

Terms of Reference

Pacific Reset Group

1 Background

The Pacific Reset Group (PRG) arose in response to the view expressed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs in early 2018 about the need to “reset” the relationship between New Zealand and its neighbouring countries in the Pacific region.

This view was reinforced during the Prime Minister’s Pacific Mission in March 2018. Community and business representatives on the Mission took the opportunity during that time to explore how they might contribute to, support and give effect to the reset. Representatives identified that the key factor in a successful relationship reset was the need to recalibrate the perceived imbalance in the relationship, and strengthen the value to New Zealand of a reset relationship.

In particular, those representatives saw a first-time opportunity for the establishment of a strong communication channel between the Minister, Under Secretary and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and those from the Pacific diaspora in New Zealand in the form of a group of advisors comprised of a number of the Mission community and business representatives. This group is an informal, self-selecting ‘ginger group’, intended to provide valuable input to the Pacific reset programme to be implemented by the Ministry, and in itself is an example of what one aspect of a reset relationship between New Zealand and the Pacific can look like in practice.

2 Purpose of the group

The overall purpose of the PRG is to support and strengthen the New Zealand government Pacific reset programme in the following ways:

- (a) Provision of a source of independent advice to the Minister, Under Secretary and Ministry of Foreign Affairs in respect of New Zealand government foreign

policy and development actions in the Pacific region undertaken in the Pacific reset programme; and

- (b) Proactive identification of initiatives and representatives (in Pacific and New Zealand-wide communities, business, academic, civil society) that could inform, complement and leverage the New Zealand government Pacific reset programme; and
- (c) Inform, facilitate and support the coordination of Pacific reset programme actions that increase New Zealand's understanding and valuing of the contribution of the Pacific region (countries, people, initiatives) to New Zealand

3 Expectations of PRG members

Members are expected to:

- commit to the intent and values of the Pacific Reset programme
- uphold the integrity of the PRG
- value and respect individual and Ministry opinions
- respect the need for confidentiality
- share ownership of the advice of the PRG
- respond to requests for advice, support and assistance
- declare any conflicts of interest
- acknowledge that the PRG is an advisory group and that advice provided is not binding on the Ministry

4 Expectations of Government

Government, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are expected to:

- commit to the intent and values of the Pacific Reset programme
- value and respect the purpose of the PRG
- provide guidance, strategic advice and information on the Pacific Reset programme that will support and enhance the contribution of the PRG
- follow through and report back on agreed actions

- involve senior decision-making capability in the Pacific Reset Programme and interactions with the PRG

5 Membership of the PRG

The initial membership of the group comprises community and business representatives from the 2018 Prime Minister's Pacific Mission as well as members of the Massey University Centre for Defence and Security Studies led 'Reset Group'. It is an informal self-selecting group of people with a shared vision and a determination to keep the Pacific Reset momentum going.

Members bring a range of skills and experience in matters relevant to the relationship between New Zealand and the Pacific region, including development, foreign policy, security issues, Pacific diaspora, Pacific ethnic-specific community leadership, Maori business and leadership, youth, health.

Members bring their perspectives as informed individuals, and where authorised, as representatives of specified groups, communities or organisations. The intention is that the membership of the group remain fluid, to enable it to usefully respond to the Pacific Reset programme. Depending on the task or workstream, the Group or individual members will bring other experts or representatives to meetings as/if required; and MFAT or the Minister or Under Secretary may request others to attend. Any member of the group might decide that their membership should be transferred to someone else. If this were to occur, consensus of the Group is required and MFAT officials shall be consulted.

Membership of the group is not binding and individual members reserve the right to take a different position from the group on individual matters.

6 Operation of the PRG

The “coordinator” of the Group shall be the Council for International Development (CID).

The Group will meet at least quarterly at an agreed venue, date and time.

Costs for the Group will be borne by the Ministry including:

- Return flights to meetings
- Expenses associated with meetings such as parking, taxis
- A minimal meeting fee (in line with Ministry policy)