

29 July 2025

s9(2)(a)

Mālō e lelei **s9(2)(a)**

RESPONSE TO AN OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST (REF: DOIA001-2026/27)

On 1 July 2025, you contacted the Ministry for Pacific Peoples (the Ministry) requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), information regarding the Hon Dr Shane Reti's preparation for the June 2025 Scrutiny Week. I have outlined your specific request and my response below.

Can I please OIA the information below:

- *Copies of all information packs, advice, aide-memoire, briefings, memos, or any other documents sent by MPP to Minister Reti's office in preparation for the June 2025 Scrutiny week.*
- *Copies of all information packs, advice, aide-memoire, briefings, memos, or any other documents received by MPP from Minister Reti's office in preparation for the June 2025 Scrutiny week in Parliament.*

I have identified 11 documents that fall in scope of your request, and these are itemised in **Appendix 1**.

Please note:

- Some documents have been refused in full under section 18(d) of the OIA as the information requested will soon be publicly available.
- Some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA to protect the privacy of natural persons.

Auckland

9 Ronwood Ave, Manukau
PO Box 97005,
South Auckland Mail Centre 2240
P: 09 265 3200

Wellington National Office

Level 7, 1 Bowen House
Wellington, 6011
PO Box 833, Wellington 6143
P: 04 473 4493

Christchurch

Level 1, BNZ Centre
120 Hereford St
Private Bag 4741,
Christchurch 8011

- Some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i) to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty.

I am satisfied that there are no public interest considerations that render it desirable to make the information withheld under section 9 of the OIA 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 organisation.

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

Mālō 'aupito



Lu Avia
Chief Advisor to the Secretary
Executive Office

Appendix 1 – List of documents

#	DATE	TITLE	DECISION ON RELEASE
1.	16 April 2025 <i>Received from the Office of the Hon Minister for Pacific Peoples</i>	Item A – Letter: Finance and Expenditure Committee re 2025/26 Estimates: Request for information on appropriations within Vote Pacific Peoples.	Full release.
		Item B – Accompanying document: Standard Estimate Questionnaire 2025/26.	Refused in full under section 18(d) of the OIA.
2.	16 May 2025 <i>Sent to the Office of the Hon Minister for Pacific Peoples</i>	Briefing: 2025/26 Estimates Examination: Vote Pacific Peoples' Standard Estimates Questionnaire (Financial Expenditure Committee).	Some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA.
		Appendix 1: 2025-2026 FEC.	Refused in full under section 18(d) of the OIA.
3.	20 May 2025 <i>Received from the Office of the Hon Minister for Pacific Peoples</i>	Feedback: 2025-2026 FEC.	Refused in full under section 18(d) of the OIA.
4.	29 May 2025 <i>Received from the Office of the Hon Minister for Pacific Peoples</i>	Item A – Letter: Social Services and Community Committee re 2025/26 Estimates for Vote Pacific Peoples.	Full release.
		Item B – Accompanying document: Estimates – Social Services Committee Pre-hearing written questions 1-84.	Refused in full under section 18(d) of the OIA.
5.	30 May 2025 <i>Sent to the Office of the Hon Minister for Pacific Peoples</i>	Briefing: 2025/26 Estimates Examination: Vote Pacific Peoples' Standard Supplementary Estimates Questionnaire.	Some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA.
		Appendix 1: Estimates of Appropriations for Vote Pacific Peoples 2025-2026 - Q1-84.	Refused in full under section 18(d) of the OIA.
6.	4 June 2025 <i>Received from the Office of the Hon Minister for Pacific Peoples</i>	Post budget pre-hearing questions (1 – 52 for Vote Pacific Peoples).	Refused in full under section 18(d) of the OIA.
7.	5 June 2025 <i>Received from the Office of the Hon Minister for Pacific Peoples</i>	Feedback: Estimates of Appropriations for Vote Pacific Peoples 2025-2026 - Q1-84.	Refused in full under section 18(d) of the OIA.
8.	10 June 2025 <i>Sent to the Office of the Hon Minister for Pacific Peoples</i>	Item A – Memo: 2025/26 Estimates Examination: Vote Pacific Peoples' Information Hearing Pack.	Some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA.
		Item B – Appendix 1: Information Hearing Pack.	Some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the OIA.
9.	10 June 2025 <i>Sent to the Office of the Hon Minister for Pacific Peoples</i>	Final: Estimates of Appropriations for Vote Pacific Peoples 2025-2026 - Q1-84.	Refused in full under section 18(d) of the OIA.
10.	12 June 2025 <i>Received from the Office of the Hon Minister for Pacific Peoples</i>	Feedback: Estimates 2025/26 Additional Questions.	Refused in full under section 18(d) of the OIA.
11.	13 June 2025 <i>Sent to the Office of the Hon Minister for Pacific Peoples</i>	Final: Estimates 2025-2026 Additional Questions – Post Budget.	Refused in full under section 18(d) of the OIA.

Auckland

9 Ronwood Ave, Manukau
 PO Box 97005,
 South Auckland Mail Centre 2240
 P: 09 265 3200

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Level 7, 1 Bowen House
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 PO Box 833, Wellington 6143
 P: 04 473 4493

Christchurch

Level 1, BNZ Centre
 120 Hereford St
 Private Bag 4741,
 Christchurch 8011



**FINANCE AND EXPENDITURE COMMITTEE
KOMITI PŪTEA, WHAKAPAUNGA PŪTEA**

16 April 2025

Hon Dr Shane Reti
Minister for Pacific Peoples

Tēnā koe Minister

**2025/26 Estimates: Request for information on appropriations
within Vote Pacific Peoples**

Select committees are responsible for examination of the Estimates of Appropriations. To assist them with their scrutiny of the Estimates, the Finance and Expenditure Committee is sending a standard Estimates questionnaire to each Minister responsible for appropriations in a Vote. The [questionnaire for 2025/26 is on the Parliament website](#).

