

The Ministry for Pacific Peoples

Long-term Insights Briefing

Improving Pacific data equity: Opportunities to enhance the future of Pacific wellbeing

Mālo ni, Fakaalofa lahi atu, Kia orāna, Tālofa lava, Mālō e lelei, Tālofa, Ni sa bula vinaka, Noa'ia, Mauri, and warm Pacific greetings to you all.

The Ministry for Pacific Peoples is the voice of Pacific peoples in government, and our voice comes from our Pacific communities. Our role is to improve Pacific outcomes by working alongside our communities to achieve their vision of a thriving, resilient and prosperous Pacific Aotearoa. We do this by building relationships, knowledge and expertise to better connect Pacific peoples and government.

The Long-term Insights Briefing (LTIB) is a new government requirement under the Public Service Act 2020. It requires agencies and government departments to think about issues in the medium to long term future, and examine future trends, risks and opportunities that could affect Aotearoa New Zealand.



Have Your Say

In November 2021, we publicly consulted on the LTIB topic: Improving Pacific data equity: Opportunities to enhance the future of Pacific wellbeing. Since then, we have prepared a briefing on this topic and now share it with you to hear your views.

The data used in government is mainly collected through the national census, government surveys, administrative data, and government research.

In government, data is used to inform decision making including what public goods and services to invest in, policy making, programme interventions and future planning. While it is a critical resource in informing government decisions, there are issues with the way data about Pacific communities is collected, analysed, used, and produced which has led to persistent inequities for Pacific peoples.

This briefing examines how government's past and present data systems have led to inequities for Pacific peoples. Some of these issues include the lack of Pacific worldviews in data design, an undercount of Pacific peoples in official statistics, and an underrepresentation of Pacific data professionals. What we have heard is that these inequities mean that the stories the data tells does not represent the realities experienced by Pacific peoples.

Pacific data equity is therefore about ensuring that the definition of Pacific data and its collection, analysis, interpretation, and presentation of information and narratives about Pacific peoples accurately reflects them and their experiences. Importantly, this briefing identifies some critical steps that can be taken to achieve data equity for Pacific peoples to enhance the future wellbeing of our communities.

We consider that to achieve data equity for Pacific peoples and to enhance the wellbeing of our communities we need to focus on:

- Collaborating and partnering with Pacific peoples and communities,
- An all-of-government approach to collecting, processing, analysing and interpreting data on Pacific peoples, and
- Having the right accountability settings in place to ensure Pacific data equity is realised.

We invite you to have your say to inform the final briefing. We would like to know:

- Has this paper helped you understand the issues that exist for Pacific data within government data systems? If not, tell us why not.
- Do you think this paper identifies the right issues and opportunities to create change for Pacific data equity in government and support Pacific wellbeing in future?
- Aside from the focus areas we have identified, what else do you think would support Pacific data equity?
- What do you think are the issues that will impact Pacific data in the future?
- Do you have any further comments you would like to share?

There is more than one way you can give feedback:

- we have a **feedback form available on our website** to have your say directly and confidentially
- you can also email us: **ltib@mpp.govt.nz** or
- post to **the Ministry for Pacific Peoples PO BOX 833 Wellington 6140 New Zealand.**

If you would like to be involved in stakeholder engagements e.g. talanoa, one-to-one discussions, please reach out to us at: ltib@mpp.govt.nz. The closing date for feedback is Sunday 11 December 2022.