

Request for Proposals

The impact of Tertiary Education Strategies on success for Pacific Learners

Specifications for Proposals

Context

Three Tertiary Education Strategies (and associated Statements of Tertiary Education Priorities) have been released by successive governments in New Zealand (2002-2007; 2007-2012 and 2010-2015). These have variously indicated governments' desire to improve the educational achievement for Pacific learners, yet overall participation and success rates for Pacific learners have improved only marginally over that time.

Ako Aotearoa is the National Centre for Tertiary Teaching Excellence. Our vision is the best possible educational outcomes for learners. Ako Aotearoa's Pacific Caucus has oversight of our strategic theme; *"Supporting Pacific Peoples' advancement through tertiary education."* The Caucus is looking to build a portfolio of strategic work that will enhance the success of Pacific learners in tertiary education.

The work

Ako Aotearoa's Pacific Caucus wish to commission a study on the impact of successive tertiary education strategies on how tertiary education institutions have developed their support for Pacific learners. Specifically, we seek to understand how the government strategy documents have influenced the strategic thinking of universities, institutes of technology and wānanga in respect to supporting Pacific learners' participation and success and what impact these institutional strategies have then had in terms of organisational change. We also seek to understand organisations' perceptions of how the TEC and other government agencies incentivised and supported these organisational changes.

We anticipate the initial work will involve two phases of data gathering:

- 1) a comprehensive desk review of charters, investment plans, annual reports and related documents across the TEIs identifying how institutions have responded at organisational level.
- 2) a series of informant interviews with senior managers in institutions responsible for Pacific learners about how institutional responses have changed over time.

Note that the work should be focussed at the organisational level. This project complements other work already in progress that is designed to identify exemplary practice in supporting Pacific learners and also work is being undertaken in the PTE sector.

The output will be a publishable report.

Related work that will inform this project

Ako Aotearoa is currently undertaking other collaborative work that will provide a statistical overview of Pacific success in tertiary education in comparison to other groups. This will be available as reference material for the successful project team.

The proposal

The proposal should contain the following:

- An outline project plan for the work, identifying key milestones
- Cost breakdowns against each milestone
- Details of strategies to ensure that the desk review is as comprehensive as possible and response rate targets are met
- Details of how key informants will be identified for the interview phase and how the desk research might inform the structure of those interviews
- An outline communications strategy for the project
- How any ethical considerations will be addressed
- Details of internal quality assurance processes to be employed by the contractor
- A capability profile of the organisation making the proposal, including short c.v.'s of those personnel who will undertake the work.
- Contact details of at least two referees who can comment on previously completed contracts.

Project oversight and selection process

The project will be managed by Ako Aotearoa, with a steering group comprising two Ako Aotearoa staff and two members of the Pacific Caucus.

Proposals will be reviewed by Ako Aotearoa and short-listed applicants will be asked to meet with the steering group who will make a final decision. Ako Aotearoa reserves the right not to accept any proposal should proposals be of insufficient quality.

Time-lines and indicative budget

Detailed time-lines for the work will be established by mutual agreement with the successful proposer, but it is expected that the work will start in November 2010 and be completed by the June 2011 at the latest.

It is presently envisaged that the cost of the work will be in the range \$50,000 - \$70,000 plus disbursements.

Additional information:

Information about Ako Aotearoa is on www.akoatearoa.ac.nz .

Address all queries and send proposals to:

Dr Kirsty Weir, Research Manager, Ako Aotearoa, P O Box 756, Wellington. E-mail:
K.Weir@massey.ac.nz

Answers to any queries will be posted on a Frequently Asked Questions document posted on the Ako Aotearoa web-site.

Closing date for proposals is:

5.00pm Friday 1 October 2010