

19 January 2023

s9(2)(a)

Talofa lava s9(2)(a)

RESPONSE TO AN OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

On 24 November 2022, you contacted the Ministry for Pacific Peoples (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) information regarding catering and koha.

On 25 November, we contacted you to clarify the scope of your request and on 1 December you confirmed that the request could be refined to the 2021/22 financial year and agreed to an amendment for the catering part of your request.

Please note that under section 15(1AA) of the OIA, if a request is amended or clarified after the date on which it is received, the department or organisation that receives the request may treat the amended or clarified request as a new request that, for the purposes of subsection (1), replaces the original request; the new date received for your request therefore becomes 1 December 2022, and the new due date for responding to your request is 19 January 2023.

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

- *How much has Ministry for Pacific Peoples spent on catering in 2022? Please provide total amount, a breakdown of the number of catered events/meetings this relates to, and what event/meeting/occasion the catering was for.*

The Ministry experienced unprecedented growth in the past few years; such growth has been deemed necessary to meet the needs of our Pacific communities and improve their wellbeing outcomes across key indicators including health, education, housing and income. Additionally, this is the first year since COVID-19 that our Ministry has been able to hold in person events and engage with our Pacific communities face to face.

The provision of catering is significant to engaging the communities that the Ministry serves. It has a spiritual significance recognising generosity, mutual sharing and hospitality. By providing sufficient nourishment, Pacific peoples believe this embodies their fundamental ancestral cultural values of reciprocity and respect. It is also an appreciative demonstration of caring and love, that shows esteem and dignity for the people in attendance. Providing catering enhances the auspiciousness of an occasion, making an event and the messages shared or the reason for gathering that more memorable, also showing respect to Pacific communities that their time is valued, irrespective of their financial, employment and wealth status.

In response to this part of your request, you agreed to the Ministry providing the costs for the significant and/or larger events we catered and then providing an aggregated total for smaller community events, staff functions and staff meals while travelling in a category titled 'other'. We note that staff meals while travelling is not technically within scope of this request but as it would require substantial collation to sort through this data and remove it from the total, we have left this in, as agreed with you. Appended to this response is a table summarising the information requested.

- *How much has Ministry for Pacific Peoples spent on koha in 2022? Please provide total amount, a breakdown of the number of koha this relates to, and what event/meeting/occasion the koha was for.*

The Ministry is currently in the process of finalising this information for our response to the Annual Review. This information will be publicly released after the Ministry's Annual Review hearing which is expected to take place in mid-February 2023 at the latest. I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(d) of the OIA as the information requested will soon be publicly available.

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 company.

Should you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact the Ministry at: 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 or freephone 0800 802 602.

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Fonoti Seti Talamaivao
Deputy Secretary
Office of the Secretary

Appendix: Ministry for Pacific Peoples' catering costs for the 2021/22 financial year

Event/description	Amount (\$)	No. of people catered for
Large scale launch or commemoration events with the community		
Dawn Raids Apology Commemoration Event	70,000.64	1400
The Pacific Business Village and Tauola Business Fund launch	17,130.00	250
Accelerating Pacific Enterprise launch	7567.46	85
60th Anniversary of Samoan Independence	9,000.00	300
60th Anniversary of Samoan Independence	5,746.91	250
Post Budget Breakfast Auckland	11,750.00	300
Post Budget Breakfast Wellington	7,500.00	250
Post Budget Breakfast Christchurch	4,434.78	200
	133,129.79	3035
Engagements and community events with foreign dignitaries		
Community engagement with foreign dignitary	14,325.00	500
Meeting with foreign dignitary	1,240.00	20
	15,565.00	520
COVID-19 community events (vaccine events and community fono)		
Community COVID-19 vaccination event	1,460.00	50
Health education vaccine fono	1,371.44	100
COVID-19 vaccine roll-out community fono	1,000.00	60
	3831.44	210
Workshops (including workshops with community) and research projects		
Pacific informal economy research project	5000.00	50
Community engagement on Ministry national survey	2,120.00	50
Community consultation and talanoa (discussion) series	1,467.39	30
Pacific economic research - Steering Group meeting	500.00	12
	9087.39	142
TOLOA STEAM youth challenge events		
Toloa Pacific School STEAM Challenge – Auckland (Otara)	9,000.00	100
Toloa Pacific School STEAM Challenge – Auckland (Western Springs)	8,245.00	90
Toloa Pacific School STEAM Challenge – Palmerston North	6,730.00	85
Toloa Pacific School STEAM Challenge - Christchurch	3,500.00	50
	27,475.00	325
Tupu Aotearoa meetings and launch events		
Tupu Aotearoa launch event	1,400.00	80
Tupu Aotearoa providers dinner	525.22	17
	1,925.22	97
Internal Ministry planning days and Pacific Language Weeks		
Policy Group planning day	3,548.80	54
End of year function with Minister	1,630.00	21
Policy Group planning (2 day)	1,522.18	11
Policy Group Christmas function	1,444.35	34
Senior leadership planning day	1,203.40	12
Regional Partnerships and Service Delivery planning days	1398.22	76
Senior leadership meeting	657.39	18
People and Culture team professional development	582.61	19
Languages Unit planning day	513.39	10
Policy Group planning day	794.50	14
Pacific Language Weeks	4,438.35	205

Event/description	Amount (\$)	No. of people catered for
	17,733.19	474
Cross agency meetings/engagements and workshops		
Cross agency workshop	813.00	60
Cross agency signing of Memorandum of Understanding	616.68	40
Cross agency meeting	580.00	20
Cross agency meeting	521.74	25
	2531.42	145
TOTAL	211,278.45	5048
Other events		
Smaller community events, staff functions and staff meals while travelling	52,363.27	N/A
TOTAL (including other events)	263,641.72	

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982