resentment cultivated towards Polynesians during that era continue to harm the community to this day.

Although Pacific migration to Aotearoa was initially seen as temporary, the presence of our culture has been crucial in our global identity. Since Polynesian art and culture has become such a key aspect of Aotearoa's image, we merely ask the Polynesian PEOPLE be afforded the same appreciation and respect. It is often implied that the past has been forgiven and forgotten; however, the effects of the past still linger in the fabric of Polynesian identity 50 years on. A public apology to the Polyesian population of Aotearoa is the only way forward.

We ask for an apology to the community and a guarantee this will not happen again. There are current overstayers still here and suffering similar traumas as the ones described above. We ask the government to heavily consider a pathway to residency for current overstayers, who have stayed for quite a long time.

#pathway2residency

Regards,

s9(2)(a)



RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

**From:** [Nelly Cowan](#)  
**To:** [MinisterialServices](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Why apologise to Pacifica overstayers who broke our law  
**Date:** Tuesday, 3 August 2021 9:10:53 am

---

Kia ora team,

Can the below correspondence be transferred to MPP for response please?

Can you also keep the office in the loop with what is sent out?

Meitaki,  
Nelly

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Immigration  
**Sent:** Monday, 2 August 2021 3:35 PM  
**To:** A Sio (MIN) <A.Sio@ministers.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** FW: Why apologise to Pacifica overstayers who broke our law

Hi team

I think this is for you. Do you accept transfer?

Cheers

Hannah O'Brien  
Private Secretary (Ministerial Servicing) Immigration Workplace Relations and Safety Mob - s9(2)(a)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** K Faafoi (MIN)  
**Sent:** Sunday, 1 August 2021 6:25 PM  
**To:** Immigration <Immigration@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** FW: Why apologise to Pacifica overstayers who broke our law

Many thanks  
Maryke

Maryke Barnard  
Private Secretary (Executive Support) to Hon Kris Faafoi Minister of Justice, Minister for Broadcasting and Media, Minister of Immigration

-----Original Message-----

**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Sunday, 1 August 2021 1:05 PM  
**To:** Hon Kris Faafoi <kris.faafoi@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Why apologise to Pacifica overstayers who broke our law

To apologise is simply pandering to them for voter support.

No justification for illegal immigrants to be here draining our economy as they have no legal status and should be sent home to their own country of origin.

How could an apology ever be contemplated to those breaking our law deliberately.

Next they will want a financial settlement as well.

Why should they be allowed to steal jobs from legitimate hardworking New Zealanders?.

Please explain why someone breaking our laws should be allowed to stay here?.

Makes no sense to those of us who abide by our laws that you apologise to those deliberately breaking our law.

Shocking decision by Labour.

Your justification please.

s9(2)(a)

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**From:** s9(2)(a) on behalf of [Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern](#)  
**To:** s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: #Pathway2residency Pledge  
**Date:** Thursday, 1 April 2021 9:25:51 am

Dear s9(2)(a)

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, to acknowledge your email of 31 March 2021. Please be assured your comments have been noted.

As the issue you have raised falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Pacific Peoples, Hon Aupito William Sio, your email has been forwarded to the Minister's office for consideration.

Thank you for writing, and take care.

Best wishes

s9(2)(a)  
Office of the Prime Minister

**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 6:42 PM  
**To:** Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern <Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** #Pathway2residency Pledge

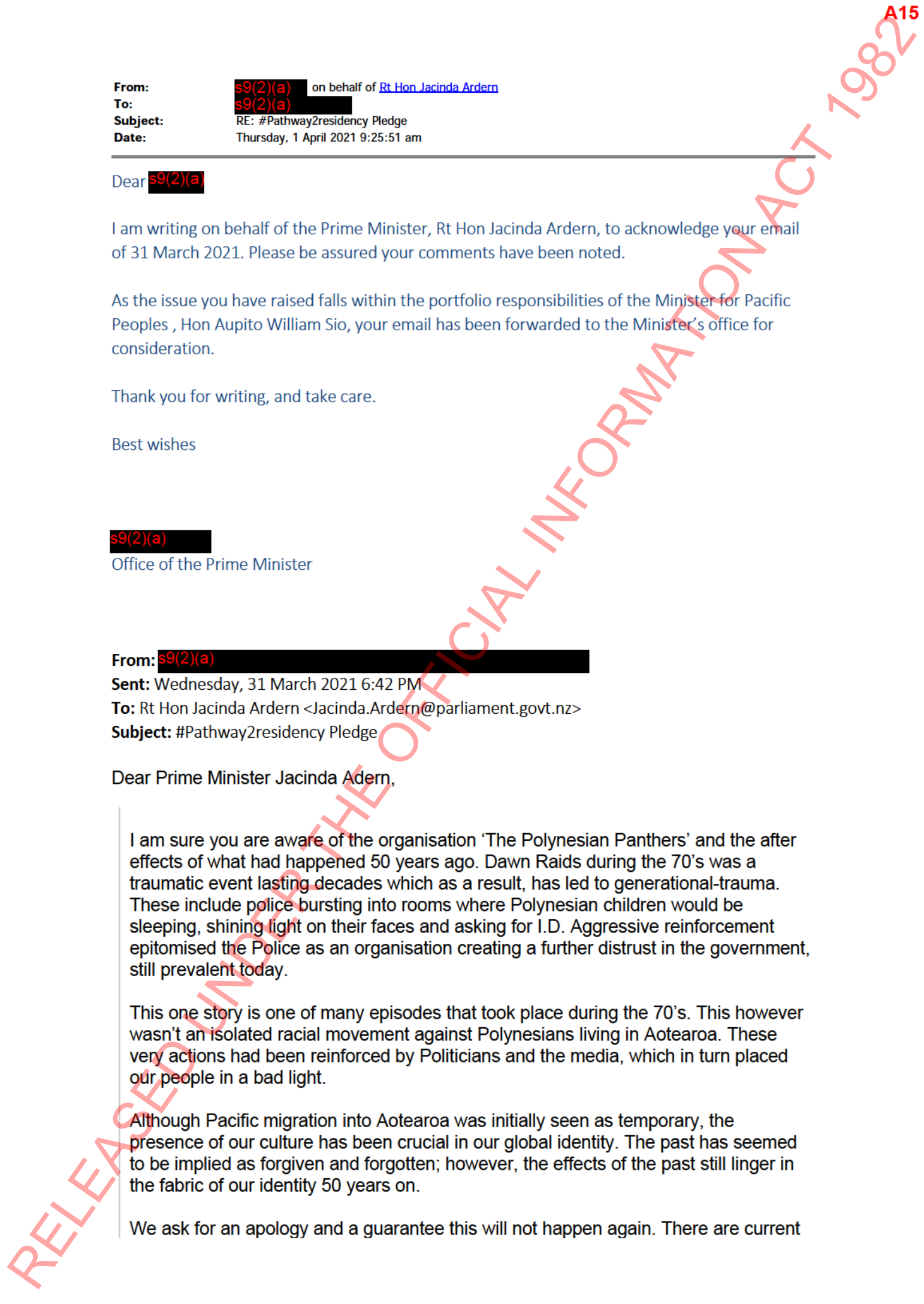
Dear Prime Minister Jacinda Adern,

I am sure you are aware of the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the after effects of what had happened 50 years ago. Dawn Raids during the 70's was a traumatic event lasting decades which as a result, has led to generational-trauma. These include police bursting into rooms where Polynesian children would be sleeping, shining light on their faces and asking for I.D. Aggressive reinforcement epitomised the Police as an organisation creating a further distrust in the government, still prevalent today.

This one story is one of many episodes that took place during the 70's. This however wasn't an isolated racial movement against Polynesians living in Aotearoa. These very actions had been reinforced by Politicians and the media, which in turn placed our people in a bad light.

Although Pacific migration into Aotearoa was initially seen as temporary, the presence of our culture has been crucial in our global identity. The past has seemed to be implied as forgiven and forgotten; however, the effects of the past still linger in the fabric of our identity 50 years on.

We ask for an apology and a guarantee this will not happen again. There are current



overstayers still here and experiencing the effects resembling these traumas. We ask the government to heavily consider a pathway to residency for current overstayers, who have stayed for quite a long time.

#pathway2residency

Regards,

s9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

**From:** s9(2)(a) on behalf of [Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern](#)  
**To:** s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Polynesian Panthers  
**Date:** Thursday, 1 April 2021 9:43:29 am

---

Dear s9(2)(a)

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, to acknowledge your email of 01 April 2021. Please be assured your comments have been noted.

As the issue you have raised falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Pacific Peoples, Hon Aupito William Sio, your email has been forwarded to the Minister's office for consideration.

Thank you for writing, and take care.

Best wishes

s9(2)(a)

Office of the Prime Minister

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**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 1 April 2021 8:54 AM  
**To:** Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern <Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Polynesian Panthers

Dear Jacinda Ardern,

I am sure you are aware of the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the after effects of what had happened 50 years ago. Dawn Raids during the 70's was a traumatic event lasting decades which as a result, has led to generational-trauma. These include police bursting into rooms where Polynesian children would be sleeping, shining light on their faces and asking for I.D. Aggressive reinforcement epitomised the Police as an organisation creating a further distrust in the government, still prevalent today.

This one story is one of many episodes that took place during the 70's. This however wasn't an isolated racial movement against Polynesians living in Aotearoa. These very actions had been reinforced by Politicians and the media, which in turn placed our people in a bad light.

Although Pacific migration into Aotearoa was initially seen as temporary, the presence of our culture has been crucial in our global identity. The past has seemed to be implied as forgiven and forgotten; however, the effects of the past still linger in the fabric of our identity 50 years on.

We ask for an apology and a guarantee this will not happen again. There are current overstayers still here and experiencing the effects resembling these traumas. We ask the government to heavily consider a pathway to residency for current overstayers, who have stayed for quite a long time.

#pathway2residency

Dear Prime Minister/MP (JACINDA ADERN)

I am sure you are aware of the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the after effects of what had happened 50 years ago. Dawn Raids during the 70's was a traumatic event lasting decades which as a result, has led to generational-trauma. These include police bursting into rooms where Polynesian children would be sleeping, shining light on their faces and asking for I.D. Aggressive reinforcement epitomised the Police as an organisation creating a further distrust in the government, still prevalent today.

This one story is one of many episodes that took place during the 70's. This however wasn't an isolated racial movement against Polynesians living in Aotearoa. These very actions had been reinforced by Politicians and the media, which in turn placed our people in a bad light.

Although Pacific migration into Aotearoa was initially seen as temporary, the presence of our culture has been crucial in our global identity. The past has seemed to be implied as forgiven and forgotten; however, the effects of the past still linger in the fabric of our identity 50 years on. We ask for an apology and a guarantee this will not happen again. There are current overstayers still here and experiencing the effects resembling these traumas. We ask the government to heavily consider a pathway to residency for current overstayers, who have stayed for quite a long time.

#pathway2residency

Regards,

s9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982 A17



**From:** [Nelly Cowan](#)  
**To:** [MinisterialServices](#)  
**Cc:** [La Rochelle Morgan](#); [Lavea'i Ioane](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Dawn Raid Apology  
**Date:** Wednesday, 16 June 2021 8:39:52 am

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Fyi

**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 15 June 2021 10:10 AM  
**To:** J Ardern (MIN) <j.ardern@ministers.govt.nz>; A Sio (MIN) <A.Sio@ministers.govt.nz>  
**Cc:** P Radhakrishnan (MIN) <P.Radhakrishnan@ministers.govt.nz>; s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** Dawn Raid Apology

Dear Prime Minister and Minister Sio

Thank you for yesterday's announcement to extend a formal apology for the 1970's dawn raid carried out by the government against many in the Pacific Communities.

I wish to thank you Minister Sio in particular, for opening up in such an honest manner with your own experience and that of your family. This has resonated no doubt among many families affected by what transpired.

The ripple effect of the dawn raids reached many overstayers, including Fijian Indians caught in a web of promises of jobs and subsequent separation from families as a result. This was a time when many scrub cutters from Fiji were firstly welcomed as jobs were plentiful, then rounded up when not required, making many people victims of an indifferent society. I can testify that many unskilled workers tried to acquire residency and would contact community organizations such as The Fiji Association in Auckland Inc, for support. Often, we met with cynical officials who attempted to place obstacles rather than to help, disregarding fear caused to people already separated from loved ones in Fiji. The overstay stigma remained for some time.

I am copying s9(2)(a) as we have been privileged to read hundreds of essays submitted by Fijian secondary students in the annual MFAT sponsored competition since 2007, on diverse topics that underscored relations between NZ and Fiji. Not only did this serve to canvass the views of future leaders the project proved to be a cornerstone during difficult days. Several topics tackled by senior students related to perceived injustices as well as to comradeship in the NZ/Fiji linkage over the past. This proved an avenue for candor to resolve issues that might otherwise continue to harm future relations.

As you endeavor to help put the dawn raid episode of our past to one side, I am grateful that you have decided to apologize for this indignity, despite the fact it was no fault of the present government, which aims at inclusiveness and diversity as pathways. The grief and hurt caused in the 1970s dawn raids to our Pacific Communities, and countless descendants, will surely be lessened and received in the spirit in which it is offered by you.

Yours sincerely

s9(2)(a)

s9(2)(a)

**From:** s9(2)(a) on behalf of [Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern](#)  
**To:** s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Dawn Raids Apology  
**Date:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 2:37:03 pm

---

Dear s9(2)(a)

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, to acknowledge your email of 31 March 2021. Please be assured your comments have been noted.

As the issue you have raised falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Pacific Peoples, Hon Aupito William Sio, your email has been forwarded to the Minister's office for consideration.

Thank you for writing, and take care.

Best wishes

s9(2)(a)

Office of the Prime Minister

**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 1:42 PM  
**To:** Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern <Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Dawn Raids Apology

Dear Prime Minister,

I am sure you are aware of the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the after effects of what had happened 50 years ago. Dawn Raids during the 70's was a traumatic event lasting decades which as a result, has led to generational-trauma. These include police bursting into rooms where Polynesian children would be sleeping, shining light on their faces and asking for I.D. Aggressive reinforcement epitomised the Police as an organisation creating a further distrust in the government, still prevalent today.

This one story is one of many episodes that took place during the 70's. This however wasn't an isolated racial movement against Polynesians living in Aotearoa. These very actions had been reinforced by Politicians and the media, which in turn placed our people in a bad light.

Although Pacific migration into Aotearoa was initially seen as temporary, the presence of our culture has been crucial in our global identity. The past has seemed to be implied as forgiven and forgotten; however, the effects of the past still linger in the fabric of our identity 50 years on.

We ask for an apology and a guarantee this will not happen again. There are current overstayers still here and experiencing the effects resembling these traumas. We ask the government to heavily consider a pathway to residency for current overstayers, who have stayed for quite a long time.

#pathway2residency

I look forward to your public response.

Sincerely,  
s9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

**From:** s9(2)(a) on behalf of [Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern](#)  
**To:** s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Dawn Raids apology now  
**Date:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 1:44:15 pm

---

Dear s9(2)(a)

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, to acknowledge your email of 31 March 2021. Please be assured your comments have been noted.

As the issue you have raised falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Pacific Peoples, Hon Aupito William Sio, your email has been forwarded to the Minister's office for consideration.

Thank you for writing, and take care.

Best wishes

s9(2)(a)

Office of the Prime Minister

**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 9:40 AM  
**To:** Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern <Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Dawn Raids apology now

Dear Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern,

I am sure you are aware of the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the after effects of what had happened 50 years ago.

This was a racist and embarrassing move by the NZ government and we call on you now to apologise to demonstrate your commitment to ending white supremacy in NZ.

Dawn Raids during the 70's was a traumatic event lasting decades which as a result, has led to generational-trauma. These include police bursting into rooms where Polynesian children would be sleeping, shining light on their faces and asking for I.D. Aggressive reinforcement epitomised the Police as an organisation creating a further distrust in the government, still prevalent today.

This one story is one of many episodes that took place during the 70's. This however wasn't an isolated racial movement against Polynesians living in Aotearoa. These very actions had been reinforced by Politicians and the media, which in turn placed our people in a bad light.

Although Pacific migration into Aotearoa was initially seen as temporary, the presence of our culture has been crucial in our global identity. The past has seemed to be implied

as forgiven and forgotten; however, the effects of the past still linger in the fabric of our identity 50 years on.

We ask for an apology and a guarantee this will not happen again. There are current overstayers still here and experiencing the effects resembling these traumas. We ask the government to heavily consider a pathway to residency for current overstayers, who have stayed for quite a long time.

Regards,

s9(2)(a)

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s9(2)(a)

Te Kura Mātauranga Koiora - School of Biological Sciences  
Te Herenga Waka - Victoria University of Wellington



RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

**From:** s9(2)(a) on behalf of [Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern](#)  
**To:** [a.sio@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:a.sio@ministers.govt.nz)  
**Subject:** FW: Formal apology to pasifika communities  
**Date:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 12:39:24 pm

---

Hi Ana,

Another.

s9(2)(a)

**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 12:04 PM  
**To:** Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern <[Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** Formal apology to pasifika communities

Dear Prime Minister/MP Jacinda Ardern

I am sure you are aware of the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the after effects of what had happened 50 years ago. Dawn Raids during the 70's was a traumatic event lasting decades which as a result, has led to generational-trauma. These include police bursting into rooms where Polynesian children would be sleeping, shining light on their faces and asking for I.D. Aggressive reinforcement epitomised the Police as an organisation creating a further distrust in the government, still prevalent today.

This one story is one of many episodes that took place during the 70's. This however wasn't an isolated racial movement against Polynesians living in Aotearoa. These very actions had been reinforced by Politicians and the media, which in turn placed our people in a bad light.

Although Pacific migration into Aotearoa was initially seen as temporary, the presence of our culture has been crucial in our global identity. The past has seemed to be implied as forgiven and forgotten; however, the effects of the past still linger in the fabric of our identity 50 years on.

We ask for an apology and a guarantee this will not happen again. There are current overstayers still here and experiencing the effects resembling these traumas. We ask the government to heavily consider a pathway to residency for current overstayers, who have stayed for quite a long time.

#pathway2residency

Regards,

s9(2)(a)

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**From:** s9(2)(a) on behalf of [Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern](#)  
**To:** s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Apology for the dawn raids under previous governments  
**Date:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 1:33:39 pm

---

Dear s9(2)(a)

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, to acknowledge your email of 31 March 2021. Please be assured your comments have been noted.

As the issue you have raised falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Pacific Peoples, Hon Aupito William Sio, your email has been forwarded to the Minister's office for consideration.

Thank you for writing, and take care.

Best wishes

s9(2)(a)

Office of the Prime Minister

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**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 8:01 AM  
**To:** Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern <Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Apology for the dawn raids under previous governments

Dear Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern,

I am sure you are aware of the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the after effects of what had happened 50 years ago. Dawn Raids during the 70's was a traumatic event lasting decades which as a result, has led to generational-trauma. These include police bursting into rooms where Polynesian children would be sleeping, shining light on their faces and asking for I.D. Aggressive reinforcement epitomised the Police as an organisation creating a further distrust in the government, still prevalent today.

This one story is one of many episodes that took place during the 70's. This however wasn't an isolated racial movement against Polynesians living in Aotearoa. These very actions had been reinforced by Politicians and the media, which in turn placed our people in a bad light.

Although Pacific migration into Aotearoa was initially seen as temporary, the presence of our culture has been crucial in our global identity. The past has seemed to be implied as forgiven and forgotten; however, the effects of the past still linger in the fabric of our identity 50 years on.

We ask for an apology and a guarantee this will not happen again. There are current overstayers still here and experiencing the effects resembling these traumas. We ask



the government to heavily consider a pathway to residency for current overstayers, who have stayed for quite a long time.

Kind regards,

s9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

**From:** s9(2)(a) on behalf of [Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern](#)  
**To:** s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Dawn Raids  
**Date:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 2:39:32 pm

---

Dear s9(2)(a)

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, to acknowledge your email of 31 March 2021. Please be assured your comments have been noted.

As the issue you have raised falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Pacific Peoples, Hon Aupito William Sio, your email has been forwarded to the Minister's office for consideration.

Thank you for writing, and take care.

Best wishes

s9(2)(a)

Office of the Prime Minister

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**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 2:22 PM  
**To:** Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern <Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Dawn Raids

Dear Prime Minister

I am sure you are aware of the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the after effects of what had happened 50 years ago. Dawn Raids during the 70's was a traumatic event lasting decades which as a result, has led to generational-trauma. These include police bursting into rooms where Polynesian children would be sleeping, shining light on their faces and asking for I.D. Aggressive reinforcement epitomised the Police as an organisation creating a further distrust in the government, still prevalent today.

This one story is one of many episodes that took place during the 70's. This however wasn't an isolated racial movement against Polynesians living in Aotearoa. These very actions had been reinforced by Politicians and the media, which in turn placed our people in a bad light.

Although Pacific migration into Aotearoa was initially seen as temporary, the presence of our culture has been crucial in our global identity. The past has seemed to be implied as forgiven and forgotten; however, the effects of the past still linger in the fabric of our identity 50 years on.

We ask for an apology and a guarantee this will not happen again. There are current overstayers still here and experiencing the effects resembling these traumas. We ask the government to heavily consider a pathway to residency for current overstayers, who have stayed for quite a long time.

#pathway2residency

**From:** s9(2)(a) on behalf of [Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern](#)  
**To:** s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Govt Apology for the Dawn Raids  
**Date:** Thursday, 1 April 2021 9:39:16 am

---

Dear s9(2)(a)

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, to acknowledge your email of 01 April 2021. Please be assured your comments have been noted.

As the issue you have raised falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Pacific Peoples, Hon Aupito William Sio, your email has been forwarded to the Minister's office for consideration.

Thank you for writing, and take care.

Best wishes

s9(2)(a)

Office of the Prime Minister

**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 1 April 2021 8:25 AM  
**To:** Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern <[Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** Govt Apology for the Dawn Raids

Dear Prime Minister Ardern,

I am sure you are aware of the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the after effects of what had happened 50 years ago. Dawn Raids during the 70's was a traumatic event lasting decades which as a result, has led to generational-trauma. These include police bursting into rooms where Polynesian children would be sleeping, shining light on their faces and asking for I.D. Aggressive reinforcement epitomised the Police as an organisation creating a further distrust in the government, still prevalent today.

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Although Pacific migration into Aotearoa was initially seen as temporary, the presence of our culture has been crucial in our global identity. The past has seemed to be implied as forgiven and forgotten; however, the effects of the past still linger in the fabric of our identity 50 years on.

We ask for an apology and a guarantee this will not happen again. There are current overstayers still here and experiencing the effects resembling these traumas. We ask the government to heavily consider a pathway to residency for current overstayers, who have stayed for quite a long time.

#pathway2residency

**From:** s9(2)(a) on behalf of [Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern](#)  
**To:** s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Formal Apology for The Dawn Raids  
**Date:** Monday, 12 April 2021 3:27:18 pm

---

Dear s9(2)(a)

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, to acknowledge your email of 12 April 2021. Please be assured your comments have been noted.

As the issue you have raised falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Pacific Peoples, Hon Aupito William Sio, your email has been forwarded to the Minister's office for consideration.

Thank you for writing, and take care.

Best wishes

s9(2)(a)

Office of the Prime Minister

**From:** s9(2)(a)

**Sent:** Monday, 12 April 2021 2:32 PM

**To:** J Ardern (MIN)

**Subject:** Formal Apology for The Dawn Raids

Dear Jacinda Ardern;

I am a 17 year old South Auckland Polynesian who, on behalf of those who suffered during The Dawn Raids (authorised by New Zealand Government), is requesting for a formal apology from the New Zealand Government for authorising such an evil and unforgivable law such as this.

Pasifika peoples during this race-based dawn raids were treated as if they didn't matter and looked at, by those in authority, like they were not people.

My grandfather was one of those that were affected by The Dawn Raids, in result of this he was spat on, punched at, sworn at and had hot tea poured all over him every time he'd go to work because he was brown and because 'The race-based Dawn Raids' had brought the idea that it was fine to treat people like shit which it wasn't.

I want the New Zealand Government to take ownership of its actions and formally apologise to our pasifika peoples, not to mention, this apology "is long overdue".

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

**From:** [Terina Cowan](#)  
**To:** [Sione Siale](#); [Sione Siale](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Letter to Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern regarding Polynesian Panthers  
**Date:** Tuesday, 6 April 2021 10:48:52 am

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One more for logging.

**Terina Cowan** | Private Secretary (Ministry for Pacific Peoples), Office of Hon Aupito William Sio

Email [terina.cowan@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:terina.cowan@parliament.govt.nz) M [s9\(2\)\(a\)](#)

Office of Hon Aupito William Sio, Minister for Courts, Minister for Pacific Peoples, Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs, Associate Minister of Education, Associate Minister of Health, Associate Minister of Justice

Parliament House G-025 | Private Bag 18041 | Parliament Buildings | Wellington 6160 | New Zealand  
 Reception +64 4 817 8723 | Ministerial Email [a.sio@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:a.sio@ministers.govt.nz) | Web [beehive.govt.nz](http://beehive.govt.nz)

**Email disclaimer:** Please note information about meetings or events related to the Minister's portfolios will be proactively released (this does not include personal or constituency matters). For each meeting in scope, the summary would list: date, time (start and finish), brief description, location, who the meeting was with, and the portfolio. If you attend a meeting with the Minister on behalf of an organisation, the name of the organisation will be released. If you are a senior staff member at an organisation, or meet with the Minister in your personal capacity, your name may also be released. The location of the meeting will be released, unless it is a private residence. The proactive release will be consistent with the provisions in the Official Information Act, including privacy considerations. Under the Privacy Act 1993 you have the right to ask for a copy of any personal information we hold about you, and to ask for it to be corrected if you think it is wrong. If you'd like to ask for a copy of your information, or to have it corrected, or are concerned about the release of your information in the meeting disclosure, please contact the sender. You can read more about the proactive release policy at [www.dia.govt.nz/Proactive-Releases#MS](http://www.dia.govt.nz/Proactive-Releases#MS)

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**From:** Ana Richardson **On Behalf Of** A Sio (MIN)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 1 April 2021 4:34 PM  
**To:** Lavea'i loane <[Lavea'i.loane@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Lavea'i.loane@parliament.govt.nz)>; Terina Cowan <[Terina.Cowan@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Terina.Cowan@parliament.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** FW: Letter to Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern regarding Polynesian Panthers

Just one more of these emails to go to MPP please.  
 Have let the sender know MPP will reply directly.

😊 Thank you!

Ana

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**From:** [s9\(2\)\(a\)](#) **On Behalf Of** Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern  
**Sent:** Thursday, 1 April 2021 1:28 PM  
**To:** [s9\(2\)\(a\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Letter to Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern regarding Polynesian Panthers

Dear [s9\(2\)\(a\)](#)

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, to acknowledge your email of 01 April 2021. Please be assured your comments have been noted.



As the issue you have raised falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Pacific Peoples, Hon Aupito William Sio, your email has been forwarded to the Minister's office for consideration.

Thank you for writing, and take care.

Best wishes

s9(2)(a)

Office of the Prime Minister

**From:** s9(2)(a)

**Sent:** Thursday, 1 April 2021 1:14 PM

**To:** J Arden (MIN) <[j.arden@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:j.arden@ministers.govt.nz)>

**Subject:** Letter to Rt Hon Jacinda Arden regarding Polynesian Panthers

Attn: Rt Hon Jacinda Arden,

Si'i'oto'ofa atu and Malo e lelei Prime Minister,

I am writing to you in support of the request by the Polynesian Panthers community organisation for a public apology as part of its healing from the legacy of the Dawn Raids.

My letter is informed by s9(2)(a)

It will also be informed by research I undertook for a s9(2)(a)

It is right that I address these concerns to you specifically as a leader of the Cabinet and as the leader of the Parliamentary majority. The focus of this letter is on the legislative and policy settings that led to the Dawn Raids and the legacy they have left in the Cabinet, the Public Service and to those who have to live by the policies of those powerful institutions. In both theses, I found that the 1972 to 1976 (and later) Dawn Raids were an aggregated milestone that crystallized and normalized a white-first approach to Pacific Peoples agency in New Zealand. The structure of Pacific economic migration to New Zealand was favourable to those New Zealand industries and business owners in a ready source of labour cheaper than existing domestic workforces with low regulatory compliance costs. The structure of Pacific peoples' presence in New Zealand remained favourable to New Zealanders as Pacific migrants were forced to remain silent about the low wages and the lack of secure tenure. s9(2)(a)

The existing Immigration Policy of that time was to restrict permanent entry to New Zealand to people who were wholly of British birth and European Origin. A review of Immigration Department procedure found this phrase in relation to relaxed conditions of permanent entry and that in the instance of Fijians, the argument was made that Indian Fijians were to be considered more appropriate migrants than Indigenous Fijians due to white assimilation potential. Additional arguments were made in favour of restricting entry to Tongans.

The presence of Pacific people in New Zealand was, therefore, a compromise between business' desire to continue export competitiveness, in a market being diminished by the

rise of Asian manufacturing and the British transition to the EEC, and the desire of the government and Cabinet to maintain a white-first immigration policy.

s9(2)(a) as short-term work-based migration was unregulated, there was no need for Cabinet to address the rising disquiet about Pacific economic migrants that was growing among trade unions, business roundtables and promoted in the media. The emergence of Dawn Raids in the shadows further demonstrated how white people in New Zealand could rely on systems with rules, regulations and the right to court adjudication of disputes, but that Pacific people were prime candidates for exploitation in terms of fair wages, housing and a process for deportation.

The lack of procedure or policy for apprehending people who had overstayed the dates in their visas is a clear demonstration that agencies of the Government of New Zealand, with responsible Cabinet Ministers, wilfully exploited Pacific peoples. The development of immigration legislation by Frank Gill was the first time Cabinet directly considered the problems related to Dawn Raids. However, as no Ministerial portfolio or policy advice system was established, the response to the Dawn Raid problem focused squarely on the Government's desire to maintain the integrity of its immigration system, and what it stood for. Pacific people remained exploited. The decision by Cabinet on 18 October 1976 to direct Police to pursue overstayers, and the instruction by Police Minister Alan McCready, supported by Prime Minister Robert Muldoon, to prioritise overstayer pursuit demonstrates that, once regulation had been discussed, the Cabinet of New Zealand became directly responsible for the legacy of Dawn Raids, Operation Pot Black and other random searches of Pacific peoples.

The legacy of the Dawn Raids remains unresolved. The Equal Opportunities Commissioners' inquiry into Pacific peoples experience of Low Pay demonstrates that industries in New Zealand continue to consider Pacific people as a cheap commodity, unmerited in being enabled to be upwardly mobile. The recent Human Rights Commission's report Talanoa: Human Rights Issues for Pacific Peoples in Aotearoa demonstrates that Pacific people have endured exploitation in the housing, education and health systems. The recent establishment of the Health Sector Transitions Unit at DPMC has negligible Pacific representation, despite the presence of many highly qualified Pacific health economists and policy experts. This form of racism reflects the unwillingness of the Public Service Commission, and its SSC predecessor to recognise the Finance Ministers' acceptance of the BIM advice in 1987 that policy staffing needed to reflect the diversity of the population. Less than 2 percent of policy analysts and managers are of Pacific ethnicity.

The New Zealand government continues to fail Pacific peoples across the breadth of Cabinet portfolios. Cabinet Ministers, and Prime Ministers have directly contributed to decades and generations of poverty, workplace exploitation and denial of access to opportunities. Cabinet and its Ministers, through Letters of Expectation and acceptance of Statements of Intent and Annual Reports directly control the resources of government and endorse the actions of Public Service chief executives. Therefore, any response to the Polynesian Panthers is only acceptable from the leader of the Cabinet of New Zealand.

I welcome any questions you may have on the topics or information covered in this letter.  
Faka'apa'apa atu,

s9(2)(a)

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**From:** s9(2)(a) on behalf of [Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern](#)  
**To:** s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Dawn Raids Apology  
**Date:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 1:38:55 pm

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Dear s9(2)(a)

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, to acknowledge your email of 31 March 2021. Please be assured your comments have been noted.

As the issue you have raised falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Pacific Peoples, Hon Aupito William Sio, your email has been forwarded to the Minister's office for consideration.

Thank you for writing, and take care.

Best wishes

s9(2)(a)

Office of the Prime Minister

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**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 8:34 AM  
**To:** Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern <[Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** Dawn Raids Apology

Dear Jacinda Arden,

I am sure you are aware of the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the after effects of what had happened 50 years ago. Dawn Raids during the 70's was a traumatic event lasting decades which as a result, has led to generational-trauma. These include police bursting into rooms where Polynesian children would be sleeping, shining light on their faces and asking for I.D. Aggressive reinforcement epitomised the Police as an organisation creating a further distrust in the government, still prevalent today.

This one story is one of many episodes that took place during the 70's. This however wasn't an isolated racial movement against Polynesians living in Aotearoa. These very actions had been reinforced by Politicians and the media, which in turn placed our people in a bad light.

Although Pacific migration into Aotearoa was initially seen as temporary, the presence of our culture has been crucial in our global identity. The past has seemed to be implied as forgiven and forgotten; however, the effects of the past still linger in the fabric of our identity 50 years on.

We ask for an apology and a guarantee this will not happen again. There are current overstayers still here and experiencing the effects resembling these traumas. We ask the government to heavily consider a pathway to residency for current overstayers, who have stayed for quite a long time.

#pathway2residency

**From:** s9(2)(a) on behalf of [Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern](#)  
**To:** s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: DAWN RAIDS  
**Date:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 1:43:20 pm

---

Dear s9(2)(a)

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, to acknowledge your email of 31 March 2021. Please be assured your comments have been noted.

As the issue you have raised falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Pacific Peoples, Hon Aupito William Sio, your email has been forwarded to the Minister's office for consideration.

Thank you for writing, and take care.

Best wishes

s9(2)(a)  
Office of the Prime Minister

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**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 9:27 AM  
**To:** Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern <Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** DAWN RAIDS

Dear Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern

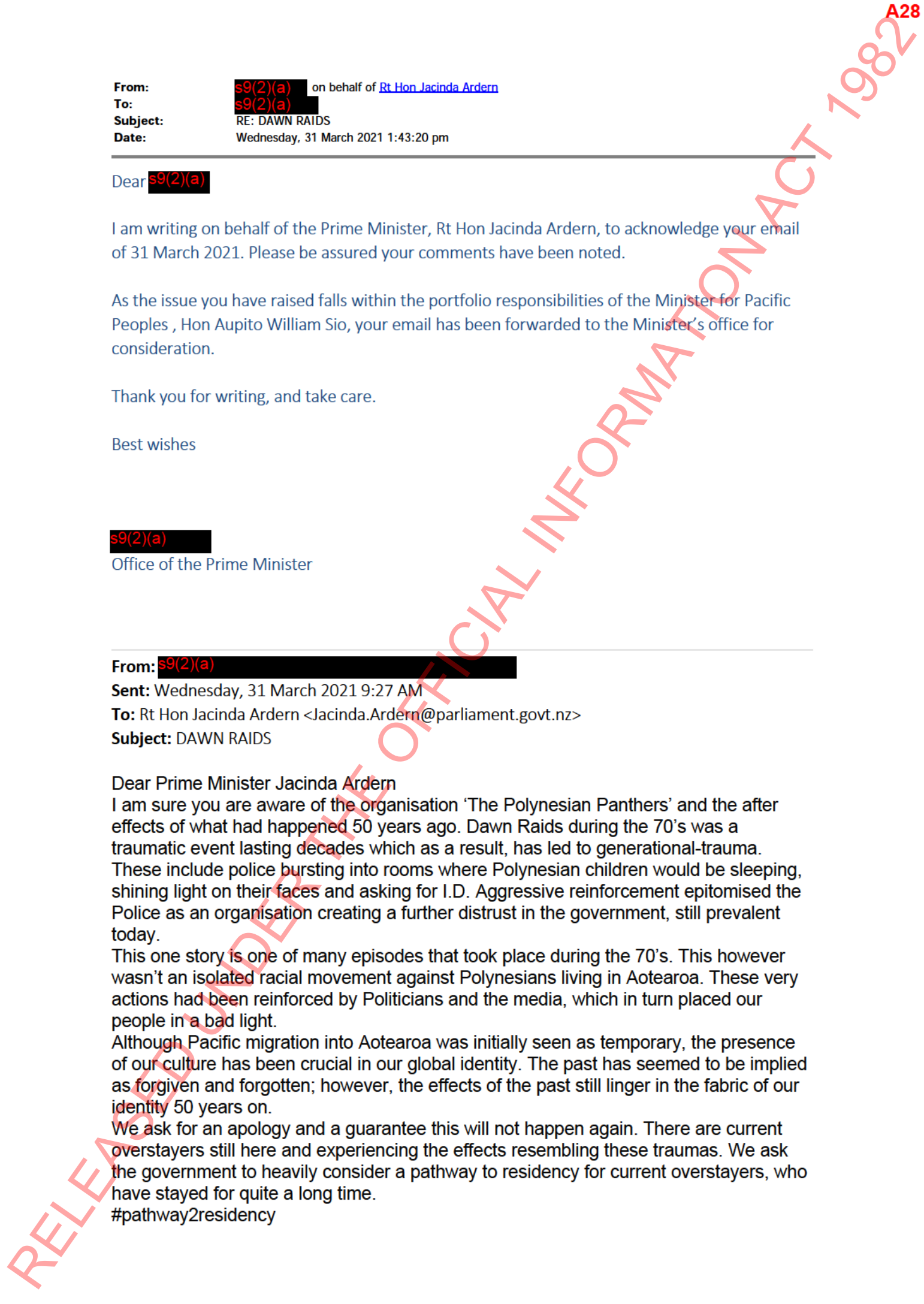
I am sure you are aware of the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the after effects of what had happened 50 years ago. Dawn Raids during the 70's was a traumatic event lasting decades which as a result, has led to generational-trauma. These include police bursting into rooms where Polynesian children would be sleeping, shining light on their faces and asking for I.D. Aggressive reinforcement epitomised the Police as an organisation creating a further distrust in the government, still prevalent today.

This one story is one of many episodes that took place during the 70's. This however wasn't an isolated racial movement against Polynesians living in Aotearoa. These very actions had been reinforced by Politicians and the media, which in turn placed our people in a bad light.

Although Pacific migration into Aotearoa was initially seen as temporary, the presence of our culture has been crucial in our global identity. The past has seemed to be implied as forgiven and forgotten; however, the effects of the past still linger in the fabric of our identity 50 years on.

We ask for an apology and a guarantee this will not happen again. There are current overstayers still here and experiencing the effects resembling these traumas. We ask the government to heavily consider a pathway to residency for current overstayers, who have stayed for quite a long time.

#pathway2residency



Received  
14 APR 2021  
Office of the Ombudsman

A29

Dear Prime Minister,

First and foremost, thank you for the work you do for our community. Your strong and empathetic leadership has been crucial to our country, especially with the complex global challenges we are currently facing.

I am sure you are familiar with the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the Dawn Raids of the 1970's. These events, which happened merely 50 years ago, have caused significant generational trauma and have done irreversible damage to the Pasifika population of Aotearoa. In case you are not familiar with these events, they were characterized by police invading the homes of Pasifika families, regardless of whether there was evidence that they were indeed overstayers, bursting into the rooms of Polynesian children, shining bright lights into the eyes of terrified minors and demanding identification. This pattern was repeated for decades. These aggressive attacks on Pasifika families epitomised the Police as a violent organisation that poses a threat to the Polynesian citizens of Aotearoa and reinforced feelings of distrust in the government.

Although the raids happened repeatedly throughout the 1970's, they were not the only injustices done to Polynesian New Zealanders. These actions were promoted by Politicians and the media, which portrayed Pasifika people in a very unfavourable light before the people of New Zealand. The stereotypes and resentment cultivated towards Polynesians during that era continue to harm the community to this day.

Although Pacific migration to Aotearoa was initially seen as temporary, the presence of our culture has been crucial in our global identity. Since Polynesian art and culture has become such a key aspect of Aotearoa's image, we merely ask the Polynesian PEOPLE be afforded the same appreciation and respect. It is often implied that the past has been forgiven and forgotten; however, the effects of the past still linger in the fabric of Polynesian identity 50 years on. A public apology to the Polyesian population of Aotearoa is the only way forward.

We ask for an apology to the community and a guarantee this will not happen again. There are current overstayers still here and suffering similar traumas as the ones described above. We ask the government to heavily consider a pathway to residency for current overstayers, who have stayed for quite a long time.

#pathway2residency

Regards,

s9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982



**From:** s9(2)(a) on behalf of [Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern](#)  
**To:** s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Dawn Raid Apology Plead  
**Date:** Tuesday, 6 April 2021 10:54:55 am

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Dear s9(2)(a)

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, to acknowledge your email of 01 April 2021. Please be assured your comments have been noted.

As the issue you have raised falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Pacific Peoples, Hon Aupito William Sio, your email has been forwarded to the Minister's office for consideration.

Thank you for writing, and take care.

Best wishes

s9(2)(a)

Office of the Prime Minister

**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 1 April 2021 4:59 PM  
**To:** Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern <Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Dawn Raid Apology Plead

Dear Jacinda Adern I am sure you are aware of the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the after effects of what had happened 50 years ago. Dawn Raids during the 70's was a traumatic event lasting decades which as a result, has led to generational trauma. These include police bursting into rooms where Polynesian children would be sleeping, shining light on their faces and asking for I.D. Aggressive reinforcement epitomised the Police as an organisation creating a further distrust in the government, still prevalent today. This one story is one of many episodes that took place during the 70's. This however wasn't an isolated racial movement against Polynesians living in Aotearoa. These very actions had been reinforced by Politicians and the media, which in turn placed our people in a bad light. Although Pacific migration into Aotearoa was initially seen as temporary, the presence of our culture has been crucial in our global identity. The past has seemed to be implied as forgiven and forgotten; however, the effects of the past still linger in the fabric of our identity 50 years on. We ask for an apology and a guarantee this will not happen again. There are current overstayers still here and experiencing the effects resembling these traumas. We ask the government to heavily consider a pathway to residency for current overstayers, who have stayed for quite a long time. #pathway2residency Regards, s9(2)(a)

**From:** s9(2)(a) on behalf of [Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern](#)  
**To:** s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Government Should Apologise for the Dawn Raids  
**Date:** Thursday, 1 April 2021 9:41:31 am

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Dear s9(2)(a)

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, to acknowledge your email of 01 April 2021. Please be assured your comments have been noted.

As the issue you have raised falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Pacific Peoples, Hon Aupito William Sio, your email has been forwarded to the Minister's office for consideration.

Thank you for writing, and take care.

Best wishes

s9(2)(a)

Office of the Prime Minister

**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 1 April 2021 8:42 AM  
**To:** Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern <Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Government Should Apologise for the Dawn Raids

Dear Prime Minister Jacinda Adern

I am sure you are aware of the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the after effects of what had happened 50 years ago. Dawn Raids during the 70's was a traumatic event lasting decades which as a result, has led to generational-trauma. These include police bursting into rooms where Polynesian children would be sleeping, shining light on their faces and asking for I.D. Aggressive reinforcement epitomised the Police as an organisation creating a further distrust in the government, still prevalent today.

This one story is one of many episodes that took place during the 70's. This however wasn't an isolated racial movement against Polynesians living in Aotearoa. These very actions had been reinforced by Politicians and the media, which in turn placed our people in a bad light.

Although Pacific migration into Aotearoa was initially seen as temporary, the presence of our culture has been crucial in our global identity. The past has seemed to be implied as forgiven and forgotten; however, the effects of the past still linger in the fabric of our identity 50 years on.

We ask for an apology and a guarantee this will not happen again. There are current overstayers still here and experiencing the effects resembling these traumas. We ask the

government to heavily consider a pathway to residency for current overstayers, who have stayed for quite a long time.

#pathway2residency

Regards,

s9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982



**From:** [Lavea'i Ioane](#)  
**To:** [MinisterialServices](#); [Dawn Raids](#)  
**Cc:** [Sione Siale](#); [Nelly Cowan](#); [Agnes Sefo](#)  
**Subject:** FW: POLYNESIAN PANTHERS RACIST NZ PM APOLOGY QR CODE CASE RUPA MINS AND TVNZ  
**Date:** Tuesday, 29 June 2021 2:16:03 pm  
**Attachments:** [PolynesianPanthers\\_Ministers.250621docx.docx](#)

Talofa team,

Can MPP please respond to the following email.

Thanks  
Va'i

**Lavea'i Ioane**

Private Secretary (Pacific Peoples) | Office of Hon Aupito William Sio MP – Minister for Pacific Peoples, Minister for Courts, Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs, Associate Minister of Education (Pacific Peoples), Associate Minister of Health (Pacific Peoples) and Associate Minister of Justice  
Parliament House, Parliament Buildings W: <http://www.beehive.govt.nz> and <http://www.parliament.nz>

**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 25 June 2021 7:18 AM  
**To:** out of scope  
A Sio (MIN) <A.Sio@ministers.govt.nz>; out of scope  
[Redacted]

**Subject:** Re: POLYNESIAN PANTHERS RACIST NZ PM APOLOGY QR CODE CASE RUPA MINS AND TVNZ

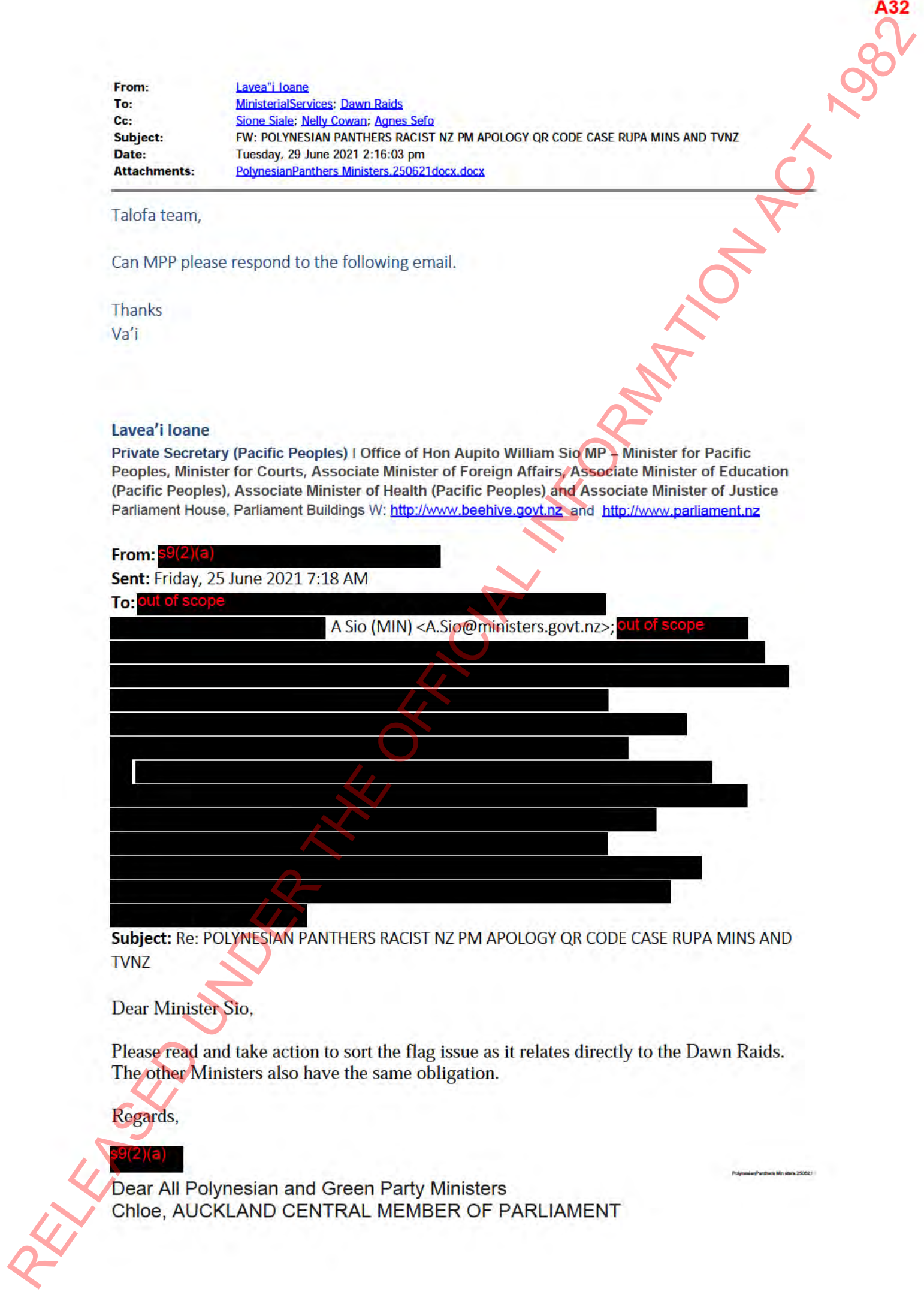
Dear Minister Sio,

Please read and take action to sort the flag issue as it relates directly to the Dawn Raids. The other Ministers also have the same obligation.

