

18 March 2022

Personal details removed for
proactive release

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I refer to your email of 21 February 2022 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

How much tax payers money has the nz govt paid or loaned (repayments expected) to Pacifica rugby? Nz currently has a dearth of labour, NO taxpayer money should be wasted on extravagances like cash grants to professional rugby players.

Under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's (MFAT's) Pacific Sports Diplomacy strategy, as well as in support of its international development programme, MFAT has provided the following funding (in NZ\$ and excluding GST) to programmes that advance Pacifica rugby:

- \$100,000 in 2017 for a feasibility study assessing the commercial and high performance viability of Pacific Island rugby teams entering the Super Rugby competition.
- \$962,608 for the Pacific Rugby Opportunities Programme, which provided financial literacy and management education for players and families, completed in 2021.
- \$60,000 in 2021 to prepare a business case for the Fijian Drua rugby team's entry into the Super Rugby tournament.
- \$85,000 in 2021 to prepare a business case for the Moana Pasifika rugby team's entry into the Super Rugby tournament.
- \$250,000 in 2021 to support the establishment of the Moana Pasifika, Super Rugby team.
- \$7,665 in 2021 for a Junior Rugby Development Programme in Vanuatu.

Following a Vote funding transfer from MFAT to Sport NZ, Sport NZ has provided the following funding to Pacifica rugby:

- \$4 million to underwrite Moana Pasifika Limited for four years, made up of an initial grant of up to \$1 million with no requirement to repay, and a \$3 million loan facility.
- \$500,000 operating grant for the Moana Pasifika Charitable Trust.

Please note that we may publish this letter (with your personal details redacted) on the Ministry's website.

If you have any questions about this decision, you can contact us by email at: DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision by contacting www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Julie-Anne Lee', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Julie-Anne Lee
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade