

# Pasifika Education Plan 2009–2012

**Vision:** *The education system must work for Pasifika so they gain the knowledge and skills necessary to do well for themselves, their communities, Aotearoa New Zealand, the Pacific region and the world.*

## Foreword

*Talofa lava, Mālō e lelei, Kia orana,  
Talofa ni, Fakaalofa lahi atu, Ni sa bula  
vinaka and warm Pasifika greetings to  
you all.*

It is our pleasure to present the *Pasifika Education Plan 2009–2012*.

The Government is aware of the enormous impact that education has on a child's life. That is why we are committed to ensuring Aotearoa New Zealand has a world-leading education system – from early childhood through to tertiary education.

While New Zealand's education system measures up well internationally, Pasifika students need to be achieving better outcomes. Lifting Pasifika educational achievement is a priority. This is vital to enhancing the overall reputation of our education system as well as improving our country's productivity and economy.

The Government's priorities for Pasifika

education are the focus of the goals and actions in the *Pasifika Education Plan*.

We want everyone in the education sector to concentrate on what will make the most difference: building strong learning foundations, lifting Pasifika literacy and numeracy and increasing the number of Pasifika students achieving school-level qualifications.

Improvements to the education system will come from Government initiatives which include lifting participation in high-quality and culturally responsive early childhood education, *National Standards* on literacy and numeracy, plain language reporting to parents, ongoing investment in professional leadership and increasing youth engagement through policies such as *Youth Guarantee*.

We all have a responsibility to ensure successful outcomes. Attitudes and expectations across the education system need to change if this is to happen.

Students, families, communities, early childhood centres, teachers, principals, schools, board of trustees, tertiary education organisations, the education sector agencies and Government, must all contribute to ensure success. Pasifika education is a shared responsibility.

The *Pasifika Education Plan* encourages personal responsibility, promotes collective accountability and emphasises the importance of urgently lifting Pasifika achievement. The Government has high aspirations for Pasifika students. We expect families, communities, schools and teachers to have the same high aspirations.

Pasifika students deserve the opportunity to live a full and rewarding life with improved social and economic outcomes. The Government is committed to a change for the better and we look forward to working with everyone to ensure this happens.

## Message from the Secretary for Education

*Talofa lava, Mālō e lelei, Kia orana, Talofa ni, Fakaalofa lahi atu, Ni sa bula vinaka and warm Pasifika greetings to you all.*

Aotearoa New Zealand's education system must provide every young New Zealander with the skills, knowledge and qualifications to succeed in a rapidly changing world. This includes an education system that embraces the cultural needs of Pasifika students and enables them to reach their full potential.

The Government has outlined its priority outcomes for Pasifika education and the Ministry will concentrate its work on those areas that will make the greatest difference. Targeted action is needed if Pasifika students are to receive a high-quality education and achieve good outcomes, from early childhood through to tertiary education.

International and local evidence provides the basis for the goals and

targets in the *Pasifika Education Plan 2009–2012*. This will guide the actions for the changes needed. Evidence shows participation in high-quality early childhood education provides the foundation skills to succeed at school and in life. By realising this vital first step, further progress can be made across the education system:

- » parents being involved in their children's education;
- » effective teaching focused on achievement;
- » Pasifika students achieving school-level qualifications; and
- » Pasifika students completing their tertiary education qualifications.

Everyone involved in the education sector needs to accept responsibility for improving the education system. The Ministry of Education is working with the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs, the Education Review Office, the New Zealand Qualifications Authority, Tertiary Education

Commission, New Zealand Teachers Council and Career Services to accelerate and sustain Pasifika education achievement. The Ministry's Pasifika Advisory Group and regional reference groups are working with Pasifika families to support their children's education.

By working together we can all be part of a future where Pasifika are enjoying educational success. Every young Pasifika student can be, and deserves to be, part of this achievement. Only then can we say that we are on the way to realising the vision expressed in the *Pasifika Education Plan*:

*The education system must work for Pasifika so they gain the knowledge and skills necessary to do well for themselves, their communities, Aotearoa New Zealand, the Pacific region and the world.*

**Karen Sewell**  
Secretary for Education





# Early childhood education

The focus is on building a strong foundation for learning.

## Goals

- 1 Increase Pasifika children's access to, and participation, in early childhood education (ECE) that prepares them well for school.
- 2 Increase the quality of ECE experiences for Pasifika children.
- 3 Increase effective engagement of Pasifika parents in early learning and in ECE services in ways that are effective for children's learning and ways that are responsive to parents' and children's cultures and languages.