Regards,

s9(2)(a)

Dear All Polynesian and Green Party Ministers  
Chloe, AUCKLAND CENTRAL MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT



s9(2)(a) [REDACTED], who is included in the email sent below

s9(2)(a) [REDACTED]

### LAWFULNESS OF JURISDICTION OVER POLYNESIAN PEOPLE AND ISLANDS

The below email evidence the racist bias practised by members of parliament, including my Polynesian Brothers and Sisters who support that their fellow Island People be treated as subordinates. They endorse the actions of the RACIST NZ PM who has not granted her Polynesian Constituent an Electorate Clinic.

[ *appointment to see their member of Parliament*].

Green Party, Auckland Centrals newly elected Member of Parliament [MP] also refuses to hold Electorate Clinics. She does not even have an Electoral Office. Both Prime Minister and her fellow Racist Chloe and Helen will most likely attend the POLYNESIAN PANTHERS forced apology. Great work and effort from the HOOD. Especially those still in the HOOD after the Gentrification Helen White expressed support for during the 2020 election.

The point is we Polynesian know how that process impacted on splitting our community to West and South Auckland. A form of commercial Apartheid practice. This made me join the Water Pressure Group. I am still a Watercare boycotter. Being a principled man, I waited for the Polynesian Minister of Courts to announce the DAWN RAIDS APOLOGY before placing the concerns which have seen the NZ PM exercise RACISM. This has been endorsed by; Chloe, Helen White [ both lawyers] and shamefully by all three Polynesian Ministers addressed.

The point made by the Privy Council over the legality of the action for which the Prime Minister [PM] will be apologetic to cover up the questioning the PM has purposely denied her CONSTITUENT the RIGHT to an Electorate Clinic.

The inclusion of the Human Rights and Electoral Commission is to inform them of the rights and racial violations practised by the NZ PM and other MP's. The Commissions are being requested to set up a meeting where they both can discuss the situation which requires immediate resolution.

#### **Justice delayed, is Justice denied.**

The Grey Lynn Returned Service clubhouse is just behind my home with the large, highly visible Billboard from the Richmond Road West Lynn Shops where the late s9(2)(a) [REDACTED] drank. The Flag Referendum was an important issue to him as an s9(2)(a) [REDACTED] explained the reason as s9(2)(a) [REDACTED], he did not allow any change from the Flag that rose on the 28th October 1835. [DOI]

The DOI was never lowered when the treaty was signed. A COUNTERFEIT flag of the DOI was lowered which is on the Boer War Medals. The flag lowered on Samoa's Independence Day was the 12<sup>th</sup> June POST BOER WAR flag So, for what reason did parliament pass legislation for a flag in 1901, then wait for the Boer War to end a year later before giving it Royal Assent in 1902?

The contention which the Polynesian Ministers on behalf of not just the Island community, but all the People of this Land required they as Ministers to place before the DEFENDER OF THE FAITH support for an external ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO THE FLAG REFERENDUM as endorsed by

s9(2)(a) [REDACTED]

Without knowing if the jurisdictional flag lowered in Samoa was lawful, then how can anyone respect the apology made without proof from the Current Prime Minister and the Polynesian Minister's making an announcement they will place the REQUEST FOR A ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO THE FLAG REFERENDUM to clarify the lawfulness of jurisdiction here and in the Islands immediately before OUR CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCH

Watching YouTube reminds me, I was a boy in Samoa on Independence Day.

The importance is,

- the then New Zealand Prime Minister physically lowered a flag.
- Then the Samoan Flag rose.

THE POINT is, did this happen on the 6<sup>TH</sup> Feb 1840, when the treaty was signed?  
Was a COUNTERFEIT flag lowered?

The Minister of Courts, Justice and Police, you are all, Polynesians. Your obligation is to place this matter before our CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCH, who swore on the Stone of Jacob, the CORONATION OATH, TO DEFEND THE FAITH?

Your failure to do so before your CHURCH COMMUNITY The leaders of ALL the Churches, especially the ones you go to are, required you seek the TRUTH. These are Divine Law Ministers. You can only serve one MASTER. Not pretending you serve the LORD in the same way the pretend COUNTERFEIT flag was lowered when the treaty was signed. You have no place in the Church for continuing to cover the truth. The SUPERIOR LAW states not to lie.

Your silence to date has been a lie, *Dr Martin King*

You may be a Minority of ONE, but the truth is the truth Gandhi

This evil of man made legislation is still hurting, to prove the lawfulness of parliament.

Yours faithfully,

s9(2)(a)

True Defender of the Faith

s9(2)(a), out of scope

**From:** s9(2)(a) on behalf of [Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern](#)  
**To:** s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: PATHWAY2RESIDENCY  
**Date:** Thursday, 1 April 2021 7:50:51 am

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Dear s9(2)(a)

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, to acknowledge your email of 31 March 2021. Please be assured your comments have been noted.

As the issue you have raised falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Pacific Peoples, Hon Aupito William Sio, your email has been forwarded to the Minister's office for consideration.

Thank you for writing, and take care.

Best wishes

s9(2)(a)

Office of the Prime Minister

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**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 3:42 PM  
**To:** Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern <[Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** PATHWAY2RESIDENCY

Dear Prime Minister,

I am sure you are aware of the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the after effects of what had happened 50 years ago. Dawn Raids during the 70's was a traumatic event lasting decades which as a result, has led to generational-trauma. These include police bursting into rooms where Polynesian children would be sleeping, shining light on their faces and asking for I.D. Aggressive reinforcement epitomised the Police as an organisation creating a further distrust in the government, still prevalent today.

This one story is one of many episodes that took place during the 70's. This however wasn't an isolated racial movement against Polynesians living in Aotearoa. These very actions had been reinforced by Politicians and the media, which in turn placed our people in a bad light.

Although Pacific migration into Aotearoa was initially seen as temporary, the presence of our culture has been crucial in our global identity. The past has seemed to be implied as forgiven and forgotten; however, the effects of the past still linger in the fabric of our identity 50 years on.

We ask for an apology and a guarantee this will not happen again. There are current overstayers still here and experiencing the effects resembling these traumas. We ask the government to heavily consider a pathway to residency for current overstayers, who have stayed for quite a long time.



**From:** s9(2)(a) on behalf of [Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern](#)  
**To:** s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Pathway to residency  
**Date:** Thursday, 1 April 2021 9:22:53 am

---

Dear s9(2)(a)

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, to acknowledge your email of 31 March 2021. Please be assured your comments have been noted.

As the issue you have raised falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Pacific Peoples, Hon Aupito William Sio, your email has been forwarded to the Minister's office for consideration.

Thank you for writing, and take care.

Best wishes

s9(2)(a)

Office of the Prime Minister

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**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 12:54 PM  
**To:** Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern <Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Pathway to residency

Dear Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern,

I am sure you are aware of the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the after effects of what had happened 50 years ago. Dawn Raids during the 70's was a traumatic event lasting decades which as a result, has led to generational-trauma. These include police bursting into rooms where Polynesian children would be sleeping, shining light on their faces and asking for I.D. Aggressive reinforcement epitomised the Police as an organisation creating a further distrust in the government, still prevalent today.

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**From:** s9(2)(a) on behalf of [Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern](#)  
**To:** s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Dawn Raids  
**Date:** Thursday, 1 April 2021 9:17:04 am

---

Dear s9(2)(a)

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, to acknowledge your email of 31 March 2021. Please be assured your comments have been noted.

As the issue you have raised falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Pacific Peoples, Hon Aupito William Sio, your email has been forwarded to the Minister's office for consideration.

Thank you for writing, and take care.

Best wishes

s9(2)(a)

Office of the Prime Minister

**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 4:47 PM  
**To:** Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern <Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Dawn Raids

Dear Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern,

I am sure you are aware of the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the after effects of what had happened 50 years ago. Dawn Raids during the 70's was a traumatic event lasting decades which as a result, has led to generational-trauma. These include police bursting into rooms where Polynesian children would be sleeping, shining light on their faces and asking for I.D. Aggressive reinforcement epitomised the Police as an organisation creating a further distrust in the government, still prevalent today.

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Although Pacific migration into Aotearoa was initially seen as temporary, the presence of our culture has been crucial in our global identity. The past has seemed to be implied as forgiven and forgotten; however, the effects of the past still linger in the fabric of our identity 50 years on.

We ask for an apology and a guarantee this will not happen again. There are current overstayers still here and experiencing the effects resembling these traumas. We ask the government to heavily consider a pathway to residency for current overstayers, who have stayed for quite a long time.

#pathway2residency



**From:** [Nelly Cowan](#)  
**To:** [MinisterialServices](#)  
**Cc:** [La Rochelle Morgan](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Apology for dawn raids  
**Date:** Wednesday, 16 June 2021 9:07:44 am

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fyi

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**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 15 June 2021 11:55 AM  
**To:** A Sio (MIN) <A.Sio@ministers.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Apology for dawn raids

Dear Mr Sio

I am very pleased that there is to be an apology.

I am taken back to 1977 when I was manager of what is now known as the Brentwood Hotel in Kilbirnie. The labour situation was very much as it is today – not enough people to do the work in the hospitality industry. It was before the licensing laws were relaxed and the hotel operated two very busy restaurants. We were unable to hold on to kitchenhands until we met a Fijian chap called s9(2)(a). He apparently had a past but had turned his life around and was then heavily attached to a local Pacific peoples church. He gave us a proposition – he would give us six names to put on the payroll and he would ensure that all shifts in the kitchen would be covered seven days a week. We took him up on it and it worked a treat. The staff were a mixture of Fijian, Samoan and Tongan who worked hard and had great interaction with the mainly white hotel staff. On pay day, s9(2)(a) would come and collect the seven pay packets.

One of the team, a Tongan fellow, was picked up in a dawn raid on the Thursday before Good Friday and locked up at Mt Crawford. I was able to visit him the next day, what a grim place it was. Being incarcerated at Easter was a tragedy for this man.

The following week, an awful little man by the name s9(2)(a) arrived at the hotel and wanted to see me. I went out to find him in the foyer wearing a Trilby hat to cover his bald pate. I told him that I would not talk to him until he removed his hat. I ushered him into my office but on the way signalled to my assistant manager to clear the kitchen of any of the Poly boys. s9(2)(a) announced that he had come to check the premises for overstayers so I asked to see his search warrant which of course he did not have. I sent him packing but have always remembered his demeanour – he was almost salivating at the prospect of catching some overstayers. He dented my respect for bureaucrats for a long, long time.

They soon found s9(2)(a) deported him and so the system came to an end. We made representations at a high level to the Dept but to no avail.

All in all, it was a dreadful episode in NZ's history and the callous way that s9(2)(a) conducted himself has remained with me.

I do hope your people accept the apology.

**From:** s9(2)(a) on behalf of [Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern](#)  
**To:** s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Dawn Raids Apology  
**Date:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 1:40:31 pm

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Dear s9(2)(a)

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, to acknowledge your email of 31 March 2021. Please be assured your comments have been noted.

As the issue you have raised falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Pacific Peoples, Hon Aupito William Sio, your email has been forwarded to the Minister's office for consideration.

Thank you for writing, and take care.

Best wishes

s9(2)(a)

Office of the Prime Minister

**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 9:19 AM  
**To:** Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern <Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Dawn Raids Apology

Dear Jacinda Ardern,

I am sure you are aware of the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the after effects of what had happened 50 years ago. Dawn Raids during the 70's was a traumatic event lasting decades which as a result, has led to generational-trauma. These include police bursting into rooms where Polynesian children would be sleeping, shining light on their faces and asking for I.D. Aggressive reinforcement epitomised the Police as an organisation creating a further distrust in the government, still prevalent today.

This one story is one of many episodes that took place during the 70's. This however wasn't an isolated racial movement against Polynesians living in Aotearoa. These very actions had been reinforced by Politicians and the media, which in turn placed our people in a bad light.

Although Pacific migration into Aotearoa was initially seen as temporary, the presence of our culture has been crucial in our global identity. The past has seemed to be implied as forgiven and forgotten; however, the effects of the past still linger in the fabric of our identity 50 years on.

We ask for an apology and a guarantee this will not happen again. There are current overstayers still here and experiencing the effects resembling these traumas. We ask the government to heavily consider a pathway to residency for current overstayers, who have stayed for quite a long time.

#pathway2residency



Dear Prime Minister,

First and foremost, thank you for the work you do for our community. Your strong and empathetic leadership has been crucial to our country, especially with the complex global challenges we are currently facing.

I am sure you are familiar with the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the Dawn Raids of the 1970's. These events, which happened merely 50 years ago, have caused significant generational trauma and have done irreversible damage to the Pasifika population of Aotearoa. In case you are not familiar with these events, they were characterized by police invading the homes of Pasifika families, regardless of whether there was evidence that they were indeed overstayers, bursting into the rooms of Polynesian children, shining bright lights into the eyes of terrified minors and demanding identification. This pattern was repeated for decades. These aggressive attacks on Pasifika families epitomised the Police as a violent organisation that poses a threat to the Polynesian citizens of Aotearoa and reinforced feelings of distrust in the government.

Although the raids happened repeatedly throughout the 1970's, they were not the only injustices done to Polynesian New Zealanders. These actions were promoted by Politicians and the media, which portrayed Pasifika people in a very unfavourable light before the people of New Zealand. The stereotypes and resentment cultivated towards Polynesians during that era continue to harm the community to this day.

Although Pacific migration to Aotearoa was initially seen as temporary, the presence of our culture has been crucial in our global identity. Since Polynesian art and culture has become such a key aspect of Aotearoa's image, we merely ask the Polynesian PEOPLE be afforded the same appreciation and respect. It is often implied that the past has been forgiven and forgotten; however, the effects of the past still linger in the fabric of Polynesian identity 50 years on. A public apology to the Polyesian population of Aotearoa is the only way forward.

We ask for an apology to the community and a guarantee this will not happen again. There are current overstayers still here and suffering similar traumas as the ones described above. We ask the government to heavily consider a pathway to residency for current overstayers, who have stayed for quite a long time.

#pathway2residency

Regards,

s9(2)(a)



**From:** s9(2)(a) on behalf of [Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern](#)  
**To:** s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: patway2residency  
**Date:** Tuesday, 6 April 2021 10:57:20 am

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Dear s9(2)(a)

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, to acknowledge your email of 02 April 2021. Please be assured your comments have been noted.

As the issue you have raised falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Pacific Peoples, Hon Aupito William Sio, your email has been forwarded to the Minister's office for consideration.

Thank you for writing, and take care.

Best wishes

s9(2)(a)

Office of the Prime Minister

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**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 2 April 2021 2:07 PM  
**To:** Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern <[Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** patway2residency

Dear Prime Minister

I am sure you are aware of the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the after effects of what had happened 50 years ago. Dawn Raids during the 70's was a traumatic event lasting decades which as a result, has led to generational-trauma. These include police bursting into rooms where Polynesian children would be sleeping, shining light on their faces and asking for I.D. Aggressive reinforcement epitomised the Police as an organisation creating a further distrust in the government, still prevalent today.

This one story is one of many episodes that took place during the 70's. This however wasn't an isolated racial movement against Polynesians living in Aotearoa. These very actions had been reinforced by Politicians and the media, which in turn placed our people in a bad light.

Although Pacific migration into Aotearoa was initially seen as temporary, the presence of our culture has been crucial in our global identity. The past has seemed to be implied as forgiven and forgotten; however, the effects of the past still linger in the fabric of our identity 50 years on.

We ask for an apology and a guarantee this will not happen again. There are current

overstayers still here and experiencing the effects resembling these traumas. We ask the government to heavily consider a pathway to residency for current overstayers, who have stayed for quite a long time.

#pathway2residency

Regards,

s9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

**From:** s9(2)(a) on behalf of [Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern](#)  
**To:** s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE:  
**Date:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 1:46:31 pm

---

Dear s9(2)(a)

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, to acknowledge your email of 31 March 2021. Please be assured your comments have been noted.

As the issue you have raised falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Pacific Peoples, Hon Aupito William Sio, your email has been forwarded to the Minister's office for consideration.

Thank you for writing, and take care.

Best wishes

s9(2)(a)

Office of the Prime Minister

**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 10:04 AM  
**To:** Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern <Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Subject:**

Dear Prime Minister/MP Jacinda Ardern.

I am sure you are aware of the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the after effects of what had happened 50 years ago. Dawn Raids during the 70's was a traumatic event lasting decades which as a result, has led to generational-trauma. These include police bursting into rooms where Polynesian children would be sleeping, shining light on their faces and asking for I.D. Aggressive reinforcement epitomised the Police as an organisation creating a further distrust in the government, still prevalent today.

This one story is one of many episodes that took place during the 70's. This however wasn't an isolated racial movement against Polynesians living in Aotearoa. These very actions had been reinforced by Politicians and the media, which in turn placed our people in a bad light.

Although Pacific migration into Aotearoa was initially seen as temporary, the presence of our culture has been crucial in our global identity. The past has seemed to be implied as forgiven and forgotten; however, the effects of the past still linger in the fabric of our identity 50 years on.

We ask for an apology and a guarantee this will not happen again. There are current



overstayers still here and experiencing the effects resembling these traumas. We ask the government to heavily consider a pathway to residency for current overstayers, who have stayed for quite a long time.

#pathway2residency

Regards,

s9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

**From:** s9(2)(a) on behalf of [Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern](#)  
**To:** s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Dawn raid apology  
**Date:** Thursday, 1 April 2021 7:49:53 am

---

Dear s9(2)(a)

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, to acknowledge your email of 31 March 2021. Please be assured your comments have been noted.

As the issue you have raised falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Pacific Peoples, Hon Aupito William Sio, your email has been forwarded to the Minister's office for consideration.

Thank you for writing, and take care.

Best wishes

s9(2)(a)

Office of the Prime Minister

**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 2:52 PM  
**To:** Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern <Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Dawn raid apology

Dear Prime Minister/MP

My name is s9(2)(a)

I am sure you are aware of the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the after effects of what had happened 50 years ago. Dawn Raids during the 70's was a traumatic event lasting decades which as a result, has led to generational-trauma. These include police bursting into rooms where Polynesian children would be sleeping, shining light on their faces and asking for I.D. Aggressive reinforcement epitomised the Police as an organisation creating a further distrust in the government, still prevalent today.

This one story is one of many episodes that took place during the 70's. This however wasn't an isolated racial movement against Polynesians living in Aotearoa. These very actions had been reinforced by Politicians and the media, which in turn placed our people in a bad light.

Although Pacific migration into Aotearoa was initially seen as temporary, the presence of our culture has been crucial in our global identity. The past has seemed to be implied as forgiven and forgotten; however, the effects of the past still linger in the fabric of our identity 50 years on.

We ask for an apology and a guarantee this will not happen again. There are current overstayers still here and experiencing the effects resembling these traumas. We ask the government to heavily consider a pathway to residency for current overstayers, who

have stayed for quite a long time.  
#pathway2residency  
Regards,

s9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

Dear Prime Minister/MP (JACINDA ADERN)

I am sure you are aware of the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the after effects of what had happened 50 years ago. Dawn Raids during the 70's was a traumatic event lasting decades which as a result, has led to generational-trauma. These include police bursting into rooms where Polynesian children would be sleeping, shining light on their faces and asking for I.D. Aggressive reinforcement epitomised the Police as an organisation creating a further distrust in the government, still prevalent today.

This one story is one of many episodes that took place during the 70's. This however wasn't an isolated racial movement against Polynesians living in Aotearoa. These very actions had been reinforced by Politicians and the media, which in turn placed our people in a bad light.

Although Pacific migration into Aotearoa was initially seen as temporary, the presence of our culture has been crucial in our global identity. The past has seemed to be implied as forgiven and forgotten; however, the effects of the past still linger in the fabric of our identity 50 years on. We ask for an apology and a guarantee this will not happen again. There are current overstayers still here and experiencing the effects resembling these traumas. We ask the government to heavily consider a pathway to residency for current overstayers, who have stayed for quite a long time.

#pathway2residency

Regards,

s9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

Dear Prime Minister/MP (JACINDA ADERN)

I am sure you are aware of the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the after effects of what had happened 50 years ago. Dawn Raids during the 70's was a traumatic event lasting decades which as a result, has led to generational-trauma. These include police bursting into rooms where Polynesian children would be sleeping, shining light on their faces and asking for I.D. Aggressive reinforcement epitomised the Police as an organisation creating a further distrust in the government, still prevalent today.

This one story is one of many episodes that took place during the 70's. This however wasn't an isolated racial movement against Polynesians living in Aotearoa. These very actions had been reinforced by Politicians and the media, which in turn placed our people in a bad light.

Although Pacific migration into Aotearoa was initially seen as temporary, the presence of our culture has been crucial in our global identity. The past has seemed to be implied as forgiven and forgotten; however, the effects of the past still linger in the fabric of our identity 50 years on. We ask for an apology and a guarantee this will not happen again. There are current overstayers still here and experiencing the effects resembling these traumas. We ask the government to heavily consider a pathway to residency for current overstayers, who have stayed for quite a long time.

#pathway2residency

Regards,

s9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982



**From:** s9(2)(a) on behalf of [Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern](#)  
**To:** s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Dawn Raids apology  
**Date:** Thursday, 1 April 2021 9:19:26 am

Dear s9(2)(a)

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, to acknowledge your email of 31 March 2021. Please be assured your comments have been noted.

As the issue you have raised falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Pacific Peoples, Hon Aupito William Sio, your email has been forwarded to the Minister's office for consideration.

Thank you for writing, and take care.