A response to the questionnaire should be provided to the Finance and Expenditure Committee secretariat by 1.00pm on Friday, 30 May 2025 (the day after Budget 2025 is delivered). The response should be sent in electronic form to SEQ@parliament.govt.nz

Appendix A contains general information about the select committee process for examination of the Estimates, and some administrative requests. Your compliance with these would be appreciated as it will enable the 2025/26 Estimates examinations to get under way promptly.

Should you have any questions about the Estimates process, please contact the Finance and Expenditure Committee secretariat at SEQ@parliament.govt.nz.

Ngā mihi nui

Cameron Brewer
Chairperson
Finance and Expenditure Committee

Appendix A—2025/26 Estimates examinations

Referral of Estimates

Under Standing Order 345 the Estimates stand referred to the Finance and Expenditure Committee following delivery of the Budget. The committee may examine a Vote itself, or refer the Vote, or some of the appropriations contained within it, to any subject select committee for examination.

The Finance and Expenditure committee allocates the Estimates from the Votes listed in the Schedules of the main Appropriation Bill immediately after the presentation of the Budget.

Select committee staff will advise you of the committee that will examine your Estimates.

Standard Estimates Questionnaire

The Finance and Expenditure Committee has developed the standard Estimates questionnaire for use in the examination. It is important that you provide responses to the questionnaire to the Finance and Expenditure Committee secretariat for each Vote or appropriation you administer by 1.00pm on Friday, 30 May 2025 as committees are required to conduct their examinations and report to the House within 10 weeks of delivery of the Budget.

Hearing of evidence

Committees may invite Ministers to hearings to discuss their written responses and address any other policy questions the relevant committee may have. Given the short timeframe for reporting to the House on the Estimates the Business Committee has designated the week commencing 16 June 2025 for examination of Estimates. During this week the House will not sit and Ministers are expected to be available to attend committee hearings.

Additional information requests

As well as the standard Estimates questionnaire, you may receive supplementary written questions for response from the committee conducting the examination. Responses to any such additional questions should be provided directly to the secretariat of the relevant subject select committee.

Administrative matters/requests

Ministers are asked to ensure that:

- an electronic copy of responses to the standard Estimates questionnaire is provided to the Finance and Expenditure Committee secretariat, not prior to the presentation of the Budget on 22 May 2025 and before 1.00pm on Friday, 31 May 2024. The electronic copy should be emailed to the secretariat at SEQ@parliament.govt.nz
- a departmental liaison officer is identified as the contact person for committee staff. Please advise the committee secretariat who that person will be.
- the specific Vote and the appropriation within the Vote are identified on all information provided.
- each question is stated before the answer.

- all pages are numbered, with the page numbers reflecting the actual position in the document (for example, a title page would be page 1)
- the electronic copies are supplied in Microsoft Word or equivalent text format. If supplied as a PDF document, the document should be unlocked and unencrypted. Locked or encrypted PDFs will be returned for these features to be undone, or to change to another suitable format.

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

Briefing

Reference: B035-2024/25

Security level: In-confidence

2025/26 Estimates Examination: Vote Pacific Peoples' Standard Estimates Questionnaire (Finance and Expenditure Committee)

Date	16 MAY 2025	For	Approval
To	Hon Dr Shane Reti, Minister for Pacific Peoples		

Ministry contacts

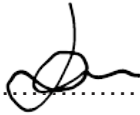
NAME	POSITION	TELEPHONE	1ST CONTACT
Lu Avia	Chief Advisor, Executive Office	s9(2)(a)	✓
Annalize Struwig	Director, Performance, Executive Office	s9(2)(a)	

Purpose

1. This briefing provides draft responses to the Standard Estimates Questionnaire (SEQ) from the Finance and Expenditure Committee (FEC), as part of the 2025/26 Estimates examination process for Vote Pacific Peoples.

Recommendations

2. It is recommended that you:
 - a. **Approve and provide any feedback** on the attached responses to the Standard Estimates Questionnaire. **YES / NO**
 - b. **Note** the timeline and next steps in preparing for the Estimates Examination for Vote Pacific Peoples on 18 June 2025. **Noted**



.....
 Lu Avia | **Chief Advisor**
Ministry for Pacific Peoples
 Date: 16 May 2025

.....
 Hon Dr Shane Reti
Minister for Pacific peoples
 Date: _____

Background

3. The Estimates Examination process allows Parliament to examine the intent of your spending plans as the Vote's responsible Minister.
4. You have confirmed your attendance at the 2025/26 Estimates Examination for Vote Pacific Peoples, scheduled from 8:40am to 9:00am on Wednesday, 18 June 2025. The hearing will be conducted by the Social Services and Community Committee (SSCC).
5. Prior to the hearing, you are required to submit responses to the:
 - a. Standard Estimates Questionnaire, received from the FEC. Responses are due to the secretariat of the FEC by 1pm on 23 May 2025.
 - b. Supplementary Standard Estimates Questionnaire, received from the SSCC. Responses are due to the secretariat by 11 June 2025.

The Standard Estimates Questionnaire

6. Draft responses to the FEC's SEQ have been prepared by the Ministry, on your behalf, and are attached as **Appendix 1**.
7. Upon receipt of your endorsement of these responses, the Ministry will finalise them in accordance with any feedback you may have and return the final responses to your office.
8. Your office will submit the responses to the secretariat of the FEC on 23 May 2025.

The Supplementary Standard Estimates Questionnaire

9. In addition to the FEC's SEQ, you have also received the standard supplementary Estimates questionnaire (SSEQ) from the SSCC.
10. The Ministry is currently drafting responses to the SSEQ, which will be provided to you for endorsement and feedback on 30 May 2025.
11. We will then provide your office with the finalised SSEQ responses, which are to be lodged with the secretariat of the SSCC by 11 June 2025.



Additional Pre-Hearing Questions

12. In addition to the above, the Ministry anticipates that your office may receive additional pre-hearing questions after Budget Day on 22 May 2025.
13. The Ministry will draft responses to any additional questions and submit these to your office for review and approval by 6 June 2025.