## Targets

- » The number of Pasifika children aged two to four enrolled in licensed early childhood education by 2012 will be 2,000 higher than at 1 July 2008 (9,103).
- » Increase the number of Pasifika children accessing early intervention services, by 10 percent by 2012 (currently 739 children) and ensure interventions happen on average three months earlier in their lives.
- » Increase by 400 the number of Pasifika ECE teachers that are registered by 2012 (from 808 in 2008 to 1208 in 2012) to achieve the same level of registration as non-Pasifika ECE teachers (estimated to be 73 percent).
- » Improve quality in Pasifika ECE services through regular review and reporting by the Education Review Office (ERO).

## Actions

The Ministry of Education will:

- » complete the *Participation Project* in Counties-Manukau by 2010 and move the programme to another area with a high Pasifika population by 2011;
- » use Government funded professional development to strengthen Pasifika ECE provision;
- » work with Pasifika communities in the regions to develop and broadcast key ECE messages;
- » consider alternative ways of providing ECE to Pasifika children;
- » increase teaching and learning support for Pasifika Early Childhood Playgroups;
- » ensure ECE links are built into literacy and numeracy professional development contracts for schools;
- » implement strategies to recruit and train more Pasifika teachers through TeachNZ;
- » focus other teacher supply initiatives on training and the retention of Pasifika teachers;
- » work with other agencies to trial and develop more integrated services for families in communities with high Pasifika populations;
- » trial parent mentoring playgroups in Pasifika communities with an emphasis on improving literacy and numeracy skills;
- » promote assistance for Pasifika families who are least active in ECE and schools to encourage better engagement and transition from ECE to schools.

And:

- » the Education Review Office will promote its reports on ECE quality to Pasifika communities; and
- » the Ministry of Health will work to ensure *B4 School Checks* effectively involve Pasifika families.



# Compulsory education

The focus is on accelerating literacy and numeracy achievement and gaining secondary-level qualifications.

## Goals

- 4 Ensure Pasifika children and young people demonstrate improved progress and achievement in literacy and numeracy in relation to the *National Standards* (years 1-8), and improved achievement in NCEA levels 1, 2 and 3 and University Entrance.
- 5 Increase the quality of teaching and school leadership by increasing responsiveness to Pasifika learners and families.
- 6 Increase effective engagement between Pasifika parents, families and teachers and schools focused on learning.

## Targets

- » From baseline data, set targets for an annual increase in the number of Pasifika students meeting *National Standards* in schools.
- » Increase the proportion of Pasifika school leavers achieving NCEA level 1 literacy and numeracy requirements from 84 percent in 2008, to 93 percent by 2012.
- » Increase the number of registered Pasifika teachers by 20 percent more by 2012 (from 1,267 in 2008 to 1,520 in 2012).
- » At least half of schools demonstrate improved effectiveness for Pasifika students in the ERO's pilot 2008/09 national evaluation, since their previous review.
- » Increase the proportion of Pasifika students leaving school with at least NCEA level 2 or equivalent, from 63 percent in 2008, to 75 percent by the end of 2012.
- » Increase Pasifika students leaving school with a university entrance standard from 23 percent in 2008 to 30 percent by the end of 2012.
- » Reduce the Pasifika school suspension rate of 7.2 suspensions per 1,000 students in 2008, by 20 percent by 2012.
- » Reduce the Pasifika expulsion rate of five per 1,000 students in 2008, to one per 1,000 students in 2012.
- » The proportion of Pasifika trustees on a school Board of Trustees (BoT) should be at least the same as the proportion of Pasifika students of that school.

## Actions

The Ministry of Education will:

- » support schools to prioritise identifying and improving literacy and numeracy achievement by the end of the first year at school;
- » support schools to implement the *National Standards* from 2010 with professional development and resources;
- » increase its commitment and focus on Pasifika students to *Reading Recovery* from 2009 to 2011;
- » develop Pasifika language guidelines and resources for schools to help language and cultural learning;
- » support secondary schools to implement the *New Zealand Curriculum* (NZC) to ensure NCEA achievement is aligned to NZC outcomes;
- » review effective teaching and professional development for Pasifika learners;
- » help teachers become familiar with Pasifika cultural backgrounds and aspirations;
- » continue using the evidence from *Schooling Improvement* research to strengthen existing programmes (data analysis, building capability);
- » support schools and BoT with high numbers of Pasifika students on planning and reporting to set targets focused on raising Pasifika student achievement;
- » tailor BoT training and support delivery according to identified need/risk;
- » work with schools so that the Pasifika expulsion rate is 2/1,000 or less by 2012;
- » use engagement initiatives such as the *Pasifika School Community Liaison Projects* to engage with parents, schools and communities.