Best wishes

s9(2)(a)  
Office of the Prime Minister

**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 4:57 PM  
**To:** Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern <Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Dawn Raids apology

Dear Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern

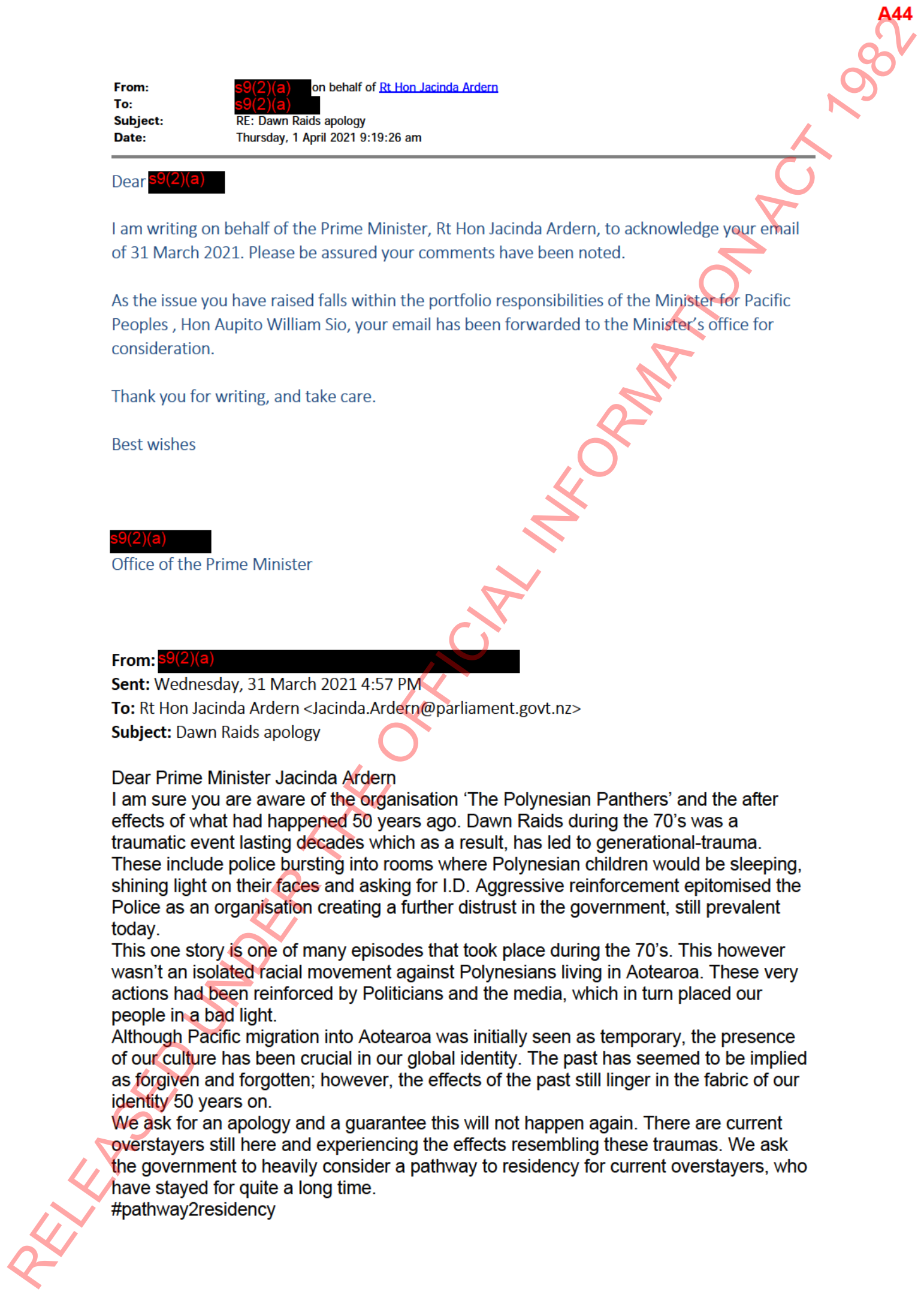
I am sure you are aware of the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the after effects of what had happened 50 years ago. Dawn Raids during the 70's was a traumatic event lasting decades which as a result, has led to generational-trauma. These include police bursting into rooms where Polynesian children would be sleeping, shining light on their faces and asking for I.D. Aggressive reinforcement epitomised the Police as an organisation creating a further distrust in the government, still prevalent today.

This one story is one of many episodes that took place during the 70's. This however wasn't an isolated racial movement against Polynesians living in Aotearoa. These very actions had been reinforced by Politicians and the media, which in turn placed our people in a bad light.

Although Pacific migration into Aotearoa was initially seen as temporary, the presence of our culture has been crucial in our global identity. The past has seemed to be implied as forgiven and forgotten; however, the effects of the past still linger in the fabric of our identity 50 years on.

We ask for an apology and a guarantee this will not happen again. There are current overstayers still here and experiencing the effects resembling these traumas. We ask the government to heavily consider a pathway to residency for current overstayers, who have stayed for quite a long time.

#pathway2residency



**From:** s9(2)(a) on behalf of [Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern](#)  
**To:** s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Pathway to residency -Dawn Raid Apology  
**Date:** Thursday, 1 April 2021 9:36:55 am

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Dear s9(2)(a)

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, to acknowledge your email of 01 April 2021. Please be assured your comments have been noted.

As the issue you have raised falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Pacific Peoples, Hon Aupito William Sio, your email has been forwarded to the Minister's office for consideration.

Thank you for writing, and take care.

Best wishes

s9(2)(a)

Office of the Prime Minister

**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 1 April 2021 7:32 AM  
**To:** Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern <Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Pathway to residency -Dawn Raid Apology

Dear Prime Minister/MP Jacinda Arden

I am sure you are aware of the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the after effects of what had happened 50 years ago. Dawn Raids during the 70's was a traumatic event lasting decades which as a result, has led to generational-trauma. These include police bursting into rooms where Polynesian children would be sleeping, shining light on their faces and asking for I.D. Aggressive reinforcement epitomised the Police as an organisation creating a further distrust in the government, still prevalent today.

This one story is one of many episodes that took place during the 70's. This however wasn't an isolated racial movement against Polynesians living in Aotearoa. These very actions had been reinforced by Politicians and the media, which in turn placed our people in a bad light.

Although Pacific migration into Aotearoa was initially seen as temporary, the presence of our culture has been crucial in our global identity. The past has seemed to be implied as forgiven and forgotten; however, the effects of the past still linger in the fabric of our identity 50 years on.

We ask for an apology and a guarantee this will not happen again. There are current overstayers still here and experiencing the effects resembling these traumas. We ask the government to heavily consider a pathway to residency for current overstayers, who have stayed for quite a long time.

#pathway2residency

**From:** s9(2)(a) on behalf of [Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern](#)  
**To:** s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: NZ Government apology for the Dawn Raids  
**Date:** Thursday, 1 April 2021 9:20:21 am

Dear s9(2)(a)

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, to acknowledge your email of 31 March 2021. Please be assured your comments have been noted.

As the issue you have raised falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Pacific Peoples, Hon Aupito William Sio, your email has been forwarded to the Minister's office for consideration.

Thank you for writing, and take care.

Best wishes

s9(2)(a)  
Office of the Prime Minister

**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 5:25 PM  
**To:** Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern <Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** NZ Government apology for the Dawn Raids

Dear Prime Minister

I am sure you are aware of the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the after effects of what had happened 50 years ago. Dawn Raids during the 70's was a traumatic event lasting decades which as a result, has led to generational-trauma. These include police bursting into rooms where Polynesian children would be sleeping, shining light on their faces and asking for I.D. Aggressive reinforcement epitomised the Police as an organisation creating a further distrust in the government, still prevalent today.

This one story is one of many episodes that took place during the 70's. This however wasn't an isolated racial movement against Polynesians living in Aotearoa. These very actions had been reinforced by Politicians and the media, which in turn placed our people in a bad light.

Although Pacific migration into Aotearoa was initially seen as temporary, the presence of our culture has been crucial in our global identity. The past has seemed to be implied as forgiven and forgotten; however, the effects of the past still linger in the fabric of our identity 50 years on.

We ask for an apology and a guarantee this will not happen again. There are current overstayers still here and experiencing the effects resembling these traumas. We ask the



government to heavily consider a pathway to residency for current overstayers, who have stayed for quite a long time.

#pathway2residency

Regards

s9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982



**From:** [Terina Cowan](#)  
**To:** [Hon Aupito William Sio](#); [Lavea'i Ioane](#)  
**Cc:** [christopher.mcavoy@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:christopher.mcavoy@parliament.govt.nz)  
**Subject:** RE: CALL TO APOLOGY FOR DAWN RAIDS  
**Date:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 11:48:10 am

Noted. I have forwarded on to Te Vaerangi.

**Terina Cowan** | Private Secretary (Ministry for Pacific Peoples), Office of Hon Aupito William Sio

Email [terina.cowan@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:terina.cowan@parliament.govt.nz) M s9(2)(a)

Office of Hon Aupito William Sio, Minister for Courts, Minister for Pacific Peoples, Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs, Associate Minister of Education, Associate Minister of Health, Associate Minister of Justice

Parliament House G-025 | Private Bag 18041 | Parliament Buildings | Wellington 6160 | New Zealand  
Reception +64 4 817 8723 | Ministerial Email [a.sio@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:a.sio@ministers.govt.nz) | Web [beehive.govt.nz](http://beehive.govt.nz)

**Email disclaimer:** Please note information about meetings or events related to the Minister's portfolios will be proactively released (this does not include personal or constituency matters). For each meeting in scope, the summary would list: date, time (start and finish), brief description, location, who the meeting was with, and the portfolio. If you attend a meeting with the Minister on behalf of an organisation, the name of the organisation will be released. If you are a senior staff member at an organisation, or meet with the Minister in your personal capacity, your name may also be released. The location of the meeting will be released, unless it is a private residence. The proactive release will be consistent with the provisions in the Official Information Act, including privacy considerations. Under the Privacy Act 1993 you have the right to ask for a copy of any personal information we hold about you, and to ask for it to be corrected if you think it is wrong. If you'd like to ask for a copy of your information, or to have it corrected, or are concerned about the release of your information in the meeting disclosure, please contact the sender. You can read more about the proactive release policy at [www.dia.govt.nz/Proactive-Releases#MS](http://www.dia.govt.nz/Proactive-Releases#MS)

**From:** Hon Aupito William Sio  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 11:29 AM  
**To:** Terina Cowan ; Lavea'i Ioane  
**Cc:** Chris McAvoy  
**Subject:** FW: CALL TO APOLOGY FOR DAWN RAIDS  
for the team working on dawns raid  
Sent with BlackBerry Work ([www.blackberry.com](http://www.blackberry.com))

**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** 31/03/2021 10:13 am  
**To:** Hon Aupito William Sio <[Aupito.william.sio@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Aupito.william.sio@parliament.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** CALL TO APOLOGY FOR DAWN RAIDS

Dear MP Aupito Su'a William Sio

I am sure you are aware of the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the after effects of what had happened 50 years ago. Dawn Raids during the 70's was a traumatic event lasting decades which as a result, has led to generational-trauma. These include police bursting into rooms where Polynesian children would be sleeping, shining light on their faces and asking for I.D. Aggressive reinforcement epitomised the Police as an organisation creating a further distrust in the government, still prevalent today.

This one story is one of many episodes that took place during the 70's. This however wasn't an isolated racial movement against Polynesians living in Aotearoa. These very actions had been reinforced by Politicians and the media, which in turn placed our people in a bad light.

Although Pacific migration into Aotearoa was initially seen as temporary, the presence of our culture has been crucial in our global identity. The past has seemed to be implied as forgiven and forgotten; however, the effects of the past still linger in the fabric of our



identity 50 years on.

We ask for an apology and a guarantee this will not happen again. There are current overstayers still here and experiencing the effects resembling these traumas. We ask the government to heavily consider a pathway to residency for current overstayers, who have stayed for quite a long time.

#pathway2residency

Regards,

s9(2)(a)

Sent from my iPhone

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

**From:** s9(2)(a) on behalf of [Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern](#)  
**To:** s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Dawn Raid Apology Needed  
**Date:** Thursday, 1 April 2021 9:23:33 am

---

Dear s9(2)(a)

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, to acknowledge your email of 31 March 2021. Please be assured your comments have been noted.

As the issue you have raised falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Pacific Peoples, Hon Aupito William Sio, your email has been forwarded to the Minister's office for consideration.

Thank you for writing, and take care.

Best wishes

s9(2)(a)

Office of the Prime Minister

**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 5:47 PM  
**To:** Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern <Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Dawn Raid Apology Needed

Dear Prime Minister

I am sure you are aware of the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the after effects of what had happened 50 years ago. Dawn Raids during the 70's was a traumatic event lasting decades which as a result, has led to generational-trauma. These include police bursting into rooms where Polynesian children would be sleeping, shining light on their faces and asking for I.D. Aggressive reinforcement epitomised the Police as an organisation creating a further distrust in the government, still prevalent today.

This one story is one of many episodes that took place during the 70's. This however wasn't an isolated racial movement against Polynesians living in Aotearoa. These very actions had been reinforced by Politicians and the media, which in turn placed our people in a bad light.

Although Pacific migration into Aotearoa was initially seen as temporary, the presence of our culture has been crucial in our global identity. The past has seemed to be implied as forgiven and forgotten; however, the effects of the past still linger in the fabric of our identity 50 years on.

We ask for an apology and a guarantee this will not happen again. There are current overstayers still here and experiencing the effects resembling these traumas. We ask the government to heavily consider a pathway to residency for current overstayers, who have stayed for quite a long time.

#pathway2residency

**From:** s9(2)(a) on behalf of [Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern](#)  
**To:** s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: DAWN RAIDS  
**Date:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 1:39:46 pm

Dear s9(2)(a)

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, to acknowledge your email of 31 March 2021. Please be assured your comments have been noted.

As the issue you have raised falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Pacific Peoples, Hon Aupito William Sio, your email has been forwarded to the Minister's office for consideration.

Thank you for writing, and take care.

Best wishes

s9(2)(a)  
Office of the Prime Minister

---

**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 9:10 AM  
**To:** Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern <Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** DAWN RAIDS

Dear Jacinda Arden,  
I am sure you are aware of the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the after effects of what had happened 50 years ago. Dawn Raids during the 70's was a traumatic event lasting decades which as a result, has led to generational-trauma. These include police bursting into rooms where Polynesian children would be sleeping, shining light on their faces and asking for I.D. Aggressive reinforcement epitomised the Police as an organisation creating a further distrust in the government, still prevalent today.  
This one story is one of many episodes that took place during the 70's. This however wasn't an isolated racial movement against Polynesians living in Aotearoa. These very actions had been reinforced by Politicians and the media, which in turn placed our people in a bad light.  
Although Pacific migration into Aotearoa was initially seen as temporary, the presence of our culture has been crucial in our global identity. The past has seemed to be implied as forgiven and forgotten; however, the effects of the past still linger in the fabric of our identity 50 years on.  
We ask for an apology and a guarantee this will not happen again. There are current overstayers still here and experiencing the effects resembling these traumas. We ask the government to heavily consider a pathway to residency for current overstayers, who have stayed for quite a long time.  
#pathway2residency



**From:** s9(2)(a) on behalf of [Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern](#)  
**To:** s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Open Letter  
**Date:** Thursday, 1 April 2021 9:42:28 am

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Dear s9(2)(a)

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, to acknowledge your email of 01 April 2021. Please be assured your comments have been noted.

As the issue you have raised falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Pacific Peoples, Hon Aupito William Sio, your email has been forwarded to the Minister's office for consideration.

Thank you for writing, and take care.

Best wishes

s9(2)(a)

Office of the Prime Minister

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**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 1 April 2021 8:49 AM  
**To:** Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern <Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Open Letter

Dear Prime Minister,

I am sure you are aware of the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the after effects of what had happened 50 years ago. Dawn Raids during the 70's was a traumatic event lasting decades which as a result, has led to generational-trauma. These include police bursting into rooms where Polynesian children would be sleeping, shining light on their faces and asking for I.D. Aggressive reinforcement epitomised the Police as an organisation creating a further distrust in the government, still prevalent today.

This one story is one of many episodes that took place during the 70's. This however wasn't an isolated racial movement against Polynesians living in Aotearoa. These very actions had been reinforced by Politicians and the media, which in turn placed our people in a bad light.

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#pathway2residency

**From:** s9(2)(a) on behalf of [Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern](#)  
**To:** s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Dawn Raids apology  
**Date:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 1:36:05 pm

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Dear s9(2)(a)

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, to acknowledge your email of 31 March 2021. Please be assured your comments have been noted.

As the issue you have raised falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Pacific Peoples, Hon Aupito William Sio, your email has been forwarded to the Minister's office for consideration.

Thank you for writing, and take care.

Best wishes

s9(2)(a)

Office of the Prime Minister

**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 1:15 AM  
**To:** Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern <Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Dawn Raids apology

Dear Prime Minister,

I am sure you are aware of the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the after effects of what had happened 50 years ago. Dawn Raids during the 70's was a traumatic event lasting decades which as a result, has led to generational-trauma. These include police bursting into rooms where Polynesian children would be sleeping, shining light on their faces and asking for I.D. Aggressive reinforcement epitomised the Police as an organisation creating a further distrust in the government, still prevalent today.

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#pathway2residency



**From:** s9(2)(a) on behalf of [Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern](#)  
**To:** s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Dawn Raids Apology open letter  
**Date:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 2:38:29 pm

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Dear s9(2)(a)

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, to acknowledge your email of 31 March 2021. Please be assured your comments have been noted.

As the issue you have raised falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Pacific Peoples, Hon Aupito William Sio, your email has been forwarded to the Minister's office for consideration.

Thank you for writing, and take care.

Best wishes

s9(2)(a)

Office of the Prime Minister

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**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 2:16 PM  
**To:** Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern <Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Dawn Raids Apology open letter

Dear Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern,

I am sure you are aware of the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the after effects of what had happened 50 years ago. Dawn Raids during the 70's was a traumatic event lasting decades which as a result, has led to generational-trauma. These include police bursting into rooms where Polynesian children would be sleeping, shining light on their faces and asking for I.D. Aggressive reinforcement epitomised the Police as an organisation creating a further distrust in the government, still prevalent today.

This one story is one of many episodes that took place during the 70's. This however wasn't an isolated racial movement against Polynesians living in Aotearoa. These very actions had been reinforced by Politicians and the media, which in turn placed our people in a bad light.

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We ask for an apology and a guarantee this will not happen again. There are current overstayers still here and experiencing the effects resembling these traumas. We ask the government to heavily consider a pathway to residency for current overstayers, who have stayed for quite a long time.

#pathway2residency

**From:** [Nelly Cowan](#)  
**To:** [MinisterialServices](#)  
**Cc:** [La Rochelle Morgan](#); [Lavea'i Ioane](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Melino Maka Dawn Raid story  
**Date:** Wednesday, 16 June 2021 8:38:36 am  
**Attachments:** [Anae-2010.pdf](#)

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Morena team,

We have started to receive correspondence from people sharing their dawn raids stories. The Minister has just asked that we acknowledge and thank them for sharing (La Rochelle and I will draft this). I am just passing the letters on to MPP as an fyi only. No further action required.

Ko rabwa,

**Rongomaitaurau (Nelly) Cowan | Private Secretary (Pacific Peoples) |**  
Office of Hon Aupito William Sio MP  
Minister for Pacific Peoples  
Minister for Courts  
Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Associate Minister of Education (Pacific Peoples)  
Associate Minister of Health (Pacific Peoples) and Associate Minister of Justice  
Parliament House, Parliament Buildings W: <http://www.beehive.govt.nz> and <http://www.parliament.nz>

**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Monday, 14 June 2021 8:49 PM  
**To:** Hon Aupito William Sio <Aupito.william.sio@parliament.govt.nz>; A Sio (MIN) <A.Sio@ministers.govt.nz>  
**Cc:** C Sepuloni (MIN) <C.Sepuloni@ministers.govt.nz>; Hon Carmel Sepuloni <Carmel.Sepuloni@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** s9(2)(a) Dawn Raid story

Talofa Minister,

As discussed please find the attached story compiled by Dr. Anae in 2010. s9(2)(a)

We decided not to talk about it because of the shame on our families here and back home. s9(2)(a)

The news that the government will make an apology is welcome news for our Pasifika community who went through this horrible time and would the government to focus on Dawn Raid only. Because we owe this to the memories of s9(2)(a) our Pasifika community who went through this terrible time in Aotearoa.

I look forward to this very special day.

Faka'apa'apa atu

s9(2)(a)



ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE  
OVERSTAYERS,  
DAWN RAIDS AND  
THE POLYNESIAN  
PANTHERS

MELANI ANAE

At 6am on Tuesday, 17 February 1976, police and immigration officials swooped on the home of Mrs Telesia Topping, of Onehunga. Mrs Topping, a Tongan who is married to a New Zealander and had lived here for ten years, was almost in tears as she told her story to the *Auckland Star*:

A young policeman, about 22 years old, came into my room ... I asked him what he was doing in my bedroom. He did not answer. I was really frightened. He went to the bathroom, inspected it, came back and pulled the covers off my bed ... He pulled open the wardrobe, fiddled with the clothing, checked everything. The same policeman went into the adjoining room where my two nephews, aged 19 and 20 years, were asleep. The policeman shone the light into their eyes, saying 'get up and get out'. ... My nephews were very frightened. The police then started dragging them out to their van.<sup>1</sup>

The revolution we openly rap about is one of total change. The revolution is one to liberate us from racism, oppression and capitalism. We see many of our problems of oppression and racism are tools of this

society's outlook based on capitalism; hence for total change one must change society altogether.<sup>2</sup>

The racial tension and unrest that marked New Zealand's social and political climate during the early 1970s, in which police and immigration authorities victimised Pacific Islanders whom they suspected of abusing the terms of their visas, evolved after record levels of immigration from the Islands (largely to fuel postwar demand for unskilled labour) coincided with the collapse of the global commodity boom and the onset of recession in the New Zealand economy. The circumstances provided fertile ground for the public expression of racism and general resentment towards groups perceived to be taking employment from locals, threatening cultural homogeneity, boosting crime rates and adding strain to public resources such as housing, welfare and education.<sup>3</sup> The same distorted perspective that saw Pacific Island immigrants as contributors to the economic downturn also identified the typical Pacific Islander as an 'overstay' (an individual who remained in New Zealand past the limit of his or her visa). During the early years of the decade, this stereotype was reinforced in the media and exploited cynically by politicians.



RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982





Logo of the Polynesian Panthers, 1970s.

Rhetoric escalated into direct action in the form of random checks and dawn raids, conducted mainly in Auckland, when police taskforces targeted individuals who looked like Pacific Islanders or potential overstayers, regardless of their status as citizens. The police swooped on households in the early hours of the morning, often employing aggressive or intimidatory tactics. It was in response to this hostility that the Polynesian Panthers sprang into action, working at both grass roots and governmental level to expose and eradicate injustice, inequality and racism. This essay explores the circumstances that led to both the police tactics and the emergence of the Panthers.

The law controlling entry to New Zealand in the 1970s was the Immigration Act 1964; this was an update of the 1920 Act, which conferred on the immigration minister the absolute power to refuse or permit entry to any person not a New Zealand citizen (section 14 [1]), extend the period permits applied (section 14 [4]) and pardon or exempt people from application of the Act (section 32).<sup>4</sup> The criteria under which the ministry could grant or reject immigration applications derived from a policy that for many decades had favoured those races deemed most able to assimilate - in effect, to 'fit in' with New Zealand society. Top of the list were northern Europeans (especially Britons), white Americans and Australians; southern Europeans, Pacific Islanders, Indians and Chinese came lower down,<sup>5</sup> although residents of the Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau were, as New Zealand citizens, free to enter the country. From 1964, a quota of visitors from Western Samoa received short-term work permits, typically of three months' duration,<sup>6</sup> and from 1967, a quota of Fijians received work permits valid up to six months. A 1968 amendment to the Immigration Act allowed the deportation of those overstaying their work permits: section 33a empowered police to ask people to produce not only a valid passport, but also a permit to enter and remain temporarily in New Zealand, as well as documentary or other evidence of identity. In short, it outlined procedure for the random checks and those who did not comply on the spot could be arrested and kept in a holding cell without a warrant and in some cases deported back to Samoa or Tonga.<sup>7</sup>

Much Pacific Island migration was of a temporary and shifting nature, with many Islanders

entering New Zealand as visitors, seeking work on arrival and then returning home with money. (An important function of visiting labourers was to provide financial support for their families back home and Pacific Island economies came to depend heavily on such remittances.) Instead of returning, however, many overstayed their working visas and there were others who worked illegally on non-working visas. Historically, New Zealand's high demand for labour, coupled with the convenience of this under-the-table labour pool, meant that the immigration quotas had been only loosely enforced: overstaying (by plenty of Europeans as well as Pacific Islanders) was tolerated by successive governments and encouraged by employers for as long as excess labour demand continued.<sup>8</sup> Additionally, a post-colonial sense of responsibility underlay the government's willingness to support its neighbours in the Pacific.<sup>9</sup>

When Norman Kirk's Labour government came to power in 1972, it would seek to replace the assimilationist policy with one of cultural pluralism and during 1973 and 1974 Kirk effected this change through the process of a policy review that actively encouraged government departments to help Pacific Islanders settle. At the beginning of the decade, however, old-school policy and practice prevailed, placing Pacific Island immigrants at such a disadvantage that they sought to both rally themselves and form alliances with like-minded support organisations and protest groups. Communities of Islanders living in enclaves such as Auckland's Ponsonby had disproportionate poverty and unemployment rates, received substandard education and health care and were being exploited by unscrupulous landlords. The issue that irked them above all else was police oppression under the rhetoric of 'random checks' and the 'idle and disorderly' charge, which provided the police with a convenient avenue for dealing with situations where no particular crime could be proved to have been committed.<sup>10</sup> Sick of continuous police harassment and of being stereotyped as troublemakers, a generation of young people became receptive to the idea of retaliation. On 16 June 1971, three years before the first officially recognised series of dawn raids, Will ('Ilohahia'), 'The Captain' (Fred Schmidt), Nooroa Taevae, Eddie Williams, Ta Iuli and

others - a mixture of gang members and youth from a wide range of Polynesian cultures - founded the Polynesian Panther Movement in Keppel Street, Ponsonby. A former member of the inner-city Niggs gang, 'Ilohahia' would head the Polynesian Panthers as chairman - after a short stint by Schmidt - and help to write a significant, but largely ignored, chapter of Pacific Island history, politics and race relations in New Zealand.

