



Oamaru Fono: Feedback Summary

"We like the Pacific Island language weeks - for some families it's the only time they feel acknowledged. We need to make sure it isn't tokenism."

Pacific adult

Are the proposed areas important?

- Overall the areas were important to most of the groups and community present. They supported a focus on racism and discrimination, partnering with families, Pacific languages and growing Pacific teachers.
- The areas were important to the Oamaru youth group & the Tuvalu group.
- The Tongan language group were concerned particularly with racism and discrimination experiences and others recognise that being free from racism means Pacific students would feel 'more comfortable to learn'.

"We would love a Pacific Island liaison person. Someone who can give us the answers we need - or help us when communicating with family."

Pacific adult

Is there something missing? What would you change?

- Feedback from the communities in general was in favour of a Pacific liaison person to work between schools and parents
- The Tongan community wanted more of a focus on wellbeing, opportunities for tertiary study in Oamaru and more support, including free courses, community support workers and social worker support.
- Support for mental health
- Want more consideration of building cultural competency and cultural training for teachers
- A focus on leadership is needed
- Want to see specific actions from the Ministry for the Oamaru communities
- How to involve parents more- opportunities for families to help but noting that families are also working and busy but could have a Pacific Parents Association
- Have workshops that build understanding and relationships to end racism
- The Tongan language group wanted teachers to change their approach when engaging with Tongan families and are concerned about the immigration restrictions on Pacific students studying further.
- The Tongan language group would also like to see more Pacific teacher aides, scholarships and support for students with disabilities

What questions do you have?

- Can we find Pacific tutors who have expert knowledge?
- How will we upskill teachers/educators to do our best for our Pacific Island children?
- How are we going to achieve these changes? How do we make sure focusing on these areas has a positive effect on our lives?
- What are the chances anything will actually happen?
- Will you educate parents by showing them there are many more options than going to university?
- Are there any educational opportunities for students who are recent migrants from Tonga?
- Is there any follow-up after this talanoa for these points to be implemented to support my children?

What does success look like for you?

Top 3

Pacific families feel confident supporting their children in education

Pacific learners and their families feel accepted and included

Pacific learners and their families are free from racism and discrimination in education

Top 7

Pacific learners' faith and beliefs and culture are in education

Pacific learners have the skills to succeed in the workforce

Pacific learners can learn in their language through their education

There are no financial barriers to accessing education for Pacific learners and their families