And:

- » the Education Review Office (with schools and the Ministry) will provide progress reports on Pasifika presence, participation and achievement;
- » Career Services and the New Zealand Qualifications Authority will support schools to assist learners and families make good decisions about learning pathways and NCEA subjects;
- » the New Zealand Teachers Council will review the *Satisfactory Dimensions* to influence effective teaching for Pasifika learners.



# Tertiary education

The focus is enabling Pasifika people and in particular young Pasifika students to participate and attain higher levels of tertiary education.

## Goals

- 7 Increase the first-year retention rate for Pasifika students aged 18 to 24 in qualifications at level four and above.
- 8 Increase the number of young Pasifika people achieving level four and above qualifications by age 25.
- 9 Increase English literacy, numeracy and language levels for the Pasifika workforce.

## Targets

- » Increase the first-year retention rate for Pasifika students aged 18 to 24 in qualifications at level four and above, from 70 percent of those first enrolled in 2007 to 75 percent of those first enrolled in 2011.
- » Increase participation rates for Pasifika people aged 18 to 24 at levels four and above, from 21 percent in 2008 to 27 percent in 2012.
- » *Youth Guarantee* targets for Pasifika peoples to be developed once a base line is established later in 2009.
- » Increase the five year completion rates for Pasifika people aged 18 to 24, in qualifications at levels four and above from 37 percent of those first enrolled in 2004 to 43 percent of those first enrolled in 2008.
- » Increase participation and completion in advanced level trade, technical and professional qualifications.
- » Increase the post graduate level participation rate for Pasifika learners to the same level as non-Pasifika learners, estimated to be 1.0 percent by 2012.
- » Increase the participation rate of Pasifika people in the workforce in quality training focused on lifting literacy, language and numeracy skills.

## Actions

The Ministry of Education will:

- » work with education providers to ensure the *Youth Guarantee* targets Pasifika students.

And the Tertiary Education Commission will:

- » work with tertiary education organisations and Pasifika communities to increase participation in higher level trade, technical and professional qualifications;
- » work with tertiary education organisations to provide appropriate support systems;
- » work with industry training organisations and schools to promote *Modern Apprenticeships*;
- » work with tertiary education organisations to increase the number of Pasifika students completing their qualifications and progressing onto higher levels; and
- » work to ensure the *Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan* has a priority focus on areas with a significant Pasifika workforce.



# Education sector-wide

The focus is strong monitoring using research, evidence, evaluation and data to drive sustained progress and change on Pasifika Education Plan.

The Ministry will collaborate with government agencies to identify quickly on what works for Pasifika students, families and communities in New Zealand and the Pacific region.

## Goals

- 10 Ministry staff continue to develop its understanding of Pasifika and the evidence about what works for Pasifika in education.
- 11 The Ministry strengthens relationships with other agencies and organisations to develop closer collaboration on Pasifika education within New Zealand and across the Pacific region.

## Actions

The Ministry of Education will:

