

22 February 2024

s9(2)(a)

Mālō 'e lelei s9(2)(a)

## RESPONSE TO AN OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST (DOIA040-2023/24)

On 23 January 2024, your request was transferred to us from the Minister for Pacific Peoples, Hon Dr Shane Reti, as the information is more closely connected with the Ministry for Pacific Peoples' (the Ministry's) functions. You requested under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), information relating to housing outcomes. I have outlined your specific requests and my responses to each below.

- 1. How is your organisation progressing with better housing outcomes for our Pasefika families residing in Auckland where there is huge demand for homes that cater for extended families as per the "Pasefika way of life" and also in terms of working in with financial institutions with household income earners who would like to look at first home ownership but their credit rating may affect their ability to access a home loan? What initiatives is the Ministry working on currently?*

In 2022, the Ministry's Fale mo Aiga Pacific Housing Strategy and Action Plan 2030 (Fale mo Aiga) was launched as a targeted response to strengthening housing solutions for Pacific peoples in New Zealand. Fale mo Aiga aims to:

- Build intergenerational Pacific wealth through home ownership (Pacific Financial Capability programme)
- Develop and build the Pacific housing sector (Pacific Community Housing Provider Registration Support programme)
- Build affordable, fit-for-purpose homes (Our Whare Our Fale, Pacific Building Affordable Homes Fund and Pacific Housing Feasibility Support Services).

The Ministry has achieved outcomes in all these areas, in Auckland, and across New Zealand. Information about these programmes is available on our website. The Ministry does not have initiatives that specifically target the improvement of credit ratings, nor does it work directly with financial institutions. However, the Pacific Financial Capability programme takes a holistic approach in improving financial literacy for household income earners. The programme aims to support Pacific peoples on the pathway to home ownership.

2. *Since the set-up of the Ministry's housing team in 2021, what positive outcomes have come about with Pasefika families set up in affordable housing and home ownership?*

The Ministry has several housing initiatives that contribute to improving housing outcomes for Pacific peoples. All of these are progressing and on track to deliver on the intended programme outcomes. For example, the Pacific Financial Capability programme (delivered by 14 providers across New Zealand) has helped over 3,000 people improve their financial literacy and supported 120 families to purchase homes.

On 23 January 2024, you clarified your request with us for the following:

*... Further to my original query, can you please provide statistics from the Ministry for Pacific Peoples the following:*

3. *How many individuals/families have received financial literacy training, and how many have been able to move on and purchase their first home since the scheme was introduced.*

As of December 2023, the Ministry's Pacific Financial Capability programme has enrolled 3,142 individuals in financial capability initiatives to improve their financial literacy. To date, 120 families have purchased a new home. The remaining participants have upskilled in various areas that strengthen their journey toward home ownership.

Table 2 below provides a breakdown of capability outcomes for participants through the Pacific Financial Capability programme.

**Table 2: Pacific Financial Capability participation**

<b>Programme outcomes</b>	<b>Participants</b>
Enrolments	3,142
Savings plan	2,492
Debt management	2,228
Home ownership plan	1,687
Purchased homes	120
Saved home from mortgagee sale	35

4. *Who are the social housing providers that have received funding from the Ministry to build suitable housing for Pasefika families?*
5. *How many houses have been built, and in which locations? This does not include transitional nor emergency housing.*

The Ministry partnered with New Zealand's only Pacific social housing provider, Penina Trust who has five culturally appropriate, affordable, and accessible houses in Auckland acquired under our Pacific Building Affordable Homes programme. Additionally, the Ministry has contracted other organisations to build homes for Pacific under the Pacific Building Affordable Home programme as well as the Our Whare Our Fare housing project.

The Ministry has also contracted Community Housing Aotearoa to assist eight Pacific providers to obtain their community housing provider registration. This will enable them to deliver public housing for people in need from the Social Housing Register.

6. *Has the Ministry looked at other alternatives for Pasefika to be able to realize their dream of home ownership like say a Rent to Own scheme?*

The Ministry's Pacific Building Affordable Homes programme does work with providers that offer rent-to-own options.

7. *Why is the Ministry re-inventing the wheel with regards to ensuring Pasefika households have warm, dry, healthy homes. This has been implemented nationwide since legislation was passed with all Landlords, including social housing Landlords.*

Unhealthy housing is a particular challenge for Pacific communities, who are much more likely to be exposed to unsafe housing conditions and consequently experience higher rates of preventable housing-related hospitalisations compared to other population groups. Rather than reinventing the wheel, the Ministry is supporting existing government initiatives that deliver healthy and quality homes for Pacific peoples in New Zealand. We are committed to working with agencies to provide reliable information and raise public awareness on housing matters that can support all Pacific communities.

In line with standard OIA practice, the Ministry proactively publishes some of its responses to OIA requests. As such, this letter may be published on the Ministry for Pacific Peoples' website. Your personal details will be removed, and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you or your organisation.

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

Mālō 'aupito



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