

28 January 2022

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## RESPONSE TO AN OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

On 11 December 2021, you requested under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), information regarding the Prime Minister's Pacific Youth Awards (PMPYA). Please note, I have interpreted your request as being specific to the 2021 PMPYA. I am aware that our Ministerial Services team reached out to you to clarify this part of the request but as at the time of writing this letter to you, we have not received a response.

I have outlined your specific requests and my responses to each below.

### 1. What was the total number of applications for the Pacific Youth awards?

The Ministry for Pacific Peoples (the Ministry) received 109 applications this year.

### 2. How many of the total number of applications were of young people who self-identified, or were identified as Rainbow Pacific peoples?

One optional section of the application asked applicants to enter their gender identity. In this section, four applicants self-identified (used terms associated) with the Rainbow community.

### 3. Could you please provide a table categorised by geography with where the applications come from? (Where do applicants or their nominators identify the Pacific young person lives)

See Table 1 below.

**Table 1: Number of applications received and short listed applications for the 2021 Prime Minister's Pacific Youth Awards, broken down by New Zealand region**

Region	Applications received	Applications shortlisted
Northland	10	0
Auckland	54	18
Waikato	6	0
Bay of Plenty	2	0
Hawkes Bay	1	0
Taranaki	1	0
Manawatu/Whanganui	2	0
Wellington	15	4
Tasman	1	0

Region	Applications received	Applications shortlisted
Canterbury	11	0
Otago	6	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>22</b>

4. How many applications were shortlisted for each category?

See Table 2 below.

**Table 2: Number of applicants shortlisted per award category for the 2021 Prime Minister's Pacific Youth Awards**

Award category	Applicants shortlisted
Language, Culture & Identity Award (MPP)	3
Commercial & Corporate Award (Deloitte)	2
Teach NZ Award (MOE)	2
Business & Entrepreneurship Award (PBT)	3
Arts & Creativity Award (Creative NZ and Massey)	3
Leadership & Inspiration Award (Air NZ and MFAT)	2
Community Star Award (Auckland Council)	5
International Scholar Award (PCF)	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22</b>

5. Could you please provide a table categorised by geography where candidates who were shortlisted live?

Please refer to Table 1.

6. Could you please confirm whether a Pacific person who lives in the South Island was part of each award decision making panel?

Each panel was comprised of three individuals representing the Ministry's Communications, Media, and Marketing team, the agency sponsoring the award and one Manager selected from the wider Ministry. I can confirm that an individual of Pacific decent, currently living in the South Island was selected onto the panel for the International Scholar Award. Panel members from the remaining seven award panels do not live in the South Island.

Please note, the make-up of the panels for the 2021 PMPYA was heavy reliant on the availability of staff, at what was an extremely busy time for the Ministry. Between May and August, the panels for PMPYA were convened while the Ministry were also balancing competing priorities, including the delivery of the Government's apology for the Dawn Raids and our response to supporting Pacific communities and providers through the COVID-19 Delta outbreak.

In terms of the award recipients, the Ministry identified high calibre applicants who met the criteria during the shortlisting and interview process. To be considered for the 2021 PMPYA, applicants had to meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Be 17-24 years of age at the time of submitting their application
- Be a citizen or permanent resident of New Zealand
- Be of Pacific descent
- Have created a positive impact on their chosen field in the past 12-24 months
- Demonstrate that they are involved in the Pacific community
- Be able to provide two character references

The Ministry is committed to continuous improvement, as such, we will be reviewing our processes and selection criteria for all of our PMPYA panels, so that our processes for selection are robust.

In support of the principles and purposes of the OIA, the Ministry proactively publishes its responses to OIA requests. As such, this letter will be published on the Ministry's 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: [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.

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