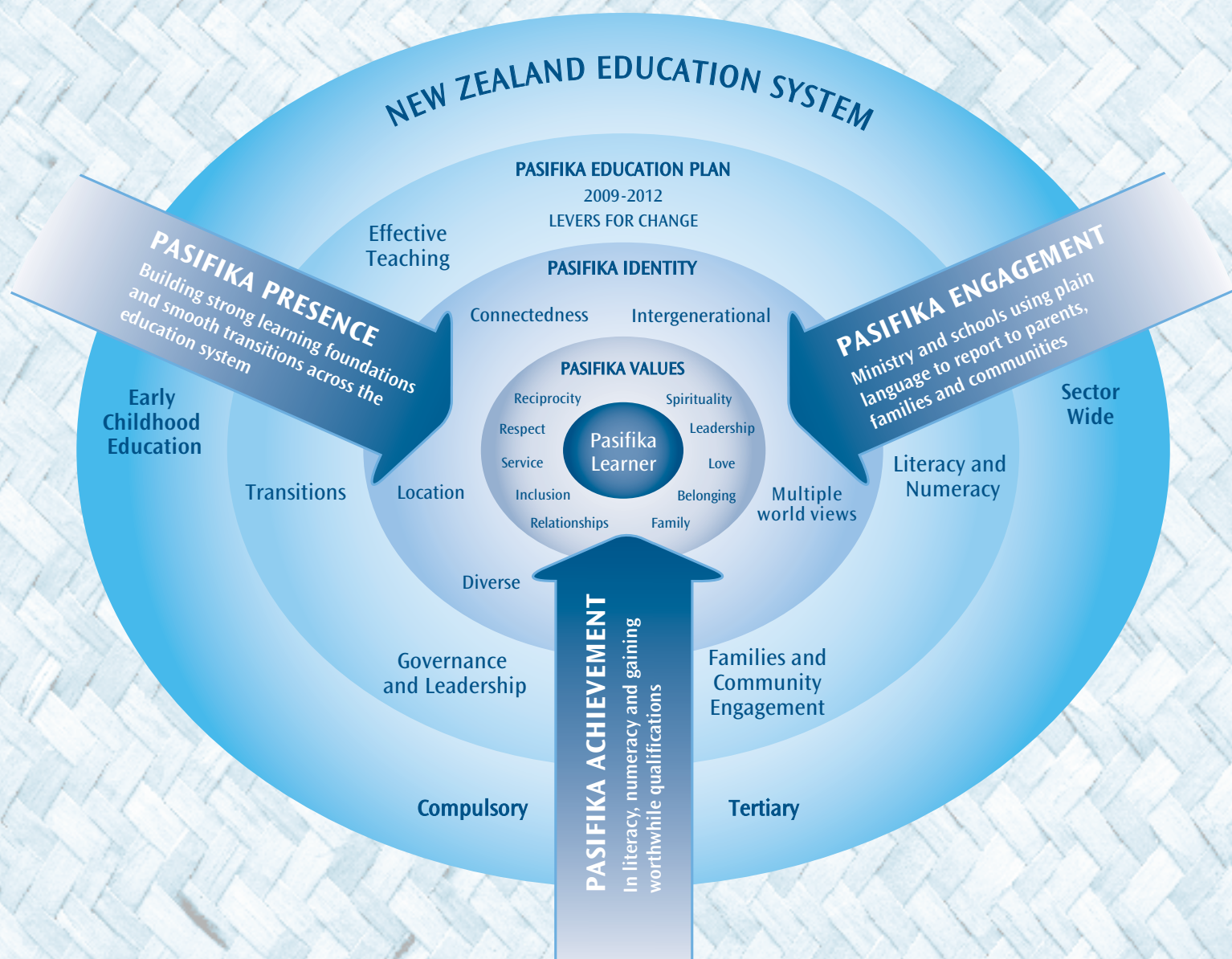
- » build the capability of its staff to lead change for Pasifika success;
- » work with other agencies to engage with Pasifika through fono, and other opportunities to create more understanding of Pasifika perspectives and aspirations, leadership and workforce development;
- » produce an annual public report summarising the education system's performance against the Pasifika Education Plan, including monitoring data and best practice evidence about what is effective in achieving changes;
- » work with other government agencies, local council and Pasifika communities to develop, implement and report on the Auckland Pasifika Strategy and develop action plans that have a specific focus on other areas with high Pasifika populations;
- » use business planning and performance management systems to increase Ministry responsiveness and accountability;
- » work with other organisations to develop Pasifika research capacity and increase available research;
- » work with the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs to build strategic links regarding other Pasifika strategies (e.g. the Pasifika Languages Strategy); and
- » finalise a strategic framework for responding across the Pacific region.



# Compass for Pasifika success

Ensuring Pasifika students and young people are present, engaged and achieving is a shared responsibility.

Pasifika people have multiple world views and diverse cultural identities. They are able to operate and negotiate successfully through spiritual, social, political, cultural and economic worlds. Success in education requires harnessing Pasifika diversity within an enabling education system that works for young people, their families and communities. This requires the education system, leadership, and curricula to start with the Pasifika learner at the centre, drawing on strong cultures, identities and languages.





# Ministry of Education Statement

## Priority Outcomes 2009-2014

### Priority Outcome 1

Every child has the opportunity to participate in high-quality early childhood education.

### Priority Outcome 2

Every child achieves literacy and numeracy levels that enable their success.

### Priority Outcome 3

Every young person has the skills and qualifications to contribute to their and New Zealand's future.

### Priority Outcome 4

Relevant and efficient tertiary education provision that meets student and labour market needs.

### Priority Outcome 5

Māori enjoying education success as Māori.

### Priority Outcome 6

The Ministry is capable, efficient and responsive to achieve education priorities.

Details for Pasifika in Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are drawn out in the *Pasifika Education Plan 2009-2012*

## Government Agency Contacts



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### Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs

[www.minpac.govt.nz](http://www.minpac.govt.nz)



### Career Services

[www.careers.govt.nz](http://www.careers.govt.nz)



### Education Review Office

[www.ero.govt.nz](http://www.ero.govt.nz)



### New Zealand Qualifications Authority

[www.nzqa.govt.nz](http://www.nzqa.govt.nz)



### New Zealand Teachers Council

[www.teacherscouncil.govt.nz](http://www.teacherscouncil.govt.nz)



### Tertiary Education Commission

[www.tec.govt.nz](http://www.tec.govt.nz)