... what we were trying to achieve in those days was just to make life better for people ... 'cause people were constantly being hassled by police ... you had the dawn raids ... you had bad tenants [landlords] ... throwing people out on the streets for no reason.  
- Billy Bates<sup>11</sup>

... guys about our age ... were getting picked up, held in custody overnight, appearing at the magistrates' court the next day and getting sent away to borstals and that ... [with] no representative there to say, 'Hey what's happened to this person, what did they actually do?' And a lot of people were finding out that these people were actually being sent away for minor offences.  
- Vaughan Sanft<sup>12</sup>

To many young Polynesians like myself, the only way forward for us as a migrant people was 'self help'. We would have to stand up for ourselves and our people, and not wait for others to do it for us ... The Panthers provided the platform for us to do just that.  
- Wayne Toleafoa<sup>13</sup>

The Panthers were remarkable in many ways. The core leadership comprised a group of Samoans, Tongans, Niueans, Cook Islanders, Māori and one New Zealand-born Indian, aged between seventeen and nineteen years old. Although the organisation was youth-led, associates of the Panthers included traditional community leaders such as church ministers and community workers - among them the Reverend Leuatea Sio, Betty Wark and Agnes Tuisamoa - who



# DAWN RAIDS THE UGLY REALITY



Bilene and Betele are a middle-aged Tongan couple who live with their two sons Tamarii (20) and Maniri (11) in Grey Lynn, Auckland. They came to New Zealand little more than six months ago, and speak very little English. Both parents work in factories. When the Overseas Registrar was present they all signed. They understood that this would help them stay a little longer, perhaps permanently, and also that they would not need to worry about the police.

On Sunday 21 October 1976 at 4 o'clock in the morning the police knocked on the door while they were all still asleep. Tamarii went to the door, and was asked for his passport. He told them that it was in the bedroom, and went to get it. The three police officers showed no warrant but walked straight in behind him; Tamarii showed them his passport and a letter from the Labour Department confirming that he was a registered overseaser. The police then asked for his parents' passports, and that their parents had signed him and went to wake them up.

Bilene woke to find the three policemen in the bedroom and told them to get out of the house but his wife held him back, not wanting to make trouble. The police told them to get dressed and now even stayed with them while they did so. The other two checked every room, asking everyone there for their passports, and arrested two of them.

One woman in the house who speaks English told the police that Bilene and Betele had signed the register, but they said her to keep quiet or she would be arrested too. Then they took Bilene, Betele and the other two away, leaving his year old Maori crying, distressed and bewildered at what was happening to his mother and father. They were packed into the police car and taken to Auckland Central Police Station, where they were searched, photographed and their fingerprints taken. Betele asked if she could stay with her children, but they were put in separate cells. Both were very upset and asked if they could contact their young sons but they were not allowed to use the telephone. On Sunday night the police did get back to their homes and found the boy still crying, but they gave no message to his parents.

While Bilene and Betele were in the police cells their friends tried to get help. They finally convinced a lawyer at about 10 pm on Sunday night. He telephoned Immigration and was told that the police had the overseas register. So he met the police who said that they had no list and anyway there was no need to check because the officer must have checked before arresting them. He promised however and what there is -

awn raids - the ugly reality. An information sheet detailing a police raid on a Tongan couple and their two sons living in Grey Lynn, Auckland, October 1976.

rules were simple and strict: no possession of narcotics or being under the influence of alcohol during movement time; no possession of weapons or other harmful devices; no using the name of the movement in public for self-glory; equality of the sexes.<sup>17</sup>

Under the rallying cry of 'power to the people', the Panthers set out to portray the realities of being brown in Auckland in the 1970s. They sought to change the mindsets of both white and Polynesian communities by exposing and challenging racist policies and activities and by lobbying for much-needed resources for the people.<sup>18</sup> They worked with the mayor (Sir Dove-Myer Robinson) and the Auckland City Council and with Māori and community groups such as Māori activist group Ngā Tamatoa, HART (Halt All Racist Tours), the Ponsonby People's Union and ACORD (Auckland Committee on Racism and Discrimination). They also worked with nascent Māori nationalist movements, such as MOOHR (Maori Organisation on Human Rights) and Te Roopu o te Matakite (which spearheaded the Māori land march of 1975), arguing that the dominant European culture was trying to divide Māori and other Polynesians.

With CARE (Citizens Association for Racial Equality), the Panthers established homework centres and they linked with the Ponsonby Peoples' Union to set up a food cooperative. They raised money for causes with which they sympathised, were prominent in anti-Vietnam protests and organised transport to shuttle families and visitors to Paremoremo Prison, where they also had a chapter. Former inmates were also given advice, assistance and often accommodation with Panthers on their release. They spoke at schools and set up homework centres, community meetings, concerts for the elderly and street parties. In Ponsonby, they galvanised a truly multicultural community spirit. The local paper *City @ Westend News*, for example, was translated into Samoan, Cook Islands Māori and Niuean as a way of meeting the needs of its growing Polynesian communities. The Panthers also published their own newspaper, *Panther Rapp*, from 1975, and prepared their own press statements for broadcast media and for the publications of other protest groups.<sup>19</sup> With the help of lawyer (and future prime minister) David Lange, they printed 1500 copies of 'Your Rights', a legal aid booklet.<sup>20</sup>

The Panthers expanded and their influence grew in the early 1970s. Chapters of the Polynesian Panther Party were set up in South Auckland, Dunedin and Christchurch. The establishment of a chapter in Sydney caused world headlines when 'Ilohahia was arrested in Canberra in July 1972 for trying to set up an Aboriginal embassy. The Panthers' minister of culture, Ama Rauhihi, became the organisation's first full-time community worker in 1973. In July of that year, Norman Tuiaasau represented the Panthers at the 10th International Youth Festival in Berlin and in November the Tenants Aid Brigade (TAB) was created to help Polynesian tenants deal with illegal eviction from their homes. Formal recognition came to the Panthers when they were made the recipients of several youth awards, including the Governor General's Youth Award (\$250) on 19 September 1972 and presented with a \$1000 grant in 1973 from the National Council of Churches.

In the face of such advances, however, immigration and crime had become major political issues and, aggravated by the onset of a recession, would intensify in the run-up to the 1975 general election. In response to economic pressures and to public fears about Polynesian violence on Auckland's inner-city streets, the Labour government felt obliged to reassess its immigration policy. One of Kirk's moves in 1973 was to commission an Auckland police taskforce. He also sanctioned the continuation of random checks; these had been taking place intermittently and unofficially since 1972, but would enter a more disturbing phase in 1974.

On the night of 13 March 1974, police and immigration officials carried out a series of raids on Tongan households in Onehunga and by 3am thirteen Tongans had been arrested on charges of being illegal immigrants and/or failing to produce a passport. On 18 March, a further twenty-one Tongans were arrested after raids on another six houses.<sup>21</sup> Church services were also interrupted, as one participant recalled:

I can think of one instance, at a church service at 64 Crummer Road, all of a sudden, the doors were knocked in and the place was swarming with police, officials, and dogs. They asked for passports. There were 18 that didn't have them including the priest. They were taken to Mt Eden. There was great



- AWHINA A TE TURE
- FESOANI FA' A LE TULAFONO
- TAUTURU NO TE PAE TURU
- LAGAOMATAI HE FAKATUFONO
- TOKONI FAKALAO

The cover of the Polynesian Panther's legal aid booklet, 'Your Rights', c. 1973-74.



A poster advertising talks by Australian Black Panthers, Denis Walker and Sue Chilly, c. 1972.

RELEASE UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982



**From:** s9(2)(a) on behalf of [Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern](#)  
**To:** s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Apology for the dawn raids  
**Date:** Thursday, 1 April 2021 9:25:11 am

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Dear s9(2)(a)

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, to acknowledge your email of 31 March 2021. Please be assured your comments have been noted.

As the issue you have raised falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Pacific Peoples, Hon Aupito William Sio, your email has been forwarded to the Minister's office for consideration.

Thank you for writing, and take care.

Best wishes

s9(2)(a)

Office of the Prime Minister

**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 6:18 PM  
**To:** J Ardern (MIN) <j.ardern@ministers.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Apology for the dawn raids

Tēnā koe e te rangatiratanga,

I am sure you are aware of the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the after effects of what had happened 50 years ago. Dawn Raids during the 70's was a traumatic event lasting decades which as a result, has led to generational-trauma. These include police bursting into rooms where Polynesian children would be sleeping, shining light on their faces and asking for I.D. Aggressive reinforcement epitomised the Police as an organisation creating a further distrust in the government, still prevalent today.

This one story is one of many episodes that took place during the 70's. This however wasn't an isolated racial movement against Polynesians living in Aotearoa. These very actions had been reinforced by Politicians and the media, which in turn placed our people in a bad light.

Although Pacific migration into Aotearoa was initially seen as temporary, the presence of our culture has been crucial in our global identity. The past has seemed to be implied as forgiven and forgotten; however, the effects of the past still linger in the fabric of our identity 50 years on.

We ask for an apology and a guarantee this will not happen again. There are current overstayers still here and experiencing the effects resembling these traumas. We ask the government to heavily consider a pathway to residency for current overstayers, who have stayed for quite a long time.

#pathway2residency

7 June 2021

Received  
11 JUN 2021  
Office of Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern

Dear Jacinda,

I am writing to urge you to issue a public apology to all Pacific people (& their descendants) who were caught up in the infamous Dawn Raids of the 1970s.

I realise that you would like to pass this off to your Minister for Pacific peoples, but that is not appropriate. Our country treated citizens of other countries in an appalling & shameful manner, & an apology for that can only meaningfully be issued by our Prime Minister. Further, given that the Dawn Raids were begun under a fellow Labour Prime Minister, it is fitting that the chapter be closed by you, showing that today's Labour Party fully recognises how irrational, unjust & downright cruel (not to mention stupid for the longer term) the Dawn Raids were.

We know better than to indulge in racial profiling nowadays, & it is right to apologise for such incidents in our past. This is every bit as compelling a case as the historical injustices perpetrated on Maori for which the government has apologised.

I have 100% European ancestry; this issue does not directly affect me at all. But I am disgusted & offended that a government of my country, & worse, a Labour one, carried out such a policy. It is past time that the wounds it caused were given a chance to heal. An apology by you will begin that process.

"Be kind" is a great message, but without associated action it is no more than vacuous words. I urge you to stand up & take responsibility for this shameful chapter in our history.

Sincerely,

s9(2)(a)  
[Redacted signature area]

RELEASED

INFORMATION ACT 1982



**From:** s9(2)(a) on behalf of [Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern](#)  
**To:** s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Dawn Raids Apology  
**Date:** Thursday, 1 April 2021 9:27:08 am

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Dear s9(2)(a)

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, to acknowledge your email of 31 March 2021. Please be assured your comments have been noted.

As the issue you have raised falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Pacific Peoples, Hon Aupito William Sio, your email has been forwarded to the Minister's office for consideration.

Thank you for writing, and take care.

Best wishes

s9(2)(a)

Office of the Prime Minister

**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 7:28 PM  
**To:** Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern <Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Dawn Raids Apology

Dear Jacinda Arden

I am sure you are aware of the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the after effects of what had happened 50 years ago. Dawn Raids during the 70's was a traumatic event lasting decades which as a result, has led to generational-trauma. These include police bursting into rooms where Polynesian children would be sleeping, shining light on their faces and asking for I.D. Aggressive reinforcement epitomised the Police as an organisation creating a further distrust in the government, still prevalent today.

This one story is one of many episodes that took place during the 70's. This however wasn't an isolated racial movement against Polynesians living in Aotearoa. These very actions had been reinforced by Politicians and the media, which in turn placed our people in a bad light.

Although Pacific migration into Aotearoa was initially seen as temporary, the presence of our culture has been crucial in our global identity. The past has seemed to be implied as forgiven and forgotten; however, the effects of the past still linger in the fabric of our identity 50 years on.

We ask for an apology and a guarantee this will not happen again. There are current overstayers still here and experiencing the effects resembling these traumas. We ask the government to heavily consider a pathway to residency for current overstayers, who have stayed for quite a long time.

#pathway2residency

**From:** s9(2)(a) on behalf of [Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern](#)  
**To:** s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Dawn Raids  
**Date:** Thursday, 1 April 2021 9:35:52 am

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Dear s9(2)(a)

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, to acknowledge your email of 01 April 2021. Please be assured your comments have been noted.

As the issue you have raised falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister of Agriculture, Hon Damien O'Connor, your email has been forwarded to the Minister's office for consideration.

Thank you for writing, and take care.

Best wishes

s9(2)(a)

Office of the Prime Minister

**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 1 April 2021 12:57 AM  
**To:** Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern <Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Dawn Raids

Dear Prime Minister Jacinda Adern,

I am sure you are aware of the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the after effects of what had happened 50 years ago. Dawn Raids during the 70's was a traumatic event lasting decades which as a result, has led to generational-trauma. These include police bursting into rooms where Polynesian children would be sleeping, shining light on their faces and asking for I.D. Aggressive reinforcement epitomised the Police as an organisation creating a further distrust in the government, still prevalent today.

This one story is one of many episodes that took place during the 70's. This however wasn't an isolated racial movement against Polynesians living in Aotearoa. These very actions had been reinforced by Politicians and the media, which in turn placed our people in a bad light.

Although Pacific migration into Aotearoa was initially seen as temporary, the presence of our culture has been crucial in our global identity. The past has seemed to be implied as forgiven and forgotten; however, the effects of the past still linger in the fabric of our identity 50 years on.

We ask for an apology and a guarantee this will not happen again. There are current overstayers still here and experiencing the effects resembling these traumas. We ask the government to heavily consider a pathway to residency for current overstayers, who have stayed for quite a long time.

#pathway2residency

**From:** s9(2)(a) on behalf of [Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern](#)  
**To:** [a.sio@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:a.sio@ministers.govt.nz)  
**Subject:** FW: government to heavily consider a pathway to residency for current overstayers,  
**Date:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 11:52:13 am

---

Hello Ana,

One more!

s9(2)(a)

**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 11:27 AM  
**To:** Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern <[Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** government to heavily consider a pathway to residency for current overstayers,

Dear Jacinda Adern

I am sure you are aware of the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the after effects of what had happened 50 years ago. Dawn Raids during the 70's was a traumatic event lasting decades which as a result, has led to generational-trauma. These include police bursting into rooms where Polynesian children would be sleeping, shining light on their faces and asking for I.D. Aggressive reinforcement epitomised the Police as an organisation creating a further distrust in the government, still prevalent today.

This one story is one of many episodes that took place during the 70's. This however wasn't an isolated racial movement against Polynesians living in Aotearoa. These very actions had been reinforced by Politicians and the media, which in turn placed our people in a bad light.

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#pathway2residency

Regards,

s9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982



**From:** s9(2)(a) on behalf of [Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern](#)  
**To:** s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Dawn Raid Apology #Pathway2Residency  
**Date:** Thursday, 1 April 2021 9:31:40 am

---

Dear s9(2)(a)

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, to acknowledge your email of 31 March 2021. Please be assured your comments have been noted.

As the issue you have raised falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Pacific Peoples, Hon Aupito William Sio, your email has been forwarded to the Minister's office for consideration.

Thank you for writing, and take care.

Best wishes

s9(2)(a)

Office of the Prime Minister

**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 11:32 PM  
**To:** Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern <Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Dawn Raid Apology #Pathway2Residency

Dear Prime Minister Aunty Cindy,

I am sure you are aware of the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the after effects of what had happened 50 years ago. Dawn Raids during the 70's was a traumatic event lasting decades which as a result, has led to generational-trauma. These include police bursting into rooms where Polynesian children would be sleeping, shining light on their faces and asking for I.D. Aggressive reinforcement epitomised the Police as an organisation creating a further distrust in the government, still prevalent today.

This one story is one of many episodes that took place during the 70's. This however wasn't an isolated racial movement against Polynesians living in Aotearoa. These very actions had been reinforced by Politicians and the media, which in turn placed our people in a bad light.

Although Pacific migration into Aotearoa was initially seen as temporary, the presence of our culture has been crucial in our global identity. The past has seemed to be implied as forgiven and forgotten; however, the effects of the past still linger in the fabric of our identity 50 years on.

We ask for an apology and a guarantee this will not happen again. There are current overstayers still here and experiencing the effects resembling these traumas. We ask the government to heavily consider a pathway to residency for current overstayers, who have stayed for quite a long time.

#pathway2residency

**From:** s9(2)(a) on behalf of [Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern](#)  
**To:** s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Apology/Dawn Raids - a pathway to residency  
**Date:** Thursday, 1 April 2021 9:30:19 am

---

Dear s9(2)(a)

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, to acknowledge your email of 31 March 2021. Please be assured your comments have been noted.

As the issue you have raised falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Pacific Peoples, Hon Aupito William Sio, your email has been forwarded to the Minister's office for consideration.

Thank you for writing, and take care.

Best wishes

s9(2)(a)

Office of the Prime Minister

**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 9:55 PM  
**To:** Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern <Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Apology/Dawn Raids - a pathway to residency

Dear Prime Minister,

I am sure you are aware of the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the after effects of what had happened 50 years ago. Dawn Raids during the 70's was a traumatic event lasting decades which as a result, has led to generational-trauma. These include police bursting into rooms where Polynesian children would be sleeping, shining light on their faces and asking for I.D. Aggressive reinforcement epitomised the Police as an organisation creating a further distrust in the government, still prevalent today.

This one story is one of many episodes that took place during the 70's. This however wasn't an isolated racial movement against Polynesians living in Aotearoa. These very actions had been reinforced by Politicians and the media, which in turn placed our people in a bad light.

Although Pacific migration into Aotearoa was initially seen as temporary, the presence of our culture has been crucial in our global identity. The past has seemed to be implied as forgiven and forgotten; however, the effects of the past still linger in the fabric of our identity 50 years on.

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#pathway2residency

**From:** s9(2)(a) on behalf of [Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern](#)  
**To:** s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Polynesian Panthers open letter  
**Date:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 1:37:58 pm

---

Dear s9(2)(a)

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, to acknowledge your email of 31 March 2021. Please be assured your comments have been noted.

As the issue you have raised falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Pacific Peoples, Hon Aupito William Sio, your email has been forwarded to the Minister's office for consideration.

Thank you for writing, and take care.

Best wishes

s9(2)(a)

Office of the Prime Minister

---

**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 8:16 AM  
**To:** J Ardern (MIN) <j.ardern@ministers.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Polynesian Panthers open letter

Dear Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern

I am sure you are aware of the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the after effects of what had happened 50 years ago. Dawn Raids during the 70's was a traumatic event lasting decades which as a result, has led to generational-trauma. These include police bursting into rooms where Polynesian children would be sleeping, shining light on their faces and asking for I.D. Aggressive reinforcement epitomised the Police as an organisation creating a further distrust in the government, still prevalent today.

This one story is one of many episodes that took place during the 70's. This however wasn't an isolated racial movement against Polynesians living in Aotearoa. These very actions had been reinforced by Politicians and the media, which in turn placed our people in a bad light.

Although Pacific migration into Aotearoa was initially seen as temporary, the presence of our culture has been crucial in our global identity. The past has seemed to be implied as forgiven and forgotten; however, the effects of the past still linger in the fabric of our identity 50 years on.

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the government to heavily consider a pathway to residency for current overstayers, who have stayed for quite a long time.

#pathway2residency

Regards,

s9(2)(a)

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RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

**From:** s9(2)(a) on behalf of [Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern](#)  
**To:** s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE:  
**Date:** Thursday, 1 April 2021 9:27:55 am

---

Dear s9(2)(a)

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, to acknowledge your email of 31 March 2021. Please be assured your comments have been noted.

As the issue you have raised falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Pacific Peoples, Hon Aupito William Sio, your email has been forwarded to the Minister's office for consideration.

Thank you for writing, and take care.

Best wishes

s9(2)(a)

Office of the Prime Minister

**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 8:04 PM  
**To:** Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern <Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Subject:**

Dear Prime Minister,

I am sure you are aware of the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the after effects of what had happened 50 years ago. Dawn Raids during the 70's was a traumatic event lasting decades which as a result, has led to generational-trauma. These include police bursting into rooms where Polynesian children would be sleeping, shining light on their faces and asking for I.D. Aggressive reinforcement epitomised the Police as an organisation creating a further distrust in the government, still prevalent today.

This one story is one of many episodes that took place during the 70's. This however wasn't an isolated racial movement against Polynesians living in Aotearoa. These very actions had been reinforced by Politicians and the media, which in turn placed our people in a bad light.

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We ask for an apology and a guarantee this will not happen again. There are current overstayers still here and experiencing the effects resembling these traumas. We ask the government to heavily consider a pathway to residency for current overstayers, who have stayed for quite a long time.

#pathway2residency



**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**To:** [Hon Aupito William Sio](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Tautoko the Panthers  
**Date:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 8:57:30 am

HI – fyi

Thanks

s9(2)(a)

Office of the Prime Minister

**From:** s9(2)(a)

**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 8:42 AM

**To:** Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern

**Subject:** Re: Tautoko the Panthers

Dear s9(2)(a)

Thank you for your response. Might I ask you to consider the perversity of passing this on to a Samoan minister for response; of asking a member of the Pacific community in Aotearoa to address the need for the New Zealand government to apologise to Pacific peoples? Forgive my candor, but that's messed up.

I can't decide whether this is laughable or offensive, but either way it's not an appropriate response. Especially when it was explicitly stated that I did not want my letter to go to minister Sio's office.

Please add my request for an apology to others that have been sent through, collate them, and present them to the Prime Minister as per the authors' requests.

Ngā mihi,

s9(2)(a)

On Wed, 31 Mar 2021, 7:33 am Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern,  
 <[Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz)> wrote:

Dear Correspondent,

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, to acknowledge your email of 30 March 2021. Please be assured your comments have been noted.

As the issue you have raised falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Pacific Peoples, Hon Aupito William Sio, your email has been forwarded to the Minister's office for consideration. The Prime Minister relies on her Ministerial colleagues to respond to issues that come under their individual portfolios.

Thank you for writing, and take care.

Best wishes

s9(2)(a)

Office of the Prime Minister

**From:** s9(2)(a)

**Sent:** Tuesday, 30 March 2021 11:38 AM

**To:** J Ardern (MIN) <[j.ardern@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:j.ardern@ministers.govt.nz)>

**Subject:** Tautoko the Panthers

Malo le soifua ma le lagi e mama,

I am writing to express support for the Polynesian Panthers in their call for the New Zealand Government to formally apologise to Pacific peoples for the Dawn Raids. Pacific communities - whose role in the flourishing of Aotearoa's society and economy continues to be ignored or (at best) downplayed - were unfairly targeted, subjected to racist rhetoric, profiling stereotyping, harassment, and police violence. Families were terrorised and separated. People lived in fear, unfairly punished for the government's failure to create clear, just, and consistent immigration policies and for the exploitative

greed that fuelled this failure. Our Pacific brothers and sisters are not disposable bodies. They are not objects to be used to drive economic growth and then throw out of the country. The legacy of the Dawn Raids and of the policies and attitudes behind these events haunt the RSE, haunt the limited and unjust options we provide to the families who wish to immigrate and settle here, haunt those who move between our ostensibly friendly isles, haunt the attitudes of our society towards Pacific peoples and their role in New Zealand life. What was done was wrong. What we continue to do is far from right. We are a Pacific Island nation - our Pacific communities belong here. The gall of a colonial government ever acting as though they have more right to be here than Pacific peoples is unbearable enough, without this particular violence going unaddressed. An apology is needed. And with it tangible action to recognise the special place of Pacific peoples here in Aotearoa.

