



NEW ZEALAND

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MFAT Management Response to an Evaluation

## MFAT Management Response to (Pacific Pathways for Youth Equity)

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Evaluation Report Recommendation	MFAT Response and Action (Agree, Partially Agree, Reject)
<p><b>1. Consolidate depth before expansion.</b> Strengthen quality assurance, institutional capacity, MEL systems, and cost realism in Tonga and Solomon Islands before extending geographically. Model realistic cohort growth scenarios and ensure staffing for MEL and pastoral care grows proportionally. Embed sustainable financing mechanisms and keep delivery affordable for governments.</p>	<p><b>Agree:</b> MFAT endorses this recommendation and supports focusing on consolidating programme quality and system readiness in existing PYEEEE countries before any expansion.</p>
<p><b>2. Phase scale cautiously.</b> Adopt a staged approach to scaling by first consolidating in current countries, then selectively expanding to other Pacific contexts, and later to wider regional rollout. Disaggregate unit costs by pathway and support type to inform scale-up choices. Aligns with MFAT's "fewer, deeper" investment principle.</p>	<p><b>Agree:</b> MFAT endorses this recommendation and, where it funds a second phase of the Activity, will support SPC to take a meaningful, considered, measured, and tailored approach to any expansion.</p>
<p><b>3. Diversify pathways strategically.</b> Expand into sectors where youth interest and market demand converge such as agriculture, carpentry, and possibly digital skills. Be guided by labour market analysis and employer perception surveys with chambers and business groups. Use findings to strengthen relevance and inform microfinance or entrepreneurship pathways.</p>	<p><b>Agree:</b> MFAT endorses this recommendation and will monitor this approach throughout the remainder of implementation of PYEEEE and consider the findings of scoping reports in any future phase.</p>
<p><b>4. Prioritise rural and outer island expansion.</b> Design delivery models that reach beyond capitals using adapted modular training, mobile trainers, and partnerships with RTCs. Emphasise rural-relevant pathways and cost-sharing with local institutions.</p>	<p><b>Agree:</b> MFAT endorses this recommendation and notes these as important considerations for any future phase.</p>

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<p>5. <b>Safeguard equity at scale.</b> Retain core supports as non-negotiables. Ring-fence funding for these low-cost, high-impact services and formalise entry options for young mothers and caregivers. Develop a formal Inclusion Strategy with partnerships (e.g., OPDs), accessibility audits, and disaggregated reporting by gender, disability, province, and caregiving status.</p>	<p><b>Agree:</b> MFAT endorses this recommendation. Core programme support and the ongoing development of location-specific inclusion approaches for each project site, are important elements for effective delivery in any future phase.</p>
<p>6. <b>Strengthen financing and ownership.</b> Support governments to tag, track, and progressively increase NEET-related allocations within national youth and skills budgets. Pilot cost-sharing arrangements that integrate stipends, subsidies, and pastoral care into government funding streams.</p>	<p><b>Agree:</b> MFAT acknowledges the intent of this recommendation and note this is a role for National Ministries of Youth in partnership with other relevant government Ministries and stakeholders.</p>
<p>7. <b>Invest in MEL, knowledge, and advocacy.</b> Allocate dedicated MEL and communications staff per country to enhance data credibility and produce studies on employment, self-employment, and system outcomes. Continue producing compelling case studies and videos to humanise impact and support advocacy. Facilitate exchanges between Tonga and Solomon Islands to share learning.</p>	<p><b>Agree:</b> MFAT endorses this recommendation and notes it currently funds a MEL resource for the project. Future phases will ensure sustainable approaches for Monitoring Evaluation and Learning and Communication have been adequately considered.</p>

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<p><b>8. Continue to ensure accountability and evidence-based adaptation.</b> Establish formal national and regional feedback loops linking youth, employers, training institutions, and governments. Capture governance lessons and cohort data systematically to support adaptive management and policy learning. For example, a short “post-cohort reflection” or “youth exit survey” shared with TWG/NSC meetings to review what worked. Hold annual national “learning and reflection” workshops co-chaired by the ministry, TVET partners, and youth reps.</p>	<p><b>Agree:</b> MFAT endorses this recommendation and recognises the importance of structured learning and feedback mechanisms to support continuous improvement and informed decision-making.</p>
<p><b>9. Integrate with MFAT and other initiatives.</b> Explore the opportunity to deepen linkages with bilateral TVET, education, and labour mobility investments. Embed PYEEEP’s proven innovations within these programs to create synergies and reduce duplication.</p>	<p><b>Agree:</b> MFAT endorses this recommendation and notes the importance of aligning this Activity with other MFAT led initiatives at country and regional levels.</p>
<p><b>10. Explore alignment with (do not over-pivot toward) labour mobility frameworks.</b> Align with PACER Plus and regional TVET standards to enhance portability and recognition of qualifications, while ensuring PYEEEP continues to strengthen domestic employment pathways.</p>	<p><b>Agree:</b> MFAT endorses this recommendation and recognises the importance of coordination to ensure MFAT-supported initiatives are aligned and do not undermine each other.</p>
<p><b>11. Leverage technology cautiously.</b> Use digital platforms for outreach, micro-credentials, and peer networks, particularly for remote youth, while maintaining offline delivery as the backbone given persistent connectivity barriers</p>	<p><b>Agree:</b> MFAT endorses this recommendation and will continue to encourage coherence across the activities it supports, promoting complementarity, collaboration, and appropriate leveraging of technology where this adds value.</p>

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<p><b>12. Clarify governance and accountability.</b> Define clear roles and light-touch performance tracking for National Steering Committees and Technical Working Groups. Address allowance practices that affect quorum and ensure governance bodies remain functional and focused on oversight, not incentives.</p>	<p><b>Agree:</b> MFAT endorses this recommendation and acknowledges the importance of fit for purpose governance structures and sustainable arrangements that support effective government engagement over time.</p>
<p><b>13. Strengthen safeguarding and infrastructure standards.</b> Develop and enforce minimum standards and annual operational risk checklists for residential and training facilities, covering safety, plumbing, and safeguarding. Maintain contingency funding for emergencies to protect program continuity and participant welfare.</p>	<p><b>Agree:</b> MFAT endorses this recommendation and recognises its alignment with MFAT’s safeguarding, health, and safety policies.</p>