Hearing Preparation

14. As part of preparations, the Ministry will work closely with your office to understand your expectations for information to support you. The Ministry is developing an information pack for your reference that will be submitted to you on 6 June 2025.
15. The Ministry's Secretary and senior leadership will attend the hearing with you.

Next steps

16. The following table details the high-level milestones and actions required to deliver the Estimates examination questionnaires in advance of 18 June 2025:

DATE	MILESTONE
16 May 2025	Draft responses to the FEC SEQ provided to you for feedback and approval.
22 May 2025	The Ministry submits the final responses to your office.
23 May 2025	Your office lodges the final responses to the FEC SEQ.
30 May 2025	Draft responses to the SSCC SEQ provided to you for feedback and approval.
11 June 2025	Your office lodges the final responses to the SSCC SEQs.
18 June 2025	Estimates hearing: Vote Pacific Peoples.

Appendix 1: FEC's Standard Estimates Questionnaire

Attached separately.

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**SOCIAL SERVICES AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE
KOMITI WHIRIWHIRI TAKE RATONGA PĀPORI, TAKE HAPORI**

29 May 2025

Hon Shane Reti
Minister for Pacific Peoples
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Dear Minister

2025/26 Estimates for Vote Pacific Peoples

The Social Services and Community Committee has been allocated responsibility for reviewing the 2025/26 Estimates of Appropriations for Vote Pacific Peoples. This letter explains the arrangements for our examination of these appropriations.

All committees have 10 weeks from Budget Day to examine the appropriations in the Vote and report to the House.

Hearing of evidence

We invite you to attend a hearing as the Minister responsible for appropriations in Vote Pacific Peoples. This hearing will be held during the designated Estimates scrutiny week on **Wednesday 18 June 2025, from 08.40am until 09.00am**, for 20 minutes.

The hearings will be in person at Parliament Buildings in Wellington, held in Select Committee Room 4 (Committee staff will be in touch if the location of the hearing changes due to scheduling reasons)

You are welcome to have officials with you. In line with Speaker's Ruling 140/4, please keep any introductory remarks very brief, so that the bulk of the time can be used for the committee's questions.

The hearing will be open to the public and the media, and will be livestreamed.

Supplementary written questions

Please find attached questions for written response, as previously sent to your office as pre-hearing written questions 1 to 84 (sent 23 April 2025). Please email the responses no later than **5.00pm on Wednesday, 11 June 2025** to the clerk of the committee at the email address below. Please also provide 10 hard copies for distribution with the committee.

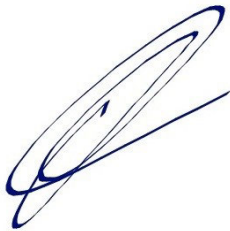
The attached Appendix provides guidance for the format of your reply. You may also receive further questions from us for written response before or after the hearing of evidence. The Clerk will send through any further questions for response.

Please note that responses to all committee written questions are considered evidence but remain confidential until the committee makes them publicly available, usually on the day of the hearing. Once made public by the committee, the responses will be published on the Parliament website.

Contact information

If you have any questions about the select committee Estimates process, please contact Jayden Blake, Clerk of the Committee, on (04) 817 9483 or email socialservices.community@parliament.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely



Joseph Mooney
Chairperson
Social Services and Community Committee

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Appendix

Requirements for documents provided to select committees

These requirements aim to help members navigate a large amount of information by ensuring it is provided in a consistent format.

Please note that these requirements apply to all Votes, and that the select committee secretariat may ask you to resubmit material if it does not follow the requirements below.

Cover sheet

- Include a cover sheet that makes clear the item of business you are submitting the information for (e.g. 2025/26 Estimates for Vote [name]), the questions answered in the document (e.g. Responses to written questions 1–122), and the date submitted to the committee.

Appendices

- Any appendices or additional documents must be combined in a single PDF, separate from your main set of answers.
- If this PDF contains more than one appendix or additional document, include a table of contents and clearly label the separate documents within it.

Document style

- Use a sans serif font (e.g. Arial). Such fonts are easier to read on screen.
- Use a plain white background.
- Include a header with the item of business you are submitting the information for (e.g. 2025/26 Estimates for Vote [name]).

Navigation aids

- Include a hyperlinked table of contents listing all questions individually at the start of your document.
- Ensure that all pages are correctly numbered.
- Where cross-referencing within a document or between your main set of answers and your appendices, please include page numbers.
- Ensure that URLs are hyperlinked.

Document format

- Do not embed files as objects in your main answers or your appendices.
- Format documents as PDF.

Briefing

Reference: B036-2024/25

Security level: In-confidence

2025/26 Estimates Examination: Vote Pacific Peoples' Standard Supplementary Estimates Questionnaire

Date	30 MAY 2025	For	Approval
To	Hon Dr Shane Reti, Minister for Pacific Peoples		

Ministry contacts

NAME	POSITION	TELEPHONE	1ST CONTACT
Lu Avia	Chief Advisor, Executive Office	s9(2)(a)	✓
Annalize Struwig	Director, Performance, Executive Office	s9(2)(a)	

Purpose

- This briefing provides draft responses to the Standard Supplementary Estimates Questionnaire (SSEQ) from the Social Services & Community Committee (SSCC), as part of the 2025/26 Estimates examination process for Vote Pacific Peoples.

Recommendations

- It is recommended that you:

- Approve and/or provide any feedback** on the attached responses to the Standard Supplementary Estimates Questionnaire. **YES / NO**

.....

Lu Avia | Chief Advisor
Ministry for Pacific Peoples
Date: 30 May 2025

.....

