



Porirua Fono: Feedback Summary

“The core values of the system that discriminates against our kids have been normalised by leadership in the sectors.”

Pacific adult

Are the proposed areas important?

- General support for the areas, including from Samoan language group of ECE teachers
- Concern about the difficulty of tackling racism and where to start. Some teachers felt that if they were to call out racism they would be frowned upon by school management.
- Support focus on Pacific languages and bilingualism, particularly because there is a gap between bilingual early learning and schooling
- Support for more Pacific teachers and leaders (particularly from young people). Young people noted their Samoan language class was stopping because the teacher is moving to another school.
- Acknowledge partnering with families requires a big shift in the system and schools need support and a framework to do this. Parents should be involved in the design of local curriculum but are not given opportunities.
- Some concern about positioning of realm countries as having special status and being prioritised over other groups
- Using ‘Pacific’ and ‘Pasifika’ hides the specific Pacific ethnicities and doesn’t reflect communities

“The system says to kids you are successful if you get NCEA level 2... My kids know their pepeha, that’s success. How do you tip it on its head so other measures of success underpin everything?”

Pacific adult

Is there something missing? What would you change?

- Missing hard actions and targets to achieve these
- Add another action point about the responsibility of white/Pākeha/palagi teachers to participate in and value Pacific cultures.
- Focus on teacher training and education, and workforce development and Tapasā
- Governance
- Don’t use Pacific as a short cut instead could say “ethnic cultures of the Pacific” but operationally recognise individual culture
- Need ethnicity data to show the imbalance of options provided or promoted to our Pacific kids
- Having a Pacific advocacy in schools, especially in secondary is important
- Students would like to see a careers day at every year level so they have lots of opportunities to connect with what they want to do
- Change wording to deliver support rather than target support and another suggestion that target support has negative connotations, so frame it as ‘maximise opportunities’
- Change wording to be “Broaden the education system’s definition of success” rather than “Change”
- Valuing Pacific cultures is a positive solution to eliminate racism
- Samoan language ECE teachers would like equal pay, better status and IELTS barrier addressed. They also emphasised importance of language and culture and want programmes for parents to help them support their children

What questions do you have?

- Questions about how to achieve these changes, what is the Ministry doing to achieve this?
- How do we look after our wellbeing when calling out racism and discrimination?
- Why are we not funding or resourcing Pacific bilingual education?
- How do we make these changes and focus areas personal and meaningful for all people, how do people see themselves in these?
- How do we bring about more Pacific teachers, i.e. IELTS requirements?
- How do you shift the minds of people who deny racism exists?
- How does the Pacific Education Plan align with the Ministry strategies?
- The Samoan language ECE’s do not use English, so why would we have English requirements?

What does success look like for you?

Top 4

Pacific learners and their families feel accepted and included

There is a strong relationship between Pacific families and places of education

Pacific learners can learn about their culture and heritage

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

Top 9

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

Pacific learners with disabilities achieve and make progress in education

Pacific learners’ faith and beliefs and culture are valued in education

Pacific learners’ names and pronouns are used correctly

Pacific learners can learn in their language through their education