

10 June 2022

s9(2)(a)

Talofa lava s9(2)(a)

## RESPONSE TO AN OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

On 2 June 2022, you contacted the Ministry for Pacific Peoples (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following information:

*Manaaki is currently running the Vaka Pasifika Accelerator in partnership with MPP (see attached media release). Can you please tell me how much MPP is spending with Manaaki on this project? I would appreciate a response by the end of the day.*

The Ministry launched its Pacific Business Village (the Village) initiative earlier this year. The Village is the Ministry's approach to better support Pacific businesses across Aotearoa. Central to the Village are Pacific business networks and service providers.

In response to your request, Manaaki was selected as a service provider for the Pacific Business Village with a total contract value of \$300,000. Manaaki is contracted to deliver business-focused outcomes to 50 Pacific businesses located in the regions via their Vaka Pasifika Accelerator course. The course aims to increase financial capability and improve efficiencies in financial systems and processes.

During establishment of the Village, the Ministry went through a direct procurement approach to source appropriate networks and providers. Each network and provider (including Manaaki) was required to submit a business proposal and go through a robust assessment and due diligence process consisting of:

- Two reference checks with external parties
- Due diligence review
- Financial background review
- Talanoa (discussion) with each applicant
- Discussion with the Ministry's Procurement Board

The Ministry is satisfied that it has a robust selection process in place. Additionally, the Ministry keeps in regular contact with the selected networks and providers to ensure there are checks and balances throughout the duration of each contract.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jon Siakimotu', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jon Siakimotu  
**Director,**  
**Housing and Operational Policy**