Hon Dr Shane Reti
Minister for Pacific Peoples
Date: _____

Background

3. You have confirmed your attendance at the 2025/26 Estimates Examination for Vote Pacific Peoples, from 8:40 to 9:00 AM on 18 June 2025. The hearing will be conducted by the Social Services & Community Committee (SSCC).
4. This examination is an opportunity for the SSCC to hear evidence, discuss your written responses and ask any questions regarding Vote Pacific Peoples.
5. You previously approved responses to the Finance and Expenditure Committee's Standard Estimates Questionnaire, which your office lodged on 23 May 2025 (B035-2024/25 refers).

Standard Supplementary Estimates Questionnaire

6. The Ministry has drafted responses to the 84 pre-hearing SSEQs, attached as Appendix 1, for your review and approval.
7. Any feedback you provide will be incorporated, and final responses will be submitted to your Office for lodgment with the SSCC secretariat by 5:00pm, 11 June 2025.

Additional Pre-Hearing Questions

8. Post-Budget, your office may receive additional pre-hearing questions. The Ministry will draft responses to any additional questions and submit them for your review and approval by 6 June 2025.

Hearing Preparation

9. The Ministry is working closely with your office to understand your information needs and support your preparation, including compiling a hearing pack and scheduling a preparatory session from 7:20 to 8:20 AM on 18 June 2025, immediately before the hearing.

Next steps

DATE	MILESTONE
30 May 2025	Draft responses to the SSCC SSEQ provided for your feedback and approval
10 June 2025	Finalised SSEQ responses and Hearing pack provided to your office
11 June 2025	Final SSEQ responses lodged with SSCC Secretariat
18 June 2025	Preparatory session with Ministry ELT (7:20 to 8:20 am)
18 June 2025	2025/26 Estimates hearing: Vote Pacific Peoples (8:40 to 9:00 am)



Appendix 1: Standard Supplementary Estimates Questionnaire

Attached separately.

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Memo

Reference: MM034-2024/25

Security level: In-confidence

2025/26 Estimates Examination: Vote Pacific Peoples' Information Hearing Pack

Date	10 JUNE 2025
To	Hon Dr Shane Reti, Minister for Pacific Peoples
From	Lu Avia, Chief Advisor, Executive Office

Purpose

1. This memo provides you with an information pack to support your preparation for the Vote Pacific Peoples' 2025/26 Estimates examination hearing on Wednesday, 18 June 2025.

Background

2. You have confirmed your attendance at the Estimates examination for Vote Pacific Peoples from 8:40 AM - 9:00 AM on Wednesday, 18 June 2025, in Select Committee Room 4.
3. This memo summarises preparations to date and provides an information pack to support your attendance at the examination.

Responses to pre-hearing written questions

4. To date, the Ministry has provided your office with:
 - responses to the Finance & Expenditure Committee's (FEC's) 26 pre-hearing standard Estimates questions (B035-2024/25 refers).
 - responses to the Social Services & Community Committee's (SSCC) 84 pre-hearing standard supplementary Estimates questions (B036-2024/25 refers).
5. Your office lodged these responses to the FEC on Friday, 23 May 2025.
6. The responses to the SSCC have been finalised in accordance with your feedback, and your office will submit the final responses to the Clerk of the SSCC on Wednesday, 11 June 2025.

Additional pre-hearing questions

7. On Wednesday 4 June 2025, your office received 52 additional questions from the SSCC following the announcement of Budget 2025.
8. Draft responses to these questions will be submitted to your office on Wednesday 11 June 2025 before being finalised for submission to the SSCC on Friday 13 June 2025.

Information Hearing Pack and Preparatory Session

9. The information pack (enclosed) contains proposed opening remarks and information on potential matters the SSCC members may want to discuss at the hearing.
10. A preparatory session with the Ministry's Executive Leadership Team has also been scheduled from 7:20 AM to 8:20 AM on Wednesday, 18 June 2025, at your Office (room 5.1). The Estimates hearing will commence shortly after, at 8:40 AM in Select Committee Room 4.

Next steps

11. The Ministry will continue to work closely with your office to support your preparation for the Estimates hearing.
12. Key milestones towards the hearing on Wednesday 18 June 2025 are:

DATE	MILESTONE/ DUE DATE
10 June 2025	Estimates Hearing pack provided to your office.
	Final SSEQ responses provided to your office for lodgement with the SSCC Secretariat (including 10 physical copies for the committee).
11 June 2025	Draft responses to additional 52 post -budget questions submitted to your office.
13 June 2025	Final responses to additional 52 post-budget questions to be lodged by your office with the SSCC Secretariat.
18 June 2025 (7:20 AM to 8:20 AM)	Preparatory session with Ministry ELT.
18 June 2025 (8:40 AM to 9:00 AM)	2025/26 Estimates hearing: Vote Pacific Peoples.

Ministry contact: Lu Avia, Chief Advisor, Executive Office – s9(2)(a)

Appendix 1: Information Hearing Pack

Enclosed separately.

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Minister for Pacific Peoples Hearing Information Pack

Vote Pacific Peoples Estimates examination 2025/26

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Proposed Opening Remarks

Tēnā koutou and warm greetings Committee Chair and members.

I am joined by officials from the Ministry, including the Secretary for Pacific Peoples, Gerardine Clifford-Lidstone, and her team.

As Minister for Pacific Peoples, I welcome the opportunity to present Vote Pacific Peoples for the 2025/26 financial year.

The Ministry for Pacific Peoples continues to play a vital role in ensuring Pacific communities are not only heard but empowered to thrive across New Zealand.

Over the past year, the Ministry has delivered tangible outcomes in housing, health, education, employment, economic growth and Pacific language revitalisation.

Notably, 22 more houses have been built for Pacific families, and just under 600 Pacific households have received critical interventions to support healthier housing.

A further 300 Pacific peoples participated in financial capability training after the programme was extended and, of these, over 120 have progressed to home ownership as a result.

These are real bricks-and-mortar programmes that improve lives, provide the tools to build intergenerational wealth, and lift health outcomes.

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The Ministry's new Strategic Intentions 2025 to 2029 set a clear course for the future – one that is outcomes-focused, with a strengthened monitoring framework to track progress and impact.

Over the next four years, the Ministry will build on the progress they have made, focusing on improving outcomes in education, employment, business, housing, and health, while also preserving and promoting Pacific languages, cultures, and identities. I am confident that the Ministry's focus on robust evidence, strong partnerships, and community-led solutions will drive meaningful progress.

Budget 2025 reflects the Government's focus on fiscal discipline and effective public services. The Ministry has contributed \$9 million in annual cost savings from some programme funding, while maintaining delivery in key areas. I am confident that with clear direction and focus on efficiency, the Ministry can continue to deliver on its core purpose.

New funding of \$1 million over four years is allocated to support Pacific Wardens, who are often the bridge between communities and support services.

Pacific Wardens are well-placed to work with community Police to de-escalate conflict, deter crime and guide young people towards safer choices.

This practical investment will go directly towards volunteer training and coordination, uniforms and transport.

I look forward to seeing the real, tangible difference this investment will make for communities in Auckland.

Thank you for your time and consideration for Vote Pacific Peoples spending in the financial year ahead.

I welcome questions and comments from the Committee.

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Key messages and FAQs

Vote Pacific Peoples – Budget 2025

Summary

- Budget 2025 supports the Ministry to operate efficiently and effectively on its core purpose – to provide quality advice and deliver initiatives that improve outcomes for Pacific communities in New Zealand.
- The majority of the Ministry's work remains unchanged. The focus remains on delivering for Pacific communities across the priority areas of housing, education, health, economic growth, law and order, and Pacific languages.
- Funding is confirmed for the Ministry to continue its core roles of policy advice, data and insights, and community partnerships and engagement at the same level as in the last financial year.
- Budget 2025 also confirms continued funding for most existing initiatives, including Pacific Languages revitalisation, Toloa scholarships and community funding, and Housing initiatives such as the Our Whare Our Fare and the Pacific Financial Capability Fund.
- The Ministry will take on responsibility for funding Pacific Wardens, a network of dedicated volunteers who help to keep our communities safer, our young people supported, and our neighbourhoods connected.
- The Ministry was asked to streamline some grant and programme funding to drive greater efficiency and effectiveness across initiatives.
- Vote Pacific Peoples has been reduced by \$9 million per year due to the scaling down of Tupu Aotearoa by \$5.5 million and the closure of the Taupō Business Fund, at \$3.5 million.
- In future years, the Dawn Raids work programme funding will cease – this is a reduction of \$840,000 (\$420,00 per year in 2027/28 and in 2028/29).

2025/26 funding breakdown

- Total baseline funding for Vote Pacific Peoples in 2025/26 is \$82.9 million.
- The breakdown of Vote Pacific Peoples is:

	Budget Category	Amount	Budget Sub-Category	Amount
1.	Departmental Capital	\$127,000	N/A	-
2.	Departmental	\$28.4 million	N/A	-
3.	Non-departmental expenditure	\$54.4 million, comprising:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Policing - Pacific Wardens 	\$250,000
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotions - Business Development 	\$6.3 million
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills, Training and Employment 	\$6.4 million
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study and Training Awards for Business Development 	\$1.2 million
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Pacific Families 	\$40.3 million

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Reductions to programme and grant funding

Tupu Aotearoa: What is the future of this training programme now it has been scaled back?

- In 2025/26, funding for Tupu Aotearoa has been reduced from \$10.75 million to \$5.25 million.
- For the next year, the Ministry will continue Tupu Aotearoa in support of Pacific peoples finding sustainable employment and undertaking further training to increase their skills and qualifications.
- At the same time, the Ministry will work closely with the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) and the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) to streamline the delivery and funding of education and training services across government agencies.
- The Ministry's focus is on enabling others to carry the work forward, backed by strong foundations and relationships it has built with Pacific community providers.
- The Ministry is working with Tupu Aotearoa community providers on the operational implications of the funding reduction and future transfer of the remaining funding outside of the Pacific Peoples portfolio.

Tauola Business Fund: What support is available for Pacific businesses now the fund is closed?

- The Government remains committed to supporting Pacific businesses to grow, innovate and create jobs.
- In Budget 2025, the Ministry's total annual funding to support Pacific economic growth is \$6.3 million. This is a reduction of \$4.9 million from the previous year.
- The Ministry is working with the Pacific Business Trust and Pacific Business Village providers to ensure the Pacific business sector continues to be supported with year-round guidance and mentoring services.
- Prior to Budget decisions, the Ministry was already undertaking a review of the Tauola Business Fund to gather Pacific businesses' feedback. These insights will help determine how the sector could be best supported in the future.

- This month, the Ministry is meeting with Pacific Business Village providers and the Pacific Business Trust to discuss its ongoing commitment to supporting Pacific business growth within a streamlined funding approach.

Dawn Raids: What will be delivered over the next two years before the funding ceases?

- The Dawn Raids work programme remains a priority for the Ministry and will continue over the next two years.
- Full funding of \$420,000 per year has been allocated to complete the programme in 2025/26 and 2026/27. In 2027/28 and 2028/29, \$420,000 per year will be returned.
- Since the Government's formal apology for the Dawn Raids, the Ministry has delivered the Teu le Vā Dawn Raids History Community Fund and completed Vaka of Stories Stage 1.
- The Teu le Vā Dawn Raids History Community fund supported 43 community-led projects across oral and written history, visual arts, performance, and other creative mediums — all telling the stories of the Dawn Raids.
- In its first stage, the Vaka of Stories made 'vaka stops' across the motu, during which Pacific communities shared their stories and experiences of the Dawn Raids.
- Preparatory work has also been undertaken for Vaka of Stories Stage 2, a full history publication, a community stories publication, and the development of a teaching resource.
- Two years is sufficient time for the Ministry to complete the deliverables that were promised to Pacific communities, including:
 - Vaka of Stories – a collection of lived experiences from those impacted by the Dawn Raids.
 - Teaching resources – to embed this history into education.
 - Community Stories Reports - to share Pacific peoples lived experiences gathered by the Vaka of Stories with the wider community and provide a valuable resource for teaching purposes.

- A full historical publication – documenting the events, impacts, and community responses.
- The Ministry is working closely with the Dawn Raids Historical Account Community Steering Group to guide this work.
- The Ministry's focus is on ensuring this work is meaningful, community-led, and leaves a legacy of education, healing, and acknowledgement.

Cross-agency work

- As part of the Dawn Raids Historical Account Package, the Ministry for Culture and Heritage has developed a digital hub that brings together personal stories, historical context, and teaching resources to support learning and talanoa.
- The Ministry for Pacific Peoples works with the Ministry for Culture and Heritage, including preparing contributions to the website.
- Creative New Zealand, using funding from the Ministry for Culture and Heritage, has provided the Niu Dawn Raids Grants, which have funded a broad range of cultural groups.
- The Ministry of Education's Tūlī takes Flight scholarships were announced in 2021 and have continued each year since.
- The Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade announced the He Manawa Tītī scholarships in 2021. They have involved ongoing engagement with scholarship holders from Pacific Island nations.

The Ministry's role and operations

Support for Pacific peoples: Is the Ministry adequately funded to carry out its role?

- The Ministry must operate in line with the Government's Budget 2025 decisions and policy direction.

- Reductions in Budget 2025 will not impact the Ministry's core operations – there is no immediate impact on the Ministry's structure.
- The 2025/26 total baseline funding for Vote Pacific Peoples is \$82.9 million.
- Budget 2025 confirms funding for the Ministry to continue its core roles of policy advice, data and insights, and community partnerships and engagement at the same level as in the last financial year.
- Funding is also confirmed for existing initiatives, including Pacific Languages funding, Toloa scholarships and community funding, and Housing initiatives such as continuing to deliver affordable houses for Pacific families, the Pacific Financial Capability Fund and Pacific media funding.
- The Ministry's focus remains on delivering tangible outcomes for Pacific communities across the priority areas of housing, education, health, economic growth, law and order, and Pacific languages.

Budget events: Why didn't the Ministry host Budget breakfasts this year?

- Budget 2025 reflects a steady and deliberate approach to economic and fiscal management. This approach needs to be reflected in all our decisions, including how we communicate budget-related matters.
- The Ministry took a considered and cost-effective approach, using its well-established relationships and communications channels to help communities understand Budget 2025 decisions.
- Targeted engagements have been undertaken with providers where changes have a direct impact on initiatives – for example, with Tupu Aotearoa and Pacific Business Village providers.
- The Ministry continues to engage with communities as part of its core role, ensuring that it stays connected and responsive to the evolving needs of Pacific peoples across the country.

Accountability: How effective are the Ministry's accountability and reporting mechanisms for contracted services?

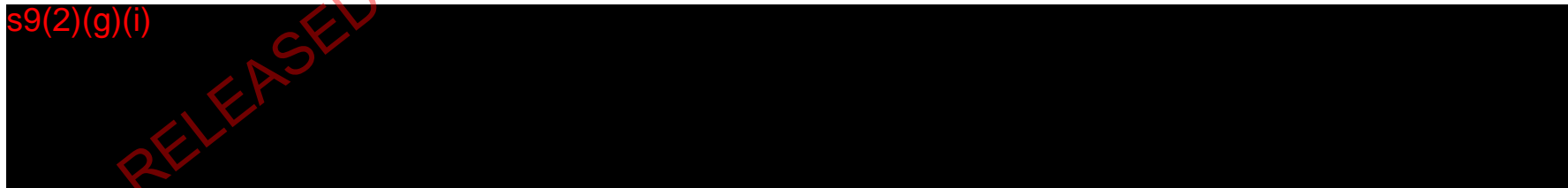
- The Ministry retains full responsibility for reporting to Parliament on all outcomes funded under the Vote, ensuring value for money and a clear line of accountability.
- Based on robust contracts, contracted services are monitored through regular reporting cycles, and engagement mechanisms that ensure delivery against agreed outcomes.
- Through formal governance structures and strategic relationships, the Ministry maintains oversight of outcomes delivered by agencies and entities it partners with.
- Outcomes achieved are captured and reported through the Ministry's Annual Reports and are subject to regular Parliamentary scrutiny, including Select Committee processes.

Pacific Peoples portfolio priority areas

Updated Strategy: What are the priorities for the Pacific Peoples portfolio over the next year? Will Pacific communities get a say?

- I approved the Ministry's Strategic Intentions for the period March 2025 to June 2029. This supersedes the previous strategic intentions to better reflect current government priorities.
- The Pacific Peoples portfolio is grounded in a strong foundation shaped by years of direct engagement with Pacific communities on the issues that matter most to them.

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Economic growth: How is the Pacific Peoples portfolio contributing to economic growth?

- Economic growth is a key focus for the Government, and the Ministry remains committed to supporting Pacific businesses to grow, innovate and create jobs.
- Pacific businesses are still able to access year-round advice and support, including mentoring, access to networks, and business capability services - despite the closure of the Tauola Business Fund
- \$6.3 million in funding per year remains to support and strengthen the Pacific business sector through the Pacific Business Trust.
- The Ministry is working with the Pacific Business Trust and the Pacific Business Village Networks to better tailor and streamline the support available for Pacific businesses across the country.
- The Ministry is already undertaking a review of the Tauola Business Fund to gather Pacific businesses' feedback. These insights will help us determine how the sector could be best supported in the future.
- The Ministry is undertaking fono with Pacific Business Village providers and the Pacific Business Trust, to discuss its ongoing commitment to supporting Pacific business growth within a streamlined funding approach.

Law and order: how will the new funding be used to support Pacific Wardens?

- Through Budget 2025, the Government is investing \$1 million over four years – \$250,000 per year – to support the Auckland Pacific Wardens Trust.

