

31 October 2024

s9(2)(a)

Mālo ni s9(2)(a)

## RESPONSE TO AN OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST (REF: DOIA018-2024/25)

On 2 October 2024, you contacted the Ministry for Pacific Peoples (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), information in relation to the Centre for Pacific Languages. I have outlined your specific requests and my responses to each below.

### 1. *How and why did MPP pick up the funding for CPL and was it a government direction?*

The Centre for Pacific Languages (CPL), formerly known as the Pasifika Education Centre (PEC), is a Charitable Trust and an NZQA-registered Private Training Establishment that offers NZQA-approved free Pacific language courses, cultural competency workshops, and translation services in Aotearoa and abroad. CPL was initially established as the Pacific Islands Education and Resource Centre (PIERC Education) in 1978 to help new Pacific migrants settle into Aotearoa. It later evolved into a language and cultural hub for Pacific communities and has served Pacific communities for more than 40 years.

In 2013, the Minister of Education consulted with officials from the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs on the process of nominating and appointing a new Board of Trustees for PEC. A decision was made whereby the Minister of Pacific Island Affairs would then appoint the Board of Trustees in consultation with the Minister of Education. Until 2014, the PEC was funded by the Tertiary Education Commission through Adult Community Education (ACE) funding and Grant funding under section 321 of the Education Act 1989. In March 2017, the PEC and Manukau Institute of Technology (MIT) signed a joint venture agreement as a formal commitment and pathway towards collaborative promotion and delivery of community-based Pacific language and culture programmes.

Since November 2019, as agreed by the Minister for Pacific Peoples at this time, the Ministry has funded PEC as a key delivery partner, to support the delivery of community-based Pacific language classes and cultural training, activities, and digital initiatives that promote, sustain, and revitalise Pacific languages.

In 2022, PEC became CPL. CPL is the only community-based centre which focuses on Pacific language revitalisation, cultural knowledge, and advocacy across Aotearoa for nine Pacific languages (Gagana Samoa, Lea faka-Tonga, Vagahau Niue, Te Gagana Tokelau, Vosa Vakaviti, Fāeag Rotuam ta, Te Gana Tuvalu, Te Taetae ni Kiribati, and Te Reo Māori Kūki 'Āirani). The Ministry continues to fund CPL to deliver free Pacific language courses and support Pacific Language Weeks.

- 2. It appears that this unconsulted action by MPP has obliterated any assistance to community service providers who are more 'at the frontline' and community owned. This being the case, was community consulted before CPL was absorbed into the funding responsibilities of MPP?*

The Ministry continues to support Pacific communities to deliver language learning initiatives, including through the Pacific Languages Community Fund (PLCF). While the Ministry also invests in established providers (such as CPL) to deliver Pacific language courses, the PLCF is a consistently open funding opportunity that supports Pacific communities and organisations to deliver sustainable projects across a 6–12-month period.

The PLCF was established in 2020 to empower community groups to lead and implement their own solutions to maintain and revitalise Pacific languages in Aotearoa. The Ministry for Pacific Peoples is the only Government agency that funds community-led Pacific language initiatives that support language learning and use in Pacific communities in Aotearoa and continues to do so through the PLCF. Through this fund, the Ministry has been able to fund a wide range of language initiatives.

The current PLCF funding round, which closes on 6 November 2024, has been designed to support Pacific-led projects that help Pacific communities to learn and use their languages across Aotearoa. This funding round we are looking for projects that will:

- Help communities learn Pacific languages, or improve their Pacific language skills
- Target or involve Pacific young people
- Meet the needs of Pacific communities
- Be able to demonstrate their impact.

The Ministry also funds communities to celebrate 11 Pacific Language Weeks through Pacific Languages Weeks funding.

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3. *How do you propose to continue with your previous strengthening of community capability building in languages? We say this with the view that communities know best for communities and have their own networks to reach the most vulnerable.*

The [Pacific Languages Strategy](#) 2022–2032 provides the framework to effectively coordinate the efforts and actions of Pacific communities and government so that, together, the right conditions can be created for communities to drive solutions that protect and maintain their languages.

As part of this Strategy, the Ministry continues to work closely with communities to identify priorities, opportunities, and actions to support Pacific languages to thrive. Partnerships between the Ministry and community organisations, such as CPL, have accelerated efforts for language and culture revitalisation to be driven by Pacific communities.

The Ministry is committed to the languages work programme by continuing to fund:

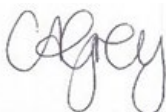
- The Pacific Languages Community Fund – supports Pacific communities to drive and lead solutions to retain and revitalise Pacific languages in New Zealand.
- Pacific language weeks – funding for community groups to deliver grassroots language initiatives in celebration of their language weeks around the country.
- Centre for Pacific Languages – the Ministry funds the centre to deliver impactful language learning and ongoing support for language weeks.
- Pacific media funding – supports the sustainability of Pacific language broadcasters to deliver Pacific language content.

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.

Fakafetai lahi lele



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