

Tuesday 23 March 2021

s 9(2)(a)

Noa'ia s 9(2)(a)

## RESPONSE TO AN OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

I refer to your email received on 8 February 2021 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), information in relation to the Ministry for Pacific Peoples' (the Ministry) process for appointing members in relation to Pacific languages, as interpreted by the following statement:

- s 9(2)(a)

In response to your request, the below information outlines the Ministry's process for the selection of members to the Fono Faufautua that will advise on the work programme of the Pacific Languages Unit (the Unit).

As a newly established advisory group, it is noted that this process may be updated to reflect the changing dynamics of the languages work programme.

### Background

In 2019, the Ministry were successful in securing a \$20M investment into Pacific Languages in Aotearoa. Part of this investment included establishing a dedicated Languages Unit within the Ministry, that will support community efforts in driving Pacific language revitalisation and maintenance.

In order to do this effectively, the Unit recognised the need to establish a specific advisory group that will help centralise community voice in the languages work but also offer guidance that will support Pacific languages thriving in Aotearoa.

With the Ministry currently supporting nine Pacific languages, it was important the makeup of this group reflected this, but also took into account the changing demographic of Pacific peoples living in Aotearoa today.

## The Selection Process

It was important to set the makeup of the advisory group and the number of members that will be represented at this table. The Unit decided on the following criterion:

- Representation from each of the nine Pacific Language groups supported by the Ministry
- Recognised across Aotearoa for work in one of the nine Pacific languages
- Youth representation
- Individuals with Pacific language and/ or linguistic expertise and passion for all Pacific languages
- Individuals who are connected with community groups that have a national reach

Ministry staff from various business units (Regional Partnerships, Pacific Capability, Policy, Communications) were asked to nominate Pacific community members that should be considered for the group. Staff were also asked to provide suitable biographies that would support a candidates selection. This provided the Unit with a list of 33 names for consideration.

Potential candidates for the advisory group, went through an internal quality assurance process. As part of this process, candidates who were not eligible or did not meet the criteria, were removed. Reasons for ineligibility included:

- employment based conflict of interest,
- identified risks, and
- people who were outside of Aotearoa

The quality assurance process provided a shortlist of candidates, who were then contacted via email and/or phone and asked to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI), and provide their current Curriculum Vitae. Candidates were given two weeks to submit an EOI.

Of the candidates contacted, 17 expressed their interest to be considered for the advisory group. A panel, consisting of the Director of Languages and two Managers within the Unit, reviewed each candidate and made the final decision on the members of the advisory group.

All 13 successful candidates were contacted by email on 15 November 2020.

The term for each member on this advisory group is 18 months.

## Process review

As mentioned above, this is the first advisory group established to support and advise on the Units work programme, and as such, a review of this process will be undertaken to identify areas of improvement, in due course.

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In support of the principles and purposes of the Act, the Ministry now proactively publishes its responses to Official Information Act 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 as the person who requested the information.

Should you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact the Ministry at: [oiia\\_requests@mpp.govt.nz](mailto:oiia_requests@mpp.govt.nz).

If you are dissatisfied with this response you have the right, under section 28(3) of the Act, 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.

Faiākse'ea



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