This is not an issue for Minister Sio, it is an issue for the Prime Minister and her office.

Ia manuia,

s9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

**From:** s9(2)(a) on behalf of [Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern](#)  
**To:** s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Dawn Raids  
**Date:** Thursday, 1 April 2021 9:34:57 am

---

Dear s9(2)(a)

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, to acknowledge your email of 01 April 2021. Please be assured your comments have been noted.

As the issue you have raised falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Pacific Peoples, Hon Aupito William Sio, your email has been forwarded to the Minister's office for consideration.

Thank you for writing, and take care.

Best wishes

s9(2)(a)

Office of the Prime Minister

**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 1 April 2021 12:55 AM  
**To:** Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern <Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Dawn Raids

Dear Prime Minister,

I am sure you are aware of the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the after effects of what had happened 50 years ago. Dawn Raids during the 70's was a traumatic event lasting decades which as a result, has led to generational-trauma. These include police bursting into rooms where Polynesian children would be sleeping, shining light on their faces and asking for I.D. Aggressive reinforcement epitomised the Police as an organisation creating a further distrust in the government, still prevalent today.

This one story is one of many episodes that took place during the 70's. This however wasn't an isolated racial movement against Polynesians living in Aotearoa. These very actions had been reinforced by Politicians and the media, which in turn placed our people in a bad light.

Although Pacific migration into Aotearoa was initially seen as temporary, the presence of our culture has been crucial in our global identity. The past has seemed to be implied as forgiven and forgotten; however, the effects of the past still linger in the fabric of our identity 50 years on.

We ask for an apology and a guarantee this will not happen again. There are current overstayers still here and experiencing the effects resembling these traumas. We ask the government to heavily consider a pathway to residency for current overstayers, who have stayed for quite a long time.

#pathway2residency



**From:** s9(2)(a) on behalf of [Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern](#)  
**To:** [a.sio@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:a.sio@ministers.govt.nz)  
**Subject:** FW: Issue of Apology  
**Date:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 9:40:11 am

---

Hi Ana,

Another.

s9(2)(a)

---

**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 9:11 AM  
**To:** Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern <[Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** Issue of Apology

Dear Prime Minister,

I am sure you are aware of the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the after effects of what had happened 50 years ago. Dawn Raids during the 70's was a traumatic event lasting decades which as a result, has led to generational-trauma. These include police bursting into rooms where Polynesian children would be sleeping, shining light on their faces and asking for I.D. Aggressive reinforcement epitomised the Police as an organisation creating a further distrust in the government, still prevalent today.

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#pathway2residency

Regards,

s9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982



**From:** s9(2)(a) on behalf of [Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern](#)  
**To:** [a.sio@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:a.sio@ministers.govt.nz)  
**Subject:** FW: Dawn Raids Apology Letter  
**Date:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 8:27:23 am

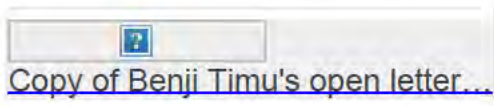
---

Hi Ana,

One more!

s9(2)(a)

**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 7:45 AM  
**To:** Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern <[Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** Dawn Raids Apology Letter



Kia Ora,

Please see attached my signed version of Benji Timu's open letter calling for an apology from the government for the 1970's Dawn Raids.

Mauri Ora,

s9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

**From:** s9(2)(a) on behalf of [Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern](#)  
**To:** s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Apologise for the dawn raids!  
**Date:** Thursday, 1 April 2021 9:30:56 am

---

Dear s9(2)(a)

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, to acknowledge your email of 31 March 2021. Please be assured your comments have been noted.

As the issue you have raised falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Pacific Peoples, Hon Aupito William Sio, your email has been forwarded to the Minister's office for consideration.

Thank you for writing, and take care.

Best wishes

s9(2)(a)

Office of the Prime Minister

**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 10:36 PM  
**To:** Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern <Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Apologise for the dawn raids!

Dear Prime Minister/MP,

As you are the head of the current labour government, reparations should be made for the dawn raids.

I am sure you are aware of the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the after effects of what had happened 50 years ago. Dawn Raids during the 70's was a traumatic event lasting decades which as a result, has led to generational-trauma. These include police bursting into rooms where Polynesian children would be sleeping, shining light on their faces and asking for I.D. Aggressive reinforcement epitomised the Police as an organisation creating a further distrust in the government, still prevalent today.

This one story is one of many episodes that took place during the 70's. This however wasn't an isolated racial movement against Polynesians living in Aotearoa. These very actions had been reinforced by Politicians and the media, which in turn placed our people in a bad light.

Although Pacific migration into Aotearoa was initially seen as temporary, the presence of our culture has been crucial in our global identity. The past has seemed to be implied as forgiven and forgotten; however, the effects of the past still linger in the fabric of our identity 50 years on.

We ask for an apology and a guarantee this will not happen again. There are current overstayers still here and experiencing the effects resembling these traumas. We ask the government to heavily consider a pathway to residency for current overstayers, who have stayed for quite a long time.

#pathway2residency

Regards,

s9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

**From:** s9(2)(a) on behalf of [Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern](#)  
**To:** s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Dawn Raids: Issue an apology  
**Date:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 2:37:52 pm

---

Dear s9(2)(a)

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, to acknowledge your email of 31 March 2021. Please be assured your comments have been noted.

As the issue you have raised falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Pacific Peoples, Hon Aupito William Sio, your email has been forwarded to the Minister's office for consideration.

Thank you for writing, and take care.

Best wishes

s9(2)(a)

Office of the Prime Minister

**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 1:58 PM  
**To:** Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern <Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Re: Dawn Raids: Issue an apology

On Wed, 31 Mar 2021 at 11:55 am, s9(2)(a) wrote:

Dear Jacinda,

I am sure you are aware of the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the after effects of what had happened 50 years ago. Dawn Raids during the 70's was a traumatic event lasting decades which as a result, has led to generational-trauma. These include police bursting into rooms where Polynesian children would be sleeping, shining light on their faces and asking for I.D. Aggressive reinforcement epitomised the Police as an organisation creating a further distrust in the government, still prevalent today.

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We ask for an apology and a guarantee this will not happen again. There are current overstayers still here and experiencing the effects resembling these traumas. We ask



the government to heavily consider a pathway to residency for current overstayers,  
who have stayed for quite a long time.

#pathway2residency

Regards,

s9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

**From:** s9(2)(a) on behalf of [Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern](#)  
**To:** s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: APOLOGY TO POLYNESIAN PANTHERS!!!  
**Date:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 2:36:21 pm

---

Dear s9(2)(a)

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, to acknowledge your email of 31 March 2021. Please be assured your comments have been noted.

As the issue you have raised falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Pacific Peoples, Hon Aupito William Sio, your email has been forwarded to the Minister's office for consideration.

Thank you for writing, and take care.

Best wishes

s9(2)(a)

Office of the Prime Minister

**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 1:34 PM  
**To:** Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern <Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** APOLOGY TO POLYNESIAN PANTHERS!!!

Dear Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern,

I am sure you are aware of the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the after effects of what had happened 50 years ago. Dawn Raids during the 70's was a traumatic event lasting decades which as a result, has led to generational-trauma. These include police bursting into rooms where Polynesian children would be sleeping, shining light on their faces and asking for I.D. Aggressive reinforcement epitomised the Police as an organisation creating a further distrust in the government, still prevalent today.

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#pathway2residency

**From:** s9(2)(a) on behalf of [Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern](#)  
**To:** [a.sio@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:a.sio@ministers.govt.nz)  
**Subject:** FW: Pathway2residency  
**Date:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 12:51:43 pm

---

Hi Ana,

Another.

s9(2)(a)

**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 12:29 PM  
**To:** Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern <[Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** Pathway2residency

Dear Prime Minister,

I am sure you are aware of the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the after effects of what had happened 50 years ago. Dawn Raids during the 70's was a traumatic event lasting decades which as a result, has led to generational-trauma. These include police bursting into rooms where Polynesian children would be sleeping, shining light on their faces and asking for I.D. Aggressive reinforcement epitomised the Police as an organisation creating a further distrust in the government, still prevalent today.

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#pathway2residency

Kind Regards,

s9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

**From:** s9(2)(a) on behalf of [Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern](#)  
**To:** s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Call for Apology to Polynesian Panthers  
**Date:** Tuesday, 6 April 2021 10:56:15 am

---

Dear s9(2)(a)

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, to acknowledge your email of 01 April 2021. Please be assured your comments have been noted.

As the issue you have raised falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Pacific Peoples, Hon Aupito William Sio, your email has been forwarded to the Minister's office for consideration.

Thank you for writing, and take care.

Best wishes

s9(2)(a)

Office of the Prime Minister

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**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 1 April 2021 9:50 PM  
**To:** Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern <[Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** Call for Apology to Polynesian Panthers

Dear Prime Minister/MP Jacinda Ardern,

I am sure you are aware of the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the after effects of what had happened 50 years ago. Dawn Raids during the 70's was a traumatic event lasting decades which as a result, has led to generational-trauma. These include police bursting into rooms where Polynesian children would be sleeping, shining light on their faces and asking for I.D. Aggressive reinforcement epitomised the Police as an organisation creating a further distrust in the government, still prevalent today.

This one story is one of many episodes that took place during the 70's. This however wasn't an isolated racial movement against Polynesians living in Aotearoa. These very actions had been reinforced by Politicians and the media, which in turn placed our people in a bad light.

Although Pacific migration into Aotearoa was initially seen as temporary, the presence of our culture has been crucial in our global identity. The past has seemed to be implied as forgiven and forgotten; however, the effects of the past still linger in the fabric of our identity 50 years on.

We ask for an apology and a guarantee this will not happen again. There are current overstayers still here and experiencing the effects resembling these traumas. We ask the government to heavily consider a pathway to residency for current overstayers, who



have stayed for quite a long time.  
#pathway2residency  
Regards,

s9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

s9(2)(a)

21<sup>st</sup> March 2021

Hon Jacinda Ardern,  
Prime Minister,  
NZ Government,  
Beehive,  
Wellington

Received  
31 MAR 2021  
Office of Pt Hon Jacinda Ardern

● Māta Kōwhiri Pāterika, I'm writing to ask that your Government provide an apology regarding the Dawn Raids of our people during the 1970s.

However I'm asking that your apology be qualified by granting a #pathway to residency to the 10,000+ overstayers presently being ripped off but wanting to live in the best country in the world!

We had presented late last year a petition to your government asking for a #pathway to residency to those here in N.Z. Included here are some being in NZ for over 10 years, their offspring being headboy, they pay taxes yet can't get a permit. One of them is a farm labourer for 13 years but paid \$17 per hour, less than our residency labourers many receiving over \$35 per hour.

Please Jacinda do the right thing.

Yours for NZ

s9(2)(a)

neighbours day



Neighbours Day Aotearoa  
March 20-30, 2021  
Growing stronger together  
www.neighboursday.org.nz

Received.



**From:** s9(2)(a) on behalf of [Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern](#)  
**To:** s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE:  
**Date:** Thursday, 1 April 2021 9:38:04 am

---

Dear s9(2)(a)

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, to acknowledge your email of 01 April 2021. Please be assured your comments have been noted.

As the issue you have raised falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Pacific Peoples, Hon Aupito William Sio, your email has been forwarded to the Minister's office for consideration.

Thank you for writing, and take care.

Best wishes

s9(2)(a)

Office of the Prime Minister

**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 1 April 2021 8:12 AM  
**To:** Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern <Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Subject:**

Dear Prime Minister/MP (address personally)

I am sure you are aware of the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the after effects of what had happened 50 years ago. Dawn Raids during the 70's was a traumatic event lasting decades which as a result, has led to generational-trauma. These include police bursting into rooms where Polynesian children would be sleeping, shining light on their faces and asking for I.D. Aggressive reinforcement epitomised the Police as an organisation creating a further distrust in the government, still prevalent today.

This one story is one of many episodes that took place during the 70's. This however wasn't an isolated racial movement against Polynesians living in Aotearoa. These very actions had been reinforced by Politicians and the media, which in turn placed our people in a bad light.

Although Pacific migration into Aotearoa was initially seen as temporary, the presence of our culture has been crucial in our global identity. The past has seemed to be implied as forgiven and forgotten; however, the effects of the past still linger in the fabric of our identity 50 years on.

We ask for an apology and a guarantee this will not happen again. There are current

overstayers still here and experiencing the effects resembling these traumas. We ask the government to heavily consider a pathway to residency for current overstayers, who have stayed for quite a long time.

#pathway2residency

Regards,

s9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982



**From:** s9(2)(a) on behalf of [Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern](#)  
**To:** s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Call to action  
**Date:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 1:45:00 pm

---

Dear s9(2)(a)

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, to acknowledge your email of 31 March 2021. Please be assured your comments have been noted.

As the issue you have raised falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Pacific Peoples, Hon Aupito William Sio, your email has been forwarded to the Minister's office for consideration.

Thank you for writing, and take care.

Best wishes

s9(2)(a)

Office of the Prime Minister

**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 9:55 AM  
**To:** Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern <Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Call to action

Dear Prime Minister/MP,

I am sure you are aware of the organisation 'The Polynesian Panthers' and the after effects of what had happened 50 years ago. Dawn Raids during the 70's was a traumatic event lasting decades which as a result, has led to generational-trauma. These include police bursting into rooms where Polynesian children would be sleeping, shining light on their faces and asking for I.D. Aggressive reinforcement epitomised the Police as an organisation creating a further distrust in the government, still prevalent today.

This one story is one of many episodes that took place during the 70's. This however wasn't an isolated racial movement against Polynesians living in Aotearoa. These very actions had been reinforced by Politicians and the media, which in turn placed our people in a bad light.

Although Pacific migration into Aotearoa was initially seen as temporary, the presence of our culture has been crucial in our global identity. The past has seemed to be implied as forgiven and forgotten; however, the effects of the past still linger in the fabric of our identity 50 years on.

We ask for an apology and a guarantee this will not happen again. There are current overstayers still here and experiencing the effects resembling these traumas. We ask the government to heavily consider a pathway to residency for current overstayers, who have stayed for quite a long time.

#pathway2residency

**From:** [Nelly Cowan](#)  
**To:** [MinisterialServices](#)  
**Cc:** [Lavea'i loane](#); [Malakai Koloamatangi](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Thank you and congratulation  
**Date:** Tuesday, 3 August 2021 3:30:16 pm

---

Kia orana team,

Can we please have a draft response written on behalf of the Minister. A quick turnaround is much appreciated.

Is 9am tomorrow enough time.

Meitaki korereka,  
Nelly

---

**From:** Hon Aupito William Sio  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 3 August 2021 3:26 PM  
**To:** Lavea'i loane <[Lavea'i.loane@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Lavea'i.loane@parliament.govt.nz)>; Nelly Cowan <[Nelly.Cowan@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Nelly.Cowan@parliament.govt.nz)>  
**Cc:** Ruth Delany <[Ruth.Delany@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Ruth.Delany@parliament.govt.nz)>; Chris McAvoy <[Christopher.McAvoy@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Christopher.McAvoy@parliament.govt.nz)>; Nina Sudiono-Price <[nina.sudiono-price@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:nina.sudiono-price@parliament.govt.nz)>; Chris Harrington <[Chris.Harrington@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Chris.Harrington@parliament.govt.nz)>; Lu Avia <[Lu.Avia@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Lu.Avia@parliament.govt.nz)>; Annaliese Wilson <[Annaliese.Wilson@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Annaliese.Wilson@parliament.govt.nz)>; Jay Fealofani <[Jay.Fealofani@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Jay.Fealofani@parliament.govt.nz)>; Reno Paotonu <[Reno.Paotonu@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Reno.Paotonu@parliament.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** FW: Thank you and congratulation

can we get a proper letter with response for this email below please. This is s9(2)(a)

Sent with BlackBerry Work ([www.blackberry.com](http://www.blackberry.com))

---

**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** 3/08/2021 10:10 am  
**To:** Hon Aupito William Sio <[Aupito.william.sio@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Aupito.william.sio@parliament.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** Thank you and congratulation

My dear Hon. Aupito,

I am writing to congratulate you, your Ministry and all who assisted in making the Dawn Raids Apology event on Sunday evening a blessed success.

I find that there are moments in one's life that mere words cannot aptly describe the Divine Presence connecting with His creation, and I stand as a witness that Sunday evening was one of those moments. Rest assured that you have been called and handpicked to be the instrument to bring about such 'Divine moment'.

I pray that the Lord will continue to bless you and your family and the task that He has been preparing you to stand 'in this hour' for this great nation of Aotearoa!

'Ofa atu,  
s9(2)(a)

---

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

out of scope

**From:** Lavea'i loane <Lavea'i.loane@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 4 August 2021 12:42 pm  
**To:** MinisterialServices <[MinisterialServices@mpp.govt.nz](mailto:MinisterialServices@mpp.govt.nz)>  
**Cc:** Sione Siale <[Sione.Siale@mpp.govt.nz](mailto:Sione.Siale@mpp.govt.nz)>; Agnes Sefo <[agnes.sefo@mpp.govt.nz](mailto:agnes.sefo@mpp.govt.nz)>; Nelly Cowan <[Nelly.Cowan@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Nelly.Cowan@parliament.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** FW: 47 years for Apology, over 47 hours since?  
**Importance:** High

Kia orana team,

Can we have a draft response for the following enquiry for Minister to consider please. Due date to our office is Wednesday, 11 August.

Meitaki.  
Va'i

**Lavea'i loane**

**Private Secretary (Pacific Peoples) | Office of Hon Aupito William Sio MP – Minister for Pacific Peoples, Minister for Courts, Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs, Associate Minister of Education (Pacific Peoples), Associate Minister of Health (Pacific Peoples) and Associate Minister of Justice**  
Parliament House, Parliament Buildings W: <http://www.beehive.govt.nz> and <http://www.parliament.nz>

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**From:** s9(2)(a) [REDACTED] **On Behalf Of** Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 4 August 2021 10:20 AM  
**To:** A Sio (MIN) <[A.Sio@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:A.Sio@ministers.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** FW: 47 years for Apology, over 47 hours since?

Hi Ana,



For you...

Thanks,

s9(2)(a)

**From:** s9(2)(a)

**Sent:** Tuesday, 3 August 2021 13:41

**To:** Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern <[Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz)>

**Cc:** s9(2)(a)

**Subject:** 47 years for Apology, over 47 hours since?

Talofa PM

I hope this finds you well and is received in the same spirit it is sent.

Thank you for your honesty at the Apology on Sunday.

I do feel as many of the Pasifika community that the event did limit and was restricting of the intended community attendance.

I bring to your attention - researching the past Government resolutions re: Pacific immigration there is a precedence, to justify and acknowledge the hard graft and menial labour of the Polynesian workforce of the day is perhaps a fitting description of that precedence.

In 1976 the Government opened a register to allow illegal Polynesians to legalise their status without penalty.

In 1982 all Western Samoans were granted citizenship without penalty.

What will you do to mark your sincerity to the Polynesian community.

The scholarships are not enough especially for the layman still working at the 'meat works' or the 'street cleaners' or the restocking after hours workers.

I implore you to make good on your sincerity and consider a pathway to residency process.

Please refer below to one of the original 'fighters' for all Polynesia.

Fa'afetai lava

s9(2)(a)

Malo laumalie Hon.Palemia,

Praise almighty Jah your labour party Government has finally, finally said sorry.

But what about the present 14,000 overstayers plus other migrants still struggling?

These overstayers pay between \$NZ30-40 million in GST, PAYE, school fees etc so your

small \$3million educate to liberate grant is not costing your goverment madam.

Just as we #polynesianpanthers has assisted our nation with;-

Homework Centres,  
PIG patrol result Police Association,  
TABrigade prelude to todays Tenancy Tribunal,  
Legal Aid Booklet introduced Legal Aid scheme,  
Just to name a few...


Prime Minister we can help your Labour Party again

Unfortunately our CLAW chapter on stage did not mention the following in full, but HRH Princess Silikutapu and Rev. Tevita Finau did!!!

Please Grant #Pathway2Residency?  
Our country need fully paid workers. They are here!!!

Yours for a better NewZealand

s9(2)(a)



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**From:** [Nelly Cowan](#)  
**To:** [MinisterialServices](#)  
**Cc:** [Lavea"i loane](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Tuli Takes Flight - Thank you  
**Date:** Thursday, 12 August 2021 10:43:18 am

---

Morena team,

Can we please have a formal response to the below from the Minister please. Just acknowledging the writer and their gratitude. Don't expect it to be too long.

Due to office Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> August.

**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 11 August 2021 1:20 PM  
**To:** A Sio (MIN) <A.Sio@ministers.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Tuli Takes Flight - Thank you

Maloelelei Hon. Aupito William Sio,

On behalf of Pasifika students at s9(2)(a) High School, I would like to express my thanks and gratitude for your action following the dawn raids apology. I would also like to express my excitement for both the beginning, and future of this amazing scholarship you have started. Thanks to your actions, we are now trying to have an assembly every year around this time to encourage our Pasifika girls to apply for your scholarship. We are incredibly grateful for the opportunities you have created for us Pasifika youth through your dedication and determination.

Malo he me'a kotoa, pea ofa atu fau,

s9(2)(a)

---

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out of scope



**From:** Nelly Cowan <[Nelly.Cowan@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Nelly.Cowan@parliament.govt.nz)>

**Sent:** Friday, 20 August 2021 1:48 pm

**To:** MinisterialServices <[MinisterialServices@mpp.govt.nz](mailto:MinisterialServices@mpp.govt.nz)>

**Cc:** Lavea'i loane <[Laveai.loane@mpp.govt.nz](mailto:Laveai.loane@mpp.govt.nz)>



**Subject:** FW: Dawn Raids

Hey team can we get a formal response from tehminister please.

Draft due to office 3 september

---

**From:** Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern

**Sent:** Monday, 16 August 2021 1:30 PM

**To:** s9(2)(a)

**Subject:** RE: Dawn Raids

Dear s9(2)(a)

Thank you very much for your email to the Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern, about the Government's apology over the Dawn Raids. We are so sorry to know about the affect the raids had on you and your family, and the insults you endured for many years afterwards.

This is to let you know that the Minister for Pacific Peoples, Hon Aupito William Sio, as this is something which falls into his area of responsibility.

Thank you for writing

Best wishes

s9(2)(a)

Office of the Prime Minister

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**From:** s9(2)(a)

**Sent:** Sunday, 15 August 2021 12:22 PM

**To:** J Ardern (MIN) <[j.ardern@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:j.ardern@ministers.govt.nz)>

**Subject:** Dawn Raids

Hello Prime Minister Ardern, I am writing to you in regards to your earlier apology for the dawn raids in the 1970s. I would like to give you my experience of that despicable time in our countrys' history. I was born in 1960 and was adopted by a Samoan family and we lived in Otara. In my earliest years I never experienced any racist comments until the early 70s when the dawn raids commenced. I remember being woken up by 4 police officers in our bedroom with torches and there was even a police dog inside as well. We had 3 uncles who were in fact overstayers and were treated very badly and thrown into a plain white van, my father was horribly treated and that day was the first time I was called a coconut by a police officer. My father had come to NZ in the early 50s and was a NZ citizen but that did not stop the harassment. I can recall at least a dozen times at all times of the night when the police would raid our home endlessly and to this day I can not forget watching my father crying from this. I was stopped quite a few times on the street or going to or from school by the police, I remember them pulling up in their car yelling at me and saying "hey coconut boy get over here". That was basically the start of when I got called coconut for many years, you do get used to it but the worst part of those insults were when friends started calling me it as well. Also the pain of seeing my father been treated like a criminal like that hurt me especially when he was a Matai back in Samoa and I know the shame was

very hard on him. I personally feel that your apology unfortunately did not ease the pain and hurt that we had to go thru and something further should be done by government to fully address the pain and suffering we all experienced. Thank you for allowing me the chance to voice my hurt and pain and hope to hear from you, all the best.

Regards s9(2)(a)

---

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FYI

----- Forwarded message -----

From: s9(2)(a)

Date: Sun, 22 Aug 2021, 7:29 pm

Subject: The 'Fake Apology'

To: s9(2)(a)

Talofa

my thoughts on the above, the opportunity will come where I will reveal all of this publically I look forward to that opportunity, please do not edit, this is my comments and analysis.

