

# Success Story: Pasifika Early Literacy Project

**Primary investigator and Project lead:** Dr. Rae Si'ilata  
**Sector:** Developed and funded by the Ministry of Education  
**SDG link:** Goal 4 Quality Education



The Pasifika Early Literacy Project is led by Dr. Rae Si'ilata of the University of Auckland, a professional learning and development initiative with the Ministry of Education which distributes dual-language books in five Pacific languages and supports teachers with their implementation in English-medium primary classrooms.

The dual-language books, aimed at Years 1 and 2 children, are available in Gagana Samoa/Samoan, Gagana Tokelau/Tokelauan, 'Lea Faka Tonga/Tongan, Te reo Māori Kuki Airani/Cook Islands Māori and Vagahau Niue/Niuean languages, along with the English text. The books serve as catalysts for teachers to engage in culturally sustaining pedagogies and biliteracy development with Pasifika children, their families, and communities, building on the linguistic and cultural resources and identities children bring to school.

Dr. Rae Si'ilata and the Ministry of Education were recognised for this work in the 2018 Sunpax Pacific Peoples Awards in the Pacific Education and Pacific Service Excellence categories.

## Contact

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