- Wardens are often the bridge between communities and support services. They speak Pacific languages, understand the diverse Pacific cultures, and are well placed to de-escalate conflict, deter crime, and guide young people towards safer choices.
- This is a practical investment that will go directly toward volunteer training, uniforms, and transport.
- It also allows the Trust to establish a paid coordinator role and build stronger national governance – providing the stability and structure these groups need to grow.
- The Ministry will work with Auckland Pacific Wardens Trust to strengthen their operations and governance of Pacific Wardens around the country.

Housing: what is the focus for the Ministry's housing programmes in the coming year?

- The Ministry is working to increase the availability of affordable, quality homes for Pacific families through two key initiatives: Pacific Building Affordable Homes and Our Whare Our Fare.
- Through these programmes, more Pacific families will have the opportunity to own their own homes and build long-term financial stability.
- The Ministry funds financial education and mentoring through the Pacific Financial Capability programme.

Pacific Financial Capability programme

- The Ministry partners with service providers to deliver financial capability training and mentorship for Pacific peoples across New Zealand, with a particular focus on preparing families for home ownership.
- This initiative strengthens their financial literacy and equips them with skills to manage their personal finances, helping them to save for homeownership.

- The Pacific Financial Capability Programme was initially funded with \$15.74 million from 2021/22 to 2023/24. Over this period, more than 3,500 Pacific peoples participated in financial capability training. Of these, 361 have gone on to purchase their own homes, and 36 have avoided losing their homes to mortgagee sales.
- A further \$7.91 million was re-prioritised in 2024 to extend the programme through to June 2028.
- For the 2024/25 year, the programme is tracking towards a further 494 participants to complete financial literacy training, and at least 174 should be in a position to achieve home ownership.
- The Ministry is on track to deliver on these outcomes with 315 participants having completed the financial literacy component and 163 participants progressing into home ownership so far in 2024/25.

Pacific Building Affordable Homes Fund

- The Pacific Building Affordable Homes Fund was supported by Budget 2020 investment of \$14.251 million over four years to increase Pacific home ownership by building affordable homes for eligible Pacific families.
- A total of 40 homes have been delivered to date for Pacific families to occupy in South Auckland, Waikato and Christchurch.
- All funding for this initiative is committed, and work continues to develop and deliver additional homes by the end of 2026.

Our Whare Our Fale

- Our Whare Our Fale aims to build up to 300 affordable, quality homes for Pacific families in Eastern Porirua by 2034.
- The programme is supported by a total investment of \$114.6 million to deliver up to 300 homes in partnership with Pacific provider, Central Pacific Collective, and Ngāti Toa.

- Of this, \$59.442 million was allocated across the 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years to support the development of the first 50 homes.
- Construction of the first 18 homes commenced in November 2024 and is expected to be completed by December 2025.
- Site preparation and construction for the next 32 homes is already underway.
- As part of this total investment, \$40.3 million has been confirmed through Budget 2025 to support continued delivery in 2025/26.
- An Executive Governance Group provides strategic oversight and includes representatives from the Ministry, Central Pacific Collective, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, Kāinga Ora, and The Treasury.

Health: Will the Pacific Healthy Homes initiative continue to support families?

- The Pacific Healthy Homes Initiative was established to explore how targeted housing interventions could improve the health of older Pacific peoples and their families.
- The initiative was initially funded for a year to test the model and understand the scale of need.
- It has been a huge success, and I am actively working with the Ministry to ensure the Pacific Healthy Homes initiative continues over the next year.
- With over 5,000 interventions delivered in just under 600 households, across South Auckland and Porirua, the initiative has showed strong results and high community need.
- An independent evaluation, due by late 2025, will assess the programme's outcomes and provide a strong evidence base for future funding proposals.
- The success of the Pacific Healthy Homes Initiative reinforces our commitment to Pacific health and wellbeing.

Education: what initiatives are in place to support young Pacific people to achieve in education?

- The Toloa programme continues to support young Pacific peoples to gain Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) skills, qualifications, experience and skilled employment, with \$1.2 million allocated in 2025/26.
- In 2025, 300 secondary students and 25 tertiary students received \$500,000 in scholarship funding, reinforcing the government's commitment to building strong education-to-employment pathways in technical industries.
- In addition, Toloa Community funding supports organisations and community groups to promote and deliver STEM activities to Pacific young people and their families.

Wider government education initiatives

- The Government's Budget 2025 announcement brings significant investment in education with a strong focus on Pacific learners from early childhood right through secondary school.
- A total of \$2.5 billion over four years has been committed to education, including the largest-ever increase in funding for learning support, benefiting learners with additional needs across New Zealand, including Pacific communities.
- \$297.7 million has been earmarked to strengthen the early learning sector and support children through their critical early years and into Year 1, laying a strong foundation for:
 - Pacific learners in Years 9 and 10 will receive targeted help to meet NCEA Co-requisites, with \$6.8 million redirected to deliver Homework and Tutoring Services so they have the tools to succeed.
 - Initiatives like Ka Ora, Ka Ako (school lunches), Ikura (free period products), structured literacy support, and expanded learning support continue to be funded.

- The Action Plan for Pacific Education, led by the Ministry of Education, is being refreshed with strong community input to ensure Pacific voices continue to shape an education system where learners are seen, valued and supported to thrive.

Pacific languages: how is the government continuing to support the preservation of these taonga?

- We know Pacific languages play an important role in strengthening a sense of identity, belonging, contributing to social cohesion in Pacific communities. This, in turn, increases people's confidence and achievement in education and working life.
- Budget 2025 allows the Ministry to maintain its Pacific languages work programme which includes:
 - 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 languages around the country.
 - Dates for Pacific Language Weeks during the next two calendar years have been announced, ensuring the timely availability of dates and resources online and for the information to be sent to key audiences such as local councils, educators and government agencies, in a timely manner
 - The Centre for Pacific Languages (CPL) – the Ministry funds CPL to deliver free language classes and ongoing support for language weeks.
 - Pacific Media Funding – supports the sustainability of Pacific language broadcasters to deliver Pacific language content.