Firstly - announcing the event was to be held on a Sunday.

Tells me straight away its not an open PI event cause nothing important is held on a Sunday for the PI community. Been told even the Minister does not work on a Sunday, contradictory much??

Secondly - the Town Hall might fit in 3% of the total of the PI community in NZ.

Confirms it is limited seating so first in first serve again can't be a big deal if its only for a few attendees.

Thirdly - No announcement the event was invitation only

I found out the Friday 2 days before the event it was invitation only, if you weren't invited you didn't know it was invite only like the other 98% of the community no announcement.

I went down to the Town Hall to support a Polynesian Panther cub who was speaking at the rally across from the Town Hall at the Immigrant Workers rally.

I saw a lot of dressed up people standing at the doors of the Town Hall with cops and security.

I saw a lot of people leave with their heads down and walk away I wondered why that happened.

Later I saw a group of ladies in their coloured outfits walking down Queensn Street one of them was yelling and very angry.

She had just been refused entry in to the Town Hall, she wasn't invited.

I now understood why the others I'd seen walking with their heads down and walking away quickly were looking hurt, they weren't invited.

I had to go in to the Town Hall to speak to a friend and was shown the room with the big screen that had around 300 seats, only it was empty there wouldn't have been more than 80-90 people there.

I noticed on the screen the Town Hall wasn't quite filled to capacity but also noted that there wasn't more than 2-3% at most of the whole the PI population in the audience to bear witness to the Fake Apology.

#### Analysis

The Minister organised what was reported on as a public Apology from the Government due to the treatment of the PI and cousins community in the 1970s that started with the Labour Party.

The Minister just treated the same community in the same manner, if you did not have the right piece of paper you were not allowed entry, the irony is just beyond words.

My parents would have with a lot of the older generation which by the way is me now I am saying it on there behalf.. e valea le kamaloa o la le faiai e mafoufou e faia se mea faapea i le Aso Sa.

And it broke my heart to see those people slink away from the Town Hall hurt because they did not know it was invitation only, they wanted to be a part of the event and to bear witness to the governments Apology, why weren't they allowed.

Who the hell is this stupid man that would hurt this community in this way again.

I felt sad for the lady who was yelling down Queen Street and the others walking with her who were just broken hearted.

Who the hell is this stupid man.

Only 3% of the affected community were allowed to attend, how about all the people who voted for him, why weren't they given the choice to attend or not attend.

Who the hell is this stupid man. O fea loga mafoufou, ai e valea?

I will have a lot to say to the community come elecion I will remind them this man is not for the community.

He is for the select few.

Take a page from s9(2)(a) his words Independent Inquiry should be mandated for the community as is the right of the entire PI community to contribute to its needs and its voice be heard.

Let this village idiot take that advice and get that inquiry up and running and let the village idiot know those Pathways2Residency advocates are all voters there's more of them than there were at the apology.

I am s9(2)(a) a proud NZ born Samoan raised in the Mormon faith in the 50's who thinks selling the Apology off for measley scholarships that may or not even last 10 years isn't worth the paper it is written on.



**From:** [Nelly Cowan](#)  
**To:** [MinisterialServices](#)  
**Cc:** [Lavea'i Ioane](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Dawn raid - education scholarships  
**Date:** Friday, 20 August 2021 1:52:11 pm

---

Kia ora team,

Education will address the sections about the scholarships.

But can we get a formal response **s9(2)(a)** regarding his request to meet please.

Draft due to office 3 September, however im guided by MPP advice on whether this should be earlier or later.

**Rongomaitaurau (Nelly) Cowan | Private Secretary (Pacific Peoples)**  
Office of Hon Aupito William Sio MP  
Minister for Pacific Peoples  
Minister for Courts  
Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Associate Minister of Education (Pacific Peoples)  
Associate Minister of Health (Pacific Peoples) and Associate Minister of Justice  
Parliament House, Parliament Buildings W: <http://www.beehive.govt.nz> and <http://www.parliament.nz>

**From:** **s9(2)(a)**  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 10 August 2021 2:57 PM  
**To:** A Sio (MIN) <A.Sio@ministers.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Dawn raid - education scholarships

Dear Minister

Could you please confirm if the education scholarships released as part of the governments apology is open for Fijian Indians? Our people would like to know. We were part of it as well.

Also, can we please get together to discuss the official HRC complaint and the concerns raised.

As mentioned before, we would like to solve this and move on.

Vinaka  
**s9(2)(a)**



**From:** [Lavea'i Ioane](#)  
**To:** [Sione Siale](#)  
**Cc:** [MinisterialServices](#); [Nelly Cowan](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Samoan apology  
**Date:** Thursday, 21 October 2021 9:13:40 am

---

Talofa Sione,

Can you please provide a response to the correspondence following. Appreciate it if we can aim for Thursday, 28 October for a draft to our office.

Fa'afetai tele.  
Va'i.

Lavea'i Ioane  
Private Secretary (Pacific Peoples) | Office of Hon Aupito William Sio MP – Minister for Pacific Peoples, Minister for Courts, Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs, Associate Minister of Education (Pacific Peoples), Associate Minister of Health (Pacific Peoples) and Associate Minister of Justice  
Parliament House, Parliament Buildings W: <http://www.beehive.govt.nz> and <http://www.parliament.nz>

-----Original Message-----

**From:** s9(2)(a) On Behalf Of Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern  
**Sent:** Friday, 15 October 2021 9:37 AM  
**To:** A Sio (MIN) <A.Sio@ministers.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** FW: Samoan apology

Morning Shelly,

Able to accept under MoPP?

Thanks

s9(2)(a)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 October 2021 07:09  
**To:** Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern <Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Samoan apology

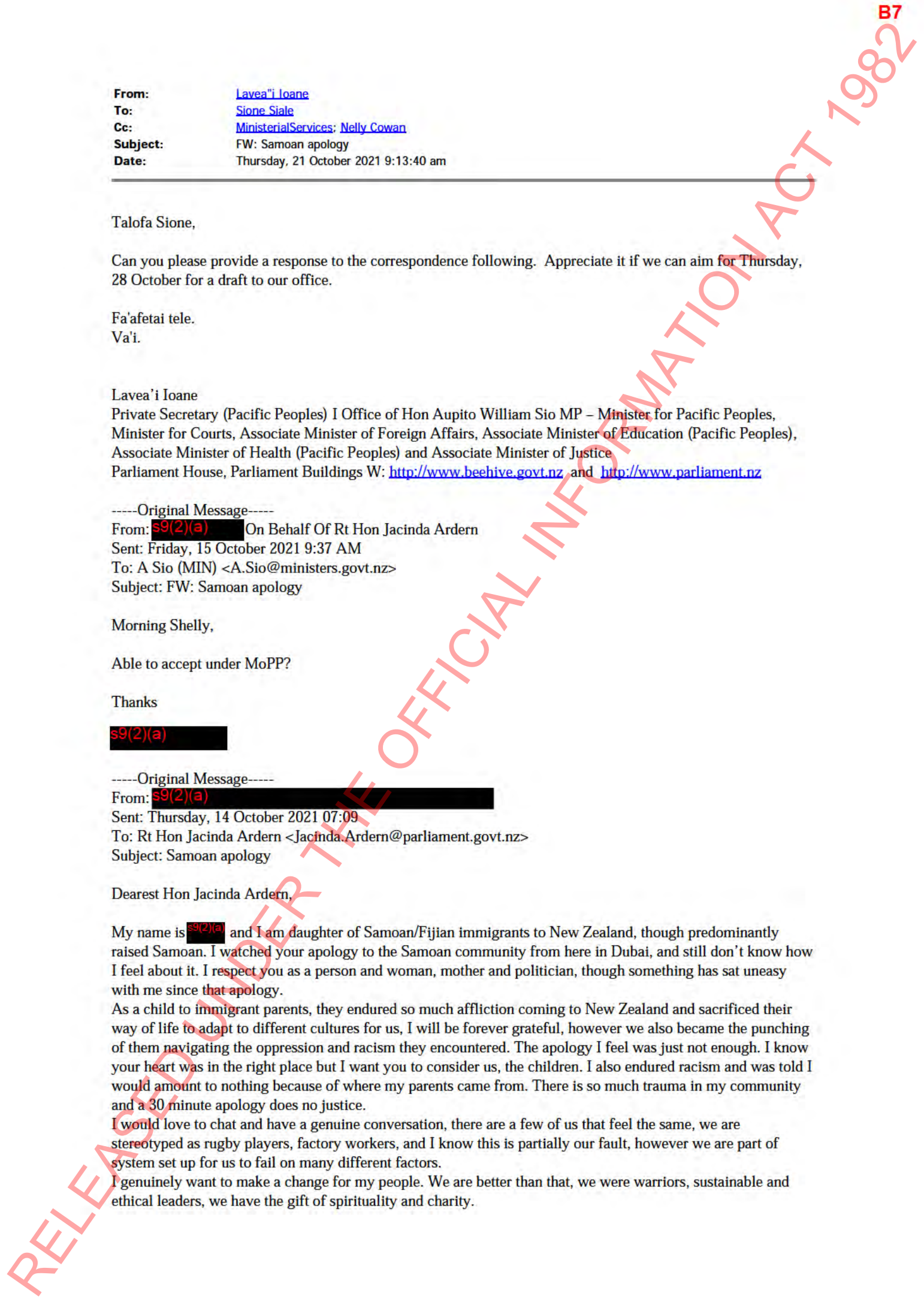
Dearest Hon Jacinda Ardern,

My name is s9(2)(a) and I am daughter of Samoan/Fijian immigrants to New Zealand, though predominantly raised Samoan. I watched your apology to the Samoan community from here in Dubai, and still don't know how I feel about it. I respect you as a person and woman, mother and politician, though something has sat uneasy with me since that apology.

As a child to immigrant parents, they endured so much affliction coming to New Zealand and sacrificed their way of life to adapt to different cultures for us, I will be forever grateful, however we also became the punching of them navigating the oppression and racism they encountered. The apology I feel was just not enough. I know your heart was in the right place but I want you to consider us, the children. I also endured racism and was told I would amount to nothing because of where my parents came from. There is so much trauma in my community and a 30 minute apology does no justice.

I would love to chat and have a genuine conversation, there are a few of us that feel the same, we are stereotyped as rugby players, factory workers, and I know this is partially our fault, however we are part of system set up for us to fail on many different factors.

I genuinely want to make a change for my people. We are better than that, we were warriors, sustainable and ethical leaders, we have the gift of spirituality and charity.



A concerned activist of the Pacifica people, [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** [Terina Cowan](#)  
**To:** [Tautua: Mac Leauanae](#)  
**Subject:** Re: 47 years for Apology, over 47 hours since?  
**Date:** Tuesday, 3 August 2021 8:05:25 am

Thanks Lauulu. We can treat these like official correspondence. Will arrange today.

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

---

**From:** Mac Leauanae <Mac.Leauanae@mpp.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 3, 2021 7:53:02 AM  
**To:** Tautua <Tautua@mpp.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Fwd: 47 years for Apology, over 47 hours since?

Fyi

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

---

**From:** s9(2)(a) [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 3, 2021 7:36 AM  
**To:** jacinda.ardern@parliament.govt.nz  
**Cc:** chris.faafoi@parliament.govt.nz; Mac Leauanae  
**Subject:** 47 years for Apology, over 47 hours since?

Malo laumalie Hon.Palemia,

Praise almighty Jah your labour party Government has finally, finally said sorry.

But what about the present 14,000 overstayers plus other migrants still struggling?

These overstayers pay between \$NZ30-40 million in GST, PAYE, school fees etc so your small \$3million educate to liberate grant is not costing your government madam.

Just as we #polynesianpanthers has assisted our nation with;-

Homework Centres,  
 PIG patrol result Police Association,  
 TABrigade prelude to todays Tenancy Tribunal,  
 Legal Aid Booklet introduced Legal Aid scheme,  
 Just to name a few...

Prime Minister we can help your Labour Party again

Unfortunately our CLAW chapter on stage did not mention the following in full, but HRH Princess Silikutapu and Rev. Tevita Finau did!!!

Please Grant #Pathway2Residency?  
 Our country need fully paid workers. They are here!!!

Yours for a better NewZealand



From: Romaine Solomona  
Sent: Saturday, 19 June 2021 4:07 pm  
To: Nelly Cowan  
Cc: Agnes Sefo; Terina Cowan; MinisterialServices  
Subject: Saturday Dawn Raids media update

Categories: To be filed

Kia orana Nelly,

Please see below today's media update.

We understand it's the Polynesian Panther's big weekend and will keep a close eye on what eventuates on this specifically in the media.

Meitaki,  
Maine

### Social Media Commentary

The Ministry has received some positive sentiments from the public through our own social media channels:

| Date published | Media type | Post   | Reach   | Sentiment/direct quotes  |
|----------------|------------|--|---|--|
| Today          | Facebook   | Tagata Pasifika have a special show paying tribute to the Polynesian Panthers. PPP 50th Anniversary Special: Saturday 19 June, 9.30am on TVNZ 1. | 1236 people reached and 63 engagements in 5 hours<br>3 comments | "Fa'afetai lava... loved watching this & learning about the Black Panthers... wish they did teach this at school .... and I agree this should be included in the new curriculum to teach NZ Pasifika History..(hope it happens).we heard stories from our older siblings on what these years were like in cities o/side of auckland it was the same - they were young but they talked of people hiding under beds, people hiding other people in their homes, the shame that some people felt as they were targeted etc.... ❤️ love for all our Pasifika people who were subjected to the dawn raids..." |

out of scope



## Public sentiments

Public opinions on the topic varies across different social media platforms. Facebook seems to hold most of the negative topics, whereas LinkedIn and Twitter show commentary from the public which are more positive and welcoming of a government apology. The direct comments outlined below are toward the same media articles which speak on the upcoming apology, and the call for amnesty etc. (sent to you over the last couple days), which the public are still engaging in:

#### Twitter:

- *Still need to see concrete action following on from the apology.*
  - 1) *Amnesty for Overstayers.*
  - 2) *Compensation for those raided and especially unfairly deported.*
  - 3) *Education, Education, Education.*
  - 4) *Right of residence for all Pasifika people regardless of where they live.*
- *"I'm so shook at how many of our own P.I.'s are uneducated about the Dawn Raids Crying face It's our job to educate our kids because the education system will not! Any chance you get, share our stories. Our grandparents and ancestors stories. We only have each other!"*

#### Facebook:

- *"I don't get all this sympathy. They were illegal overstayers, so deserved to be caught and sent home. Yes, other races should have been targeted equally, but it still doesn't let these overstayers off."*
- *"Let this be a lesson for the Govt, NZ Police and Immigration, to follow up Everyone overstaying and deport abruptly so large scale roundups and finger pointing doesn't happen again. If the Govt departments had of had sufficient resources and manpower to appropriately police temporary immigrants as and when their allotted time came up, this would not have happened. Jacinda should be apologising for the resourcing issues."*
- *"50 years later they decide to apologize. The generation of the government at that time should be on that podium. Oh wait, they're probably still racist. Time has passed and I believe families affected don't want to be reminded. Words are pointless, especially from a lady that that nothing to do with it and wasn't born during the time of events. Compensation to those affected would be more appropriate!"*

#### LinkedIn:

- *"the vast majority of overstayers were from Europe and the United States. What about these people now? they got to stay here and take advantage of our country, with no accountability. Many people from Britain were preferentially favoured in our society, there must have been a lot if the numbers outweigh the Polynesians. We should identify them."*
- *The apology is long overdue. I recall, at the time, discussing this with industrial leaders in Auckland. They would say "this is terrible - we are losing our labourers". The same people who supported the policies of the then Prime Minister without question...."*

### Minister's interview

- Minister's interview on yesterdays Samoan Breakfast show received 5.8K Views, 109 likes, 2 comments, and 11 shares.





s9(2)(a)

Sa'o lelei le saunoaga ole Afioga le Minista ona e toe una'i mai i manatu ma mafauauga o matou nei na va'ava'ai i mea sa tutupu i matou aiga i lena foi vaitau ole olaga. Everyone who experienced it has a personal account of those raids and some have forgiven but never forgotten sadly others have taken that turbulent memory to their graves 😞 but this is definitely a step in the right direction

## General Media (Most recent):

Two news articles published today:

- At 12.17pm this afternoon, Stuff NZ published an article titled: "A Dawn Raids apology is worthless without an overstayer amnesty, says 'Tongan Robin Hood'."

Fakana'ana'a-ki-Fualu , a Tongan community leader who every week feeds dozens of struggling 'overstayer' families says any government apology for the Dawn Raids without an amnesty will just further hurt his community.

This story speaks to the over-representation of the Tongan community in the overstayer statistics, calling for long-term enduring solutions, including ways in which overstayers can fully participate in society, meaning, broader amnesty programmes. The article adds that the prevailing argument against an amnesty is it would encourage even more people to overstay, and dissuade those who have negotiated the costs and paperwork of staying here legitimately – This was raised by Green Party Immigration spokesperson, Ricardo Menendez March.

*"We, the Tongans, suffered the most, so it's appropriate we have a say in this apology,"* Fakana'ana'a-ki-Fualu said.

It was culturally unacceptable for an apology not to come accompanied by something. *"What is an apology if it comes with nothing at all?"*

You can read the full news article here: <https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/125474416/a-dawn-raids-apology-is-worthless-without-an-overstayer-amnesty-says-tongan-robin-hood>.

- At 5.00am this morning, Stuff NZ published an article titled: "Dawn raid families 'respected the system that was essentially terrorising them', lawyer says." Roger Laybourn shares his sentiment for an apology through his own story as one of the lawyers who represented many Pacific families during the Dawn Raids.

*"Not only did they decide to enforce expired visas, they did it in the most brutal way,"* Laybourn said.



*"It was just something that was reminiscent of Nazi Germany."*

*"We wouldn't be the New Zealand we are now without [Pasifika people]."*

You can read the full news article here: <https://www.stuff.co.nz/waikato-times/waikato-top-stories/125491267/dawn-raid-families-respected-the-system-that-was-essentially-terrorising-them-lawyer-says>.

- The below photo has been shared, reposted, featured, and commented on, far and wide - in both general media articles and on social media. This photo captured the Minister and sign-language interpreter Alan Wendt having what has been described as "a misty-eyed moment when leaving the stage." Direct comments below:

*"It's so sad that anyone had to go through that, thank you so much minister Aupito Su'a William Sio for sharing your story, and yes let's build a better, brighter future for all of us here people of Aotearoa, all the best to you Sir, and Kia Kaha!"*

*"Beautiful moment captured. When the personal is the political. Dawn Raids a violent abuse of State power against pacific whanau. Overdue apology, a minimum starting point."*



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### Official information Act requests:

No new requests.

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### Written Parliamentary Questions:

None.

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## Correspondence:

No new correspondence received by your office or by our Ministry.

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## Media requests:

No new media requests.

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## Public Inquiries:

No new inquiries received from the public today.

### Romaine Solomona

Senior Advisor | Ministerial Services

s9(2)(a)

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[www.mpp.govt.nz](http://www.mpp.govt.nz) | [www.pacificaotearoa.org.nz](http://www.pacificaotearoa.org.nz)



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**BRIEFING:  
DAWN RAIDS APOLOGY POST-EVENT UPDATE**

This briefing provides you with a high-level summary of the event, out of scope [redacted] feedback, media coverage, social media scan out of scope [redacted]

|                        |   |                   |              |
|------------------------|---|-------------------|--------------|
| <b>Date:</b>           | 16 August 2021  | <b>Reference:</b> | B026-2021/22 |
| <b>Security Level:</b> | In Confidence   |                   |              |
| <b>Addressee</b>       | Hon Aupito William Sio - Minister for Pacific Peoples |                   |              |

**ACTION/S SOUGHT**

**Actions**

It is recommended that you:

- a. Note the high-level summary of the Dawn Raids Apology Event.

out of scope [redacted]

**MINISTRY CONTACTS**

| Name       | Position  | Telephone  | 1 <sup>st</sup> Contact |
|------------|---|--|-------------------------|
| Agnes Sefo | Deputy Secretary, Office of the Secretary for Pacific Peoples | <span style="color: red;">s9(2)(a)</span> [redacted] | ✓                       |
| Koula Kutu | Director, Communications and Marketing                        | <span style="color: red;">s9(2)(a)</span> [redacted] |                         |

**MINISTER'S OFFICE TO COMPLETE**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Approved             | <input type="checkbox"/> Declined            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Noted                | <input type="checkbox"/> Needs Change        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seen                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Overtaken by events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> See Minister's Notes | <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn           |

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16 August 2021

Hon Apito William Sio  
Minister for Pacific Peoples

## Dawn Raids Apology Post-Event Update

### Purpose

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1. This briefing provides you an opportunity to note the high-level summary of the Government's Dawn Raids Apology event.
2. It includes feedback from participants and observers, **out of scope** [REDACTED] media and social media coverage **out of scope** [REDACTED] following the event.
3. You will find more detailed reports included, as appropriate, in the appendices.

