

19 March 2024

s9(2)(a)

Kia orāna s9(2)(a)

## **RESPONSE TO AN OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST (REF: DOIA047-2023/24)**

On 14 February 2024, you contacted the Ministry for Pacific Peoples (the Ministry) requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), information relating to Toloa Secondary Scholarships. I have outlined your specific requests and my responses to each below.

*Can you please provide numbers of other people who have been provided Toloa scholarships who submitted Australian passports as their proof of residence (I personally know of 2) in both current and previous rounds.*

Please note that under section 15(1AA) of the OIA, if a request is amended or clarified after the date of 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. On 22 February 2024 we sought to clarify your request and on 26 February 2024, you agreed to amend your request to the following (note this amended the due date to 25 March 2024):

*I am happy for MPP to provide... the number of Toloa secondary scholarship recipients who submitted Australian passports as proof of residency.*

Since the Toloa secondary scholarships began in 2022, four recipients who submitted an Australian passport as proof of residency, have been awarded a scholarship – one in 2022 and three in 2023. Note that for the 2024 round of Toloa scholarships, the eligibility criterion for proof of residency was limited to applicants with New Zealand citizenship or permanent residency.

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: [oi\\_requests@mpp.govt.nz](mailto:oi_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.

Meitaki ma'ata

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sachi Taulelei". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

**Sachi Taulelei**  
Deputy Secretary,  
Commissioning