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Other issues for Pacific communities

Unemployment: how is the government tackling the high rate of Pacific unemployment?

- In the latest Labour market statistics released by Stats NZ, Pacific unemployment has increased to 10.8 percent this quarter – more than double that of the national rate.
- The Ministry continues to work alongside other public sector agencies to support Pacific peoples into meaningful employment, self-employment, and enterprise through the Cross Agency Pacific Leaders Group Forum.
- In partnership with MBIE and The Treasury, the Ministry is advancing joint research to better understand how government investment can lift economic outcomes for Pacific communities.
- As they continue work with MSD and MBIE on Budget decisions related to Tupu Aotearoa, the Ministry is focused on ensuring continuity – building on trusted relationships with Pacific providers and the strong foundations laid to date.
- Through our partnership with the Pacific Business Trust, we are actively supporting job creation by enabling the growth of Pacific-owned businesses and enterprises.

Pay equity: how does the recent change in legislation impact Pacific peoples?

- The Ministry is monitoring developments around pay equity, particularly where there are impacts for Pacific women and communities it works with.
- Pacific women continue to face the largest pay gap in New Zealand – 24.6% overall, and 29.3% even in senior roles (Inland Revenue, 2024; AUT research).
- The gap reflects a wider pattern of occupational segregation, with Pacific women concentrated in lower-paid sectors like health, education, and retail.

- The Ministry continues to engage with other public sector agencies to advocate for Pacific community insights to be reflected in ongoing system settings and responses.

Social investment: what opportunities are there for providers working towards better outcomes for Pacific peoples?


- Social investment uses data, evidence and different ways of working to intervene early to achieve better outcomes for people, whānau, families and communities.
- The Ministry retains funding to continue work on building better quality data and insights on the needs of Pacific peoples in New Zealand across a range of measures.
- This closely ties with the aims of the social investment approach:
 - We know that Pacific communities continue to face disproportionate challenges in education, employment, housing and health.
 - Closely aligning data and evidence with the commissioning of services will have a direct impact on outcomes for Pacific children, young people and families in New Zealand.
- In May 2025, the Government announced new funding of \$275 million over four years for Vote Social Investment, and the establishment of the Social Investment Fund, which will initially be administered by the Social Investment Agency.
- The Social Investment Fund will invest in highly effective early intervention services that enable children, young people, and families to achieve a range of outcomes.
- The Fund will open for proposals at the end of August 2025, and again in November 2025.





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Sponsorship: Are you supporting Polyfest in this year's Budget?




- The Government has consistently supported Polyfest over the years, through various agencies and initiatives, and remains committed to supporting it in the coming year.
- The Ministry is working closely with the Polyfest Trust to explore broader income streams and partnerships to ensure long-term sustainability.
- From 1 June 2025, the Ministry has allocated an extra \$20,000 for the Trust to develop a comprehensive fundraising and sponsorship strategy aimed at increasing stakeholder investment.
- The Ministry maintains a close relationship with the Polyfest Trust and has historically allocated funding on an annual basis.
- In 2024, the Ministry entered a multi-year contract with Polyfest to provide sponsorship for 2024 and 2025. This year's sponsorship was \$60,000.
- Further decisions on sponsorship for the 2026 event are an operational matter for the Ministry, in coordination with Polyfest Trust.

Social Services and Community Select Committee members


	Joseph Mooney, Chair National Party, MP for Southland	A former lawyer and youth advocate, Joseph Mooney grew up in Hawke's Bay and overcame early hardship to earn a law degree with Honours. He has served as a Crown prosecutor, volunteer firefighter, and army reservist. Elected in 2020, he now chairs the Social Services and Community Committee and is known for his focus on regional development and social equity.
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	<p>Paulo Garcia, Deputy Chair</p> <p>National Party, MP for New Lynn</p>	<p>The first MP of Filipino descent in New Zealand, Paulo Garcia is a lawyer with a background in commercial and immigration law. He previously served as honorary consul of the Philippines and is a strong advocate for multiculturalism and migrant communities.</p>
	<p>Willie Jackson, Member</p> <p>Labour Party, List MP</p>	<p>A veteran broadcaster, unionist, and Māori leader, Willie Jackson has held several ministerial roles including Māori Development and Broadcasting. He is a passionate advocate for Māori rights, employment, and social development.</p>
	<p>Takutai Tarsh Kemp, Member</p> <p>Te Pāti Māori, MP for Tāmaki Makaurau</p>	<p>A community leader and ONZM recipient, Kemp has led youth mental health initiatives and served as CEO of Manurewa Marae. She brings deep experience in Māori health, education, and community development.</p>
	<p>Laura McClure, Member</p> <p>ACT Party, List MP</p>	<p>A former pharmacy technician and fire safety consultant, McClure entered politics to advocate for small business, mental health, and regulatory reform. She is known for her practical, community-focused approach.</p>

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	<p>Ricardo Menéndez March, Member</p> <p>Green Party, List MP</p>	<p>Originally from Mexico, Menéndez March is a former migrant rights advocate and coordinator of Auckland Action Against Poverty. He champions social justice, housing reform, and inclusive policy-making.</p>
	<p>Maureen Pugh, Member</p> <p>National Party, MP for West Coast Tasman</p>	<p>A former mayor of Westland, Pugh has extensive experience in local government and rural advocacy. She currently serves as Assistant Speaker and is committed to regional development and community wellbeing.</p>
	<p>Tanya Unkovich, Member</p> <p>NZ First Party, List MP</p>	<p>A life and business coach, author, and former accountant, Unkovich brings a diverse professional background to Parliament. She is passionate about mental health, resilience, and personal development.</p>

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	<p>Helen White, Member</p> <p>Labour Party, MP for Mt Albert</p>	<p>An employment lawyer and long-time Auckland resident, White succeeded Jacinda Ardern in the Mt Albert electorate. She focuses on workers' rights, family violence prevention, and community services.</p>
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