

12 June 2023

Jason Toby

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Mālō e lelei Jason

RESPONSE TO AN OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

On 28 April 2023, you contacted the Ministry for Pacific Peoples (the Ministry) requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), information relating to Tupu Aotearoa providers in the South Island. On 26 May 2023, a Notification of Decision was sent to you advising of the Ministry's decision to grant your request but that we needed more time to prepare the response for release. I have outlined your specific requests and my responses to each below.

1. *Can I please have the number of people who successfully completed each stage of the Tupu Aotearoa programme in Te Wai Pounamu/the South Island organised by year and by provider for the life of the programme?*
2. *Can you please also include the funding each provider received per year for this?*

The Tupu Aotearoa programme is a key intervention to effectively assist Pacific peoples, to achieve sustainable employment and/or undertake further training to increase their skills and qualifications. Tupu Aotearoa aims to support Pacific peoples identified as Not in Employment, Education, or Training (NEET) into further employment, education, and training. The Tupu Aotearoa programme has multiple milestones to support the client in their employment and/or training journey.

Stages of support

Providers work with Pacific NEET clients through a needs and skills assessment as part of determining their eligibility to participate in the programme. Once in the programme, clients are supported to prepare for work and/or training through various mechanisms such as putting in place a personal development plan, developing a CV, getting a driver's license, and completing a basic computer course.

After completion of the work readiness stage, the client can be placed into a work experience opportunity before entering employment or an education pathway relevant to their personal development plan. Once the client is placed into employment and/or training, the provider gives further pastoral support for 12 months.

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Tupu Aotearoa support in the South Island

In Budget 2019, the Ministry received funding to expand the Tupu Aotearoa Metro (Metro) regions for Pacific people aged 15-29 years into the wider Auckland, Wellington, and Canterbury regions. In 2019, the Tupu Aotearoa programme was launched in the South Island with the Oamaru Pacific Island Community Group Inc and Pacific Trust Otago. Currently, the South Island has four Tupu Aotearoa providers: Oamaru Pacific Island Community Group Inc, Pacific Trust Otago, Literacy Aotearoa (Canterbury and Timaru), and Marlborough Pacific Trust.

I have appended to this letter a table that provides an aggregated breakdown of each of the milestones achieved for the South Island Tupu Aotearoa programme and funding received by each provider since its establishment (refer **Appendix 1**). It is important to note that providers work with clients over a 12-to-24 month period and outcomes may be awarded in the following financial year.

The average cost per Tupu Aotearoa participant ranges from \$1,069 to \$6,610 per annum. This is comparable to other government programmes for NEET clients.

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.

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.

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Tuaopepe Abba Fidow
Deputy Secretary,
Service Delivery

Appendix 1: Tupu Aotearoa programme in the South Island

	2019/2020		2020/2021					2021/2022 ¹				2022/2023 ⁴			
Milestones	Oamaru Pacific Island Community Group Inc	Pacific Trust Otago	Oamaru Pacific Island Community Group Inc	Pacific Trust Otago	Fale Pasifika	Literacy Aotearoa (Marlborough)	Community Colleges	Oamaru Pacific Island Community Group Inc	Pacific Trust Otago	Literacy Aotearoa (Canterbury/ Marlborough)	Community Colleges	Oamaru Pacific Island Community Group Inc	Pacific Trust Otago	Literacy Aotearoa (Canterbury/Timaru)	Marlborough Pacific Trust
Participations	7	10	31	70	1	5	7	10	29	24	16	4	32	65	14
Work readiness completions	6	7	26	55	N/A	4	6	17 ¹	19	19	12	2	25	22	N/A
Total placed in employment	N/A	1	2	20	N/A	N/A	N/A	3	12	N/A	6	N/A	8	5	2
Placed into work experience	N/A	N/A	2	2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	2	N/A
Continuous employment (6 months)	N/A	N/A	N/A	8	N/A	N/A	N/A	3	10	N/A	N/A	N/A	3	N/A	N/A
Continuous employment (12 months)	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	10	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Training placement (31 days)	0	N/A	8	15	N/A	N/A	N/A	3	14	2	N/A	N/A	4	1	N/A
Training study completion (Qualification certificate levels 1-7)	N/A	N/A	7	7	N/A	N/A	N/A	3	1	N/A	N/A	1	5	N/A	N/A
Total payment (excl. GST)^{2, 3}	\$21,384.78	\$56,383.71	\$70,439.00	\$180,758.00	\$750.00	\$11,695.00	\$21,189.00	\$41,132.19	\$142,730.00	\$146,642.00	\$28,832.00	\$26,440.69	\$77,179.23	\$69,545.87	\$22,068.00

Notes:

- Oamaru Pacific Island Community Group Inc achieved more completions than participations in 2021/22. For clients that require support for 12-24 months, this can result in achievements being recorded in the following financial year.
- The total payments paid reflect actual milestones achieved and payments to the provider.
- Funding for providers includes a component for uplifting their back-office functions and wider capabilities. This may result in some variations in total funding amounts between smaller and more established providers.
- Data for the 2022/2023 financial year is provisional and will be finalised in December 2023 following an annual evaluation of the programme.