

# Briefing report

## Education Review Office (ERO): Current Provision of Pacific Bilingual Education

Date	25 July 2019
Security Level	N/A
ERO Priority	Low
ERO Reference	M19-27
Date requested	ERO initiated
Date due	ERO initiated
Proactive release	Recommended

<b>Addressee</b>	<b>Action sought</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
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**Associate  
Minister of  
Education**

It is recommended that you:

- a) **note** the attached ERO report: *Current provision of Pacific Bilingual Education*
- b) **note** the attached two page summary
- c) **note** ERO intends to release this report on its website in August 2019
- d) **note** a copy of this briefing and report will be shared with Minister Hipkins
- e) **note** the report will be proactively shared with the 22 schools that have Pacific bilingual and/or immersion education programmes
- f) **note** the final report will be sent to your office once published.



Attachments:

**Education Review Office (ERO):  
Current provision of Pacific  
Bilingual Education**



Comments:

### Minister's Office to complete

Noted

Seen

Approved

Referred to:

Date signed by Minister:

Our Ref: M19-27

25 July 2019

**Hon Jenny Salesa**  
**Associate Minister of Education**

## **Education Review Office (ERO): Current provision of Pacific Bilingual Education**

### **Purpose**

- 1) This paper provides you with information about ERO's report on the current provision of Pacific bilingual education in New Zealand.

### **Background**

- 2) ERO was contracted by the Ministry of Education to investigate the current state of Pacific bilingual education programmes in New Zealand: their philosophy, curriculum, teaching, assessment and transition practices, the tracking of learners' pathways and outcomes, and the support they receive.
- 3) In this report, ERO collected data via briefings with schools and an online survey. Twenty-two of the 30 surveyed schools clearly identified that they currently provide Pacific bilingual and/or immersion education, overwhelmingly in Samoan. Other schools stated that they offered Pacific languages as a subject – learning the language, rather than in learning *in* the language.

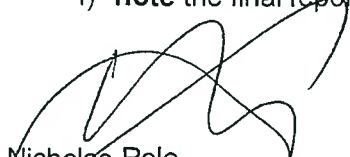
### **ERO's 'state of play' report**

- 4) The use of Pacific languages within New Zealand schools to enhance language learning and educational achievement of Pacific learners is still not well understood, despite important and ongoing research and professional development initiatives.
- 5) The 22 surveyed schools expressed a general philosophy about the importance of Pacific languages, culture and identity but were less likely to have developed an approach focused on the objectives of bilingual education, informed by research and best practice.
- 6) Approximately 35 percent of the 5,455 Pacific learners in the 22 schools were enrolled in Pacific bilingual and/or immersion education programmes. These programmes were somewhat idiosyncratic. They were developed locally and resourced out of schools' baseline funding. They did not receive additional funding for the development of resources.


- 7) Support for learners' to transition in and out of bilingual and/or immersion education varied, and there is an overall challenge of identifying and accessing meaningful bilingual education pathways in senior secondary schools and beyond.
- 8) The variation in these schools' assessment practices and the lack of age-appropriate assessment tools for learners in Pacific bilingual and/or immersion education was a specific area of concern.
- 9) There is an opportunity for the general coordination of Pacific bilingual education programmes, and for schools to collaborate and support each other with a broader consistent approach in the provision of bilingual education.
- 10) The arguments for improving access to curriculum learning in Pacific languages as a matter of equity, and to maintain and enhance the health of Pacific languages, are compelling.

### Recommendation

- 11) It is recommended that you:
  - a) **note** the attached report: *Current provision of Pacific Bilingual Education* **noted**
  - b) **note** the attached two page summary **noted**
  - c) **note** ERO intends to release this report on its website in August 2019 **noted**
  - d) **note** a copy of this briefing and report will be shared with Minister Hipkins **noted**
  - e) **note** the report will be proactively shared with the 22 schools that have Pacific bilingual and/or immersion education programmes **noted**
  - f) **note** the final report will be sent to your office once published **noted**

  
 Nicholas Pole  
 Chief Review Officer

NOTED/APPROVED

  
 Hon Jenny Salesa  
 Associate Minister of Education  
 30 / 7 / 19