### Background

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4. **out of scope** [REDACTED]
5. The Ministry for Pacific Peoples (the Ministry) worked collaboratively with you to deliver the event and is now in a position to share with you a high-level summary of the event, comprising:
  - 5.1. the feedback and evaluation;
  - 5.2. the media and social media coverage; **out of scope** [REDACTED]
  - 5.4. the Correspondence and OIA requests; **out of scope** [REDACTED]

### Feedback and Evaluation

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6. The response from Pacific communities who were involved in the delivery and participated in the event has, in general, been very positive. In addition, the anecdotal feedback the Ministry has garnered from our wider Pacific communities has also been positive especially from the elderly within Pacific communities. The event's cultural impact appears to have resonated strongly. Sentiment similar to the following quote from social media is widespread:

*"It was extremely breath-taking to see the Prime Minister of New Zealand humble herself and take part in a cultural custom that she has no tie to. The level of respect that the Prime Minister has gained from the Pacific communities is one step closer to looking after the vā."*

7. Attendees expressed their appreciation of the thought, planning and effort that went into the delivery of the Government's Dawn Raids apology. One participant put it this way:

*"I couldn't help but feel a sense of pride for the way that the apology was conducted. As Pacific is an umbrella term making the juggling of different cultural values and practices a complex job,*



*what I witnessed tonight was a great effort in acknowledging those who were discriminated against especially our Samoan and Tongan communities, in an appropriate manner."*

8. Unfortunately, the Ministry has received some negative feedback from Vagahau Niue, via a talanoa held on the weekend of 14-15 August 2021, as outlined verbatim below:
  - 8.1. MPP made it hard for attendees to attend;
  - 8.2. Delayed response to RSVP emails, incorrect names on the ticket, the seating plan at Town Hall was not fit for the Elders;
  - 8.3. A lot of technical issues with ticketing, tickets were not confirmed till Saturday night – the night before the event;
  - 8.4. The Ministry needs to work closely with Vagahau Niue especially when they need sign off on cultural aspects and protocols;
  - 8.5. We were not happy that we were not involved in the programme;
  - 8.6. We are a realm country and want to be treated like one.
9. More information on the community's response through social media is captured in the Media and Social Media section, which is part of this briefing.

out of scope



## Media and social media

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11. The Dawn Raids Apology event garnered extensive national and international coverage.
12. National media coverage of the Dawn Raids Apology event has predominantly been positive. It is worth noting that coverage by Samoan media has also been very positive.
13. There has been some negative coverage in the media about the Dawn Raids Apology, primarily related to the way the apology ceremony was conducted and the Government's current immigration approach. The Ministry's approach to addressing this criticism is outlined in the Post-event media and communications section of this briefing.
14. Social media commentary generally reflected inter-generational differences, as you will note from the comprehensive social media scan included in the appendices.
15. The response to the event from older members of our Pacific communities was very positive. The following quote is one such example:

*"It feels like a new dawn for Pacific people today in New Zealand. What an honour to share such a symbolic moment at the Dawn Raids Apology from the government & Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern [sic]. I was born into the dawn raids in Grey Lynn and grew up amidst a lot of political unrest, and understanding the harm, trauma, and intergenerational impact that human*

*injustice and racism can have. The apology is a gesture towards healing and making right the wrongs.”*

16. The reaction from younger users of social media tended to be more negative. This likely reflected their lack of understanding of the symbolism employed throughout the ceremony. The following quote expresses this sentiment:

*“If diluting our culture is the price of an apology, how much is that apology really worth?”*

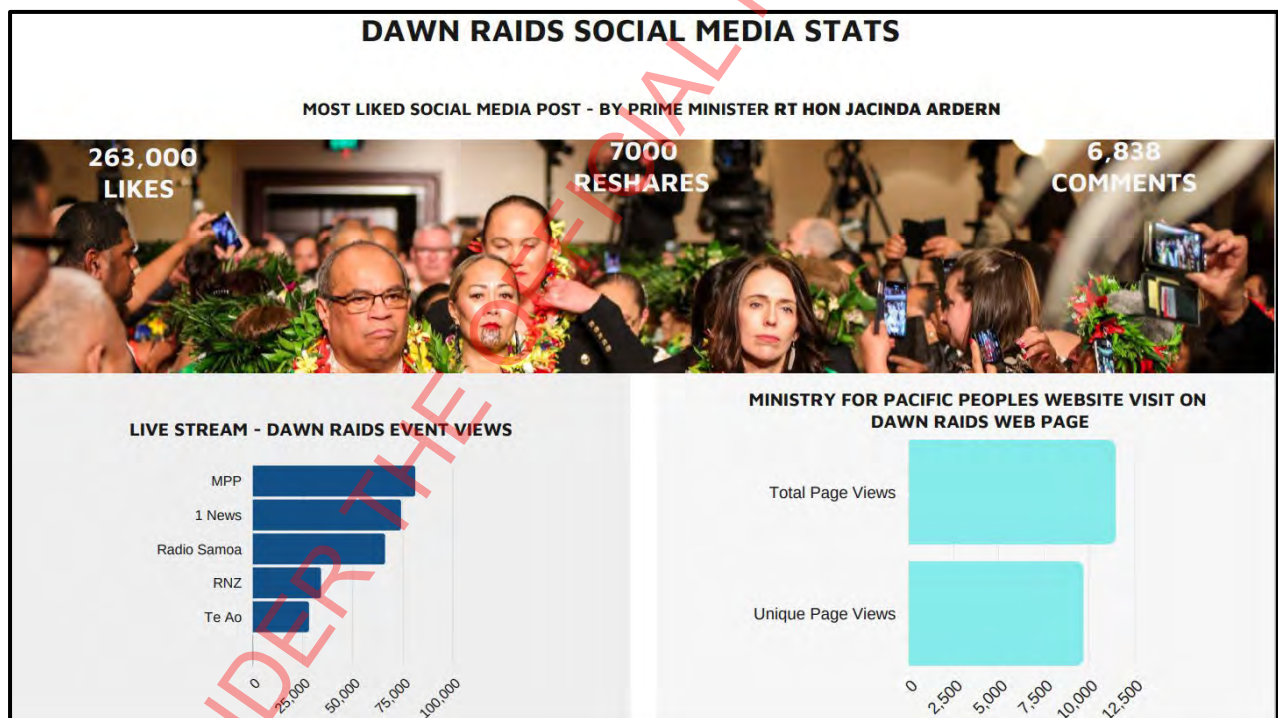
17. To mitigate some of the negative reactions to the apology, you may wish to consider a video for social media channels, outlining next steps for consulting with Pacific communities, to gain further insights for the Government to reflect on in terms of appropriate reconciliation.

18. You may also consider holding a forum for younger members of Pacific communities to understand their perspectives for what may be required to address mental health issues, resulting from the experiences of older members of their families impacted by the Dawn Raids.

19. A comprehensive selection of media coverage, is attached as **Appendix A**.

20. A comprehensive scan of social media coverage, including common themes, questions, and discussions points, is attached as **Appendix B**.

21. At a quick glance we have below the Dawn Raids Social Media Stats.



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### Correspondence and OIAs

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24. The Ministry has responded to 80 correspondences in relation to the Dawn Raids, 71 of which were departmental and nine Ministerial.
25. The Ministry has replied to three Official Information Act requests.
26. The Ministry has also responded to one Written Parliamentary Question.
27. A full report on the nature and content of the correspondence attached as **Appendix C**.

out of scope



.....  
Agnes Sefo | Deputy Secretary for  
the Deputy Secretary and Chief Executive  
**Ministry for Pacific Peoples**

Date: 16 / 08 / 2021

.....  
Hon Aupito William Sio  
**Minister for Pacific Peoples**

Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

|                               |                     |  |                  |                            |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|--|------------------|----------------------------|
| Extremely dissatisfied<br>(1) | Dissatisfied<br>(2) | Neither satisfied or<br>dissatisfied (3) | Satisfied<br>(4) | Extremely Satisfied<br>(5) |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|--|------------------|----------------------------|

On a rating between 1 (being extremely dissatisfied) and 5 (being extremely satisfied), please indicate your satisfaction with the advice by circling your preferred rating.

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# APPENDICES TO DAWN RAIDS APOLOGY POST-EVENT UPDATE

## Appendix A – DAWN RAIDS EVENT MEDIA COVERAGE

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### Dawn Raids Apology Event

<https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/dawn-raids-all-is-forgiven-samoan-woman-shares-emotional-experience/LEJ7BAIIYWNBXNKWUUQTZCIN4A/>

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/448212/recap-government-makes-apology-over-dawn-raids>

<https://www.tvnz.co.nz/one-news/new-zealand/govt-apologises-dawn-raids-in-historic-three-hour-ceremony>

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/on-the-inside/448792/breathing-and-navigating-through-a-new-dawn>

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/448372/dark-days-of-the-1970s-dawn-raids-are-at-last-formally-acknowledged>

<https://pacificmedianetwork.com/articles/the-past-actions-of-the-crown-was-wrong-prime-minister-apologises-for-the-1970s-dawn-raids-1>

### Calls for further action

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/opinion/125990935/an-effective-apology-for-the-dawn-raids-must-end-with-action>

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/125991667/dawn-raids-apology-highlights-case-for-cultural-justice>

<https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/impact-of-the-dawn-raids-in-the-wellington-region-in-wake-of-government-apology/VGHDRSBL26VMTSF4BWCWS4L54/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/commentisfree/2021/aug/04/arderns-apology-to-pacific-peoples-lacks-concrete-actions-we-will-continue-the-fight>

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/politics/opinion/125992403/does-last-weeks-apology-foreshadow-another-one>

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/politics/local-democracy-reporting/300374528/dawn-raids-apology-racially-targeted-policy-traumatised-those-on-both-sides>

<https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/dawn-raids-apology-petition-delivered-to-parliament-calling-for-education-campaign-to-follow/L73HNO3TW4OYRWD4LC3EWPJ4LI/>

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/441615/greens-call-for-overstayer-temporary-worker-amnesty-to-atone-for-dawn-raids>

<https://asiapacificreport.nz/2021/08/02/michael-field-on-saying-sorry-who-next-the-banabans/>

### Special Parliamentary debate

<https://pacificmedianetwork.com/articles/parliament-reflects-on-dawn-raids-in-special-debate>

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/politics/opinion/300377199/we-expect-everyone-in-new-zealand-to-be-treated-with-dignity-and-respect>

<https://www.newshub.co.nz/home/politics/2021/08/judith-collins-tears-up-during-parliamentary-speech-on-cruel-vile-dawn-raids.html>

### **Samoa media coverage of the Apology / event**

Samoa media did a good job covering the New Zealand Government's formal apology of 1 August in Auckland to Pacific peoples, *whānau* and communities affected by the 'dawn raids'. Stories were overwhelmingly positive and understanding. The Sunday event was taken live over the Pasifika TV link by Samoa's TV 1. Other viewers watched the event on livestream internet links. All three domestic television channels carried excerpts of the event in their news coverages. Radio stations also broadcast excerpts, notably those in the Samoan language. The 2 August edition of the Samoan Observer newspaper featured a front-page article reporting on the apology and its meaning to Samoans.

## Appendix B – DAWN RAIDS EVENT SOCIAL MEDIA COVERAGE

(As of 11 August 2021)

### Common themes, questions and/or discussion points

- **Culture, identity, and ownership**

The Pacific community has flooded social media with posts of gratitude towards to the Dawn Raids Apology for its expression of culture through language, rituals, songs, and spirit.

The cultural impact of the event has been a discussion point across social media. It was the first time many New Zealanders experienced the process of a Samoan *fa'atoesega*. For people familiar with Samoan custom, the *fa'atoesega* was an extremely emotional experience. Although a proportion of social media commentary questioned the decision to incorporate this element into the programme, most of the posts from our Pacific communities received the *fa'atoesega* graciously and with admiration of the Prime Minister's decision to partake in that aspect of the formal apology.

*"It was extremely breath-taking to see the Prime Minister of New Zealand humble herself and take part in a cultural custom that she has no tie to. The level of respect that the Prime Minister has gained from the Pacific communities is one step closer to looking after the vā."*

The fact that the acceptance speech was delivered by Princess Mele Siu'ilikutapu Kalaniuvalu Fotofili, of such high status in our Pacific community, was greatly appreciated. Social media commentary has reflected the safe space created by the Princess's address, and its contribution to the continuation of the healing process.

*"It feels like a new dawn for Pacific people today in New Zealand. What an honour to share such a symbolic moment at the Dawn Raids Apology from the government & Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern. I was born into the dawn raids in Grey Lynn and grew up amidst a lot of political unrest, and understanding the harm, trauma, and intergenerational impact that human injustice and racism can have. The apology is a gesture towards healing and making right the wrongs"*

- **Intergenerational Perspectives**

The Apology appears generally to have been received in the spirit in which it was given – as the opening of an opportunity to rebuild the relationship between Pacific peoples and the Government. Older members of our Pacific communities commonly accepted the apology with appreciation and gratitude. They understood the intentions and the thought in planning the programme.

This contrasts with the response from young people, who have tended to challenge the Apology and the way it was delivered. A lack of understanding of the thinking behind each cultural item on the programme appears to be largely responsible for much of the negative commentary from the large population of passionate Pacific youth who advocate for respect for culture and identity. The following quote is typical of much of the sentiment expressed by young social media users:

*"It doesn't matter whether they call it an ifoga or fa'amaulaloga. It doesn't even really matter if we think they performed it properly... I'm still of the stance that this whole event was inappropriate and disrespectful, and I think we really have to question whether our elders who were part of this event realise their children and grandchildren generations are still brutalised by the police and prisons daily. I can acknowledge what those who "forgave" might represent to some of our people, but most of our people don't know them outside of their family and legacy ties - and I really don't think these are the right people to be lifting the 'ie when they all have been or are now protected by the*

*state in a way the rest of our people will never be, simply because of their proximity to parliament & politicians.”*

However, other commentators took exception to these views.

*“I just can’t get over you woke \*\*\*\*\* complaining about “tradition” or being “performative”. Get a grip! It’s not about you”*

*“Today’s apology was beautiful. Put your personal opinions on aganu’u or politics away bcas this would’ve meant a lot to our elders who endured the hurt and betrayal of the dawn raids”*

Many young people also expressed hope at the possibilities for the future of Aotearoa’s Pacific population offered by the Apology. Many of these youth are descendants of those who were directly impacted by the Dawn Raids and make it clear that they’ll continue fighting for more inclusive conversations, laws, and policies on the country’s immigration system.

*“There is still a lot of work to do. You know the Dawn Raids is one event, there is so many different things that I guess keeps us systemically at the bottom of the ladder. But you know things are changing now and I’m a lot more hopeful.”*

- **Call for Immigration reform**

The Pacific community praised Princess Mele Siu'ilikutapu Kalaniuvalu Fotofili's speech for challenging a much-needed change within the immigration system. It is evident that one of the many perceived issues in the system is the eligibility of seasonal workers to gain New Zealand citizenship despite being underpaid in their current workplaces. There is a need for more support from the immigration system to encourage suitable processes for Pacific people. People are expressing the view that immigration reform will reduce the number of overstayers as well as strengthen the relationship between New Zealand and the Pacific communities.

- **Healing and Change**

The Dawn Raids apology was greatly accepted as one step towards moving forward. It has encouraged those who were directly impacted to begin the healing process and express their feelings. A group of young leaders who organised the Dawn Raids apology petition that was submitted to Parliament before the delivery of the apology, are seeking opportunities to ensure that this apology is followed through with tangible outcomes to benefit the Pacific communities in New Zealand. As outlined in the main part of this briefing, the Ministry is already working on a regularisation programme for unlawful migrants, the provision of scholarships for Pacific youth and increasing awareness through education on the Dawn Raids and their impacts. The Ministry welcomes your advice and guidance on driving this forward.

- **Working with youth**

The level of advocacy from younger generations as expressed through social media is positive. This group has enormous potential to help us make a difference in the lives of Pacific peoples in Aotearoa. We have an opportunity to educate and inform the next generation on cultural competence and understanding cultural customs in particular contexts. The Ministry welcomes your advice and guidance on driving this forward.



**Key quotes across social platforms**

| <b>Facebook</b>  | <b>Instagram</b>   | <b>Twitter</b>  |
|--|--|---|
| <p><b>Event, positive:</b></p> <p>“Lots has been posted about the PMs apology last night- it was steeped in culture expressed in language, rituals, song and spirit. A beautiful and fitting ceremony.”</p> <p><b>Event, positive:</b></p> <p>“It feels like a new dawn for Pacific people today in NZ. What an honour to share such a symbolic moment at the Dawn Raids Apology from the government &amp; PM Jacinda Ardern. I was born into the dawn raids in Grey Lynn and grew up amidst a lot of political unrest, and understanding the harm, trauma, and intergenerational impact that human injustice and racism can have. The apology is a gesture towards healing and making right the wrongs.”</p> <p><b>Event, positive:</b></p> <p>This programme was planned by MPP and Pacific community group leaders from the Samoan, Tongan, Niuean, Cook Island communities. This was approved and initiated by our people. So, when one says this was a planned performative event, you are actually undermining our</p> | <p><b>Ifoga, negative:</b></p> <p>“This is performative.. this is not an ifoga, this is a photo op. Something as traumatic as the dawn raids can't be forgiven by one person, what makes it worse is that it wasn't even done right”</p> <p><b>Ifoga, negative:</b></p> <p>“Y'all are out here using our ceremonies but the Western Samoan Immigration Act 1982 is still on the books”</p> <p><b>Ifoga, negative:</b></p> <p>“... if diluting our culture is the price of an apology, how much is that apology really worth?”</p> <p><b>Ifoga, negative:</b></p> <p>“at the end of the day...however...this apology isn't going to address the wider impacts of the dawn raids that still exist today~ the continued use of people/migrants as cheap labour by successive govts, the over policing of our people &amp; communities, the over representation in poverty, the fact we die the most from preventative diseases, the trauma &amp; violence ppl experience from all these things in their houses, our young ppl having one of the highest</p> | <p><b>Event, positive:</b></p> <p>“Today's apology was beautiful. Put your personal opinions on aganuu or politics away bcos this would've meant a lot to our elders who endured the hurt and betrayal of the dawn raids”</p> <p><b>Ifoga, positive:</b></p> <p>“I just can't get over you woke ***** complaining about “tradition” or being “performative”. Get a grip! It's not about you”</p> <p><b>Event, negative:</b></p> <p>”Critiquing the governments apology is not critiquing the elders who fought or us to get this far, it's part of continuing their fight, the way we should as their descendants. The pain is intergenerational and so is the fight for change”</p> <p><b>Event, negative:</b></p> <p>“Do our elders accept this apology for real or is this just years of being told that performative and tokenistic acts are good things”</p> <p><b>Ifoga, positive:</b></p> <p>“You can have a whole village perform this ceremony (ifoga) but</p> |

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|---|--|---|
| <p>elders, our community advocates, Polynesian panthers, and our respected leaders for their decisions. In this case I advise those who are criticizing it to get educated, to get involved and to understand the hard work that went on behind the scenes.”</p> <p><b>Event, positive:</b></p> <p>“I couldn’t help but feel a sense of pride for the way that the apology was conducted. As Pacific is an umbrella term making the juggling of different cultural values and practices a complex job, what I witnessed tonight was a great effort in acknowledging those who were discriminated against especially our Samoan and Tongan communities, in an appropriate manner.”</p> | <p>suicide rates in the world...the fact that if this system (now a global wreck) continues to practice society in the way it does our motherlands won’t even exist...”</p> <p><b>Event, positive:</b></p> <p>“Acknowledgement is the first step and this display of cultural awareness (which leads to competency) is a wonderfully progressive way to show it.”</p> <p><b>Ifoga, positive:</b></p> <p>“The symbolism of the ifoga by PM Jacinda Ardern had me in tears...A watershed moment for our people in Aotearoa, may we move forward with a new zeal, may the next generation be encouraged and learn more about their history, and my hope is that the scholarships that our youth have access to will be utilised fully to continue to serve those to come”</p> <p><b>Event, positive:</b></p> <p>“Couldn’t help but watch this with tears of gratitude. For my family’s that experienced this and those that are no longer here, this means the world to them. And i can’t help but feel so appreciative for them all. From <a href="#">@jacindaardern</a> intro to the very ending, the</p> | <p>Jacinda Arden performed it on behalf of the Government of New Zealand, a lone woman bearing the weight that has scarred many generations... incredible respect for the Prime Minister”</p> <p><b>Event, positive:</b></p> <p>“Not only did they acknowledge their wrongdoings, they also acknowledged it was THAT bad”</p> |
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|  | <p>message and impact was extremely powerful and felt.”</p> <p><b>Event, positive:</b></p> <p>“My eyes filled with tears seeing Jacinda Ardern speak and participate in what some have said is a “modified,” ifoga. I don’t know for sure if the ifoga was done properly. Part of me questioned how it took place, but part of me was definitely moved by the many Pasifika faces there - young and old - who either lived through the horrific Dawn Raids or experience generational trauma from it. “</p> |  |
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### Social media commentary in Samoa

Messages on social media including the FAST Party’s Facebook page, the NZHC Apia Facebook page, emails, and WhatsApp message to HOM and various other Samoan-based websites and blogs revealed what Samoans truly thought of the apology. Examples of their comments are summarised below.

- **A sad and traumatic experience**
  - That was a dark period.
  - That was intense but glad to see it done formally.
  - Can still remember as it were yesterday our house being raided in the middle of the night with the police dogs, not once but twice. Sad [sic] indeed.
  - Liked the way Tongan Princess contextualised the situation by acknowledging that overstaying was illegal but did not warrant letting the dogs out during Dawn Raids.
- **A long time coming but the healing can start**
  - No apology is going to amend the wrongs and pain, but it’s a start.
  - Never thought NZ would do this through an “ifoga” in my lifetime. Means a lot.
  - Only wish my ancestors were alive to receive this apology in person.

- Overdue but better late than never.
- **Heartfelt and sincere**
  - Wow ... got me all teary. Apology accepted!
  - I was in tears when you did *ifoga* ceremony, love you all New Zealand.
  - Thoughtful and accountable – *fa'afetai lava!*
  - Love the respect and humility.
- **Appreciation not only of its sincerity but in the manner it was delivered – following the traditional Samoan ifoga or practice of forgiveness**
  - The Hon PM Jacinda [sic] Ardern under the *ie toga* [sic] got me tearing up. Thank you so much Hon PM for valuing the Pacific Peoples and the work they do for NZ. Especially for showing such humility expressing your deepest condolences for all that has happened.
  - Just wow! This cultural act implies true humility on your part... by sitting under that mat for as long as you did ... the intensity and significance of what the *ifoga* really means.
  - Thanks ... God bless you and NZ people for your understanding to unite our NZ and Pacifica countries and peoples.
  - It was a perfect way to showcase our culture. *Manaia le lauga, manaia fa'aalologa ma teuga ale au ave si'i*, the lady that did the *sulatoga* ... and the gentleman that played the *folafola sua* ... loved the part where they did the *ifoga*
- **Looking to the future**
  - Perhaps there will be new pathways for Sāmoans to travel to NZ?
  - Maybe it's time to redefine who is an overstayer?

Given the passing of time and generations, many young Samoans have little or no knowledge of the New Zealand 'dawn raids' of the seventies. The formal apology of 1 August was however very relevant to those more mature Samoans who recall that dark period in New Zealand history either having experienced the raids themselves or had family and friends who were directly affected. The apology seems to have resonated deeply with this key group, both in terms of its humility and sincerity, but also in the customary manner it was delivered – following the traditional Samoan *ifoga* or practice of forgiveness.



## Appendix C – DAWN RAIDS CORRESPONDENCE AND OIA REQUESTS

### Correspondence

The Ministry has received altogether 80 correspondences in relation to the Dawn Raids. Of these, 71 were departmental and 9 Ministerial.

Most of the correspondence received reflected the shared sentiments in the public arena calling for a Government apology for the Dawn Raids and requesting amnesty for unlawful migrants. Some correspondents expressed their demand for the Government to enable education on the Dawn Raids in schools.

In response to these sentiments, the Ministry acknowledged that an apology is appropriate and provides an opportunity for closure and reconciliation. While the request for amnesty does not sit within the responsibilities of the Ministry for Pacific Peoples, there was an opportunity to acknowledge this concern has been heard and explain that the matter was referred to the Minister of Immigration for his attention.

With regard to the call for education on the Dawn Raids in schools, there was an opportunity to show that the Government has taken proactive steps to ensure that wider knowledge of the Dawn Raids is made available to the public. Links to where information can be found were provided.

A very small portion (three) of correspondences received were averse to an apology. In response to these sentiments, the Ministry highlighted that the concerns voiced by Pacific communities and others impacted by the Dawn Raids do not focus on whether the law permitted the detection and deportation of people unlawfully present in New Zealand, but on the racialised targeting and profiling that occurred, and the manner in which immigration laws were applied.

Post apology, the Minister's Office received one correspondence focussing on amnesty and creating pathways for residency for overstayers. Joint responses between the Ministry and Immigration are currently being compiled.

### Official Information Act requests (OIA)

The Ministry has received three OIA requests (two Ministerial and one Departmental) regarding the Dawn Raids. Details of these requests are outlined below:

- On 16 June 2021, s9(2)(a) made a request to the Minister for Pacific Peoples for the following information, under the Act:

*All advice, briefings, reports, memos, and emails Pacific Peoples Minister Aupito William Sio has received regarding the 1970's Dawn Raids, including reference to a Government apology, between 1 April and 16 June 2021.*

- This request was also received by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).
- The Minister's Office decided to respond in a consistent manner to PMO, and withhold all information requested under the following grounds:

- Section 6(a) of the Act, as the release of the information would be likely to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or international relations of the Government of New Zealand.
- Section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act, to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.
- Section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act, to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or member of an organisation or officers and employees of any department or organisation in the course of their duty.
- o The requester was also advised that the Dawn Raids Cabinet Paper is scheduled to be proactively released following the Government's formal apology and provided with a link to the Ministry's website where this information can be found when it is made available.
- o The response was sent to the requester on 14 July 2021.
- On 28 June 2021, s9(2)(a) contacted the Minister's office requesting the following information, under the Act:

*I'd like to please request copies of any reports, documents, memoranda, briefings, correspondence, legal advice or emails, both internal and external regarding and that informed the Government's decision to make a "formal apology for the wrongs committed during the Dawn Raids of the 1970's", including but not limited to any correspondence or reports provided to the Minister for Pacific Peoples and/or government ministers.*
- o The Minister's Office's response was consistent with that which was sent to s9(2)(a) and was sent to the requester on 26 July 2021.
- On 16 July 2021, the Ministry received a request from s9(2)(a) requesting a copy of the Dawn Raids Cabinet Paper. A link to the Cabinet Paper located on the Ministry's website was provided to the requester once it was made available following the formal Government apology.

### Written Parliamentary Questions

The Ministry has received one WPQ (23116 (2021)) regarding Dawn Raids. On 2 June 2021, Teanau Tuiono lodged the following written question:

**Question:** *What reports, briefings, aides memoire and other written advice has he received about an apology for the Dawn Raids?*

**Response:** *I have received briefings in relation to the Dawn Raids, but as this issue is under active consideration, I will not be releasing the titles.*