

Ngā reo maha, ngā reo rere: Shaping a Multilingual Auckland

Session Four: Auckland Languages Strategy Goal Actions

Session Four of the conference was an opportunity for participants to engage with the newly-launched Auckland Languages Strategy. Through a World Café style event, participants collaboratively recorded, collated and prioritised actions to achieve the goals of the strategy. Participants also had the opportunity to record their email address beside actions they particularly would like to be involved with.

Collated by Jeff Johnstone, Education Director, Asia New Zealand Foundation

Top 10 actions in order of prioritising votes:

#	Action	Support for this action	Number offering to be involved
1	Te reo Māori to be made compulsory from Y1-Y10 in all schools.	24	1
2	Develop and support an initiative to make NZSL more visible in public e.g. festivals, public events, publication and broadcasting etc...	23	5
3	Encourage business and public sector to recruit/employ multilingual people and use those skills	16	6
4	Advocate to government for a national languages policy (long term).	15	2
5	Have free ESOL provision available to new New Zealanders as soon as they arrive – not waiting 2 years until they get residency.	13	-
6	Highlight the socio-economic benefits of having Pacific Heritage languages and reward successful promotion of Pacific Heritage languages.	12	5
7	Encourage quality early language education from primary level. Recruit more language teachers to make structured language teaching possible.	11	2
8	Support languages across educational sectors, ideally strengthening languages to be offered in schools (If L1s are valued and supported in schools then students will be motivated to uptake L2s).	11	3
9	Auckland Council be asked to coordinate and fund the initial actions to get things going – COMET, Ethnic and Pacific Advisory Panels.... Establish an Auckland/Aotearoa Languages Council	10	5
10	Establish a NZ wide translation service and qualification system that is accepted and approved by all institutions and agencies.	9	2

All actions, by strategy question:

Goal 1: How can Auckland best acknowledge, promote and celebrate its languages?	Support for this action.	Number offering to be involved
Action 1: Everything we can to normalise the use of Auckland's languages in everyday lives – Network with organisations to bring a network database of Auckland language organisations and activities.	3	2
Action 2: Auckland Council be asked to coordinate and fund the initial actions to get things going – COMET, Ethnic and Pacific Advisory Panels.... Establish an Auckland/Aotearoa Languages Council	10	5
Action 3: Establish a NZ wide translation service and qualification system that is accepted and approved by all institutions and agencies.	9	2
Action 4: Develop a young people's engagement strategy for Auckland.	6	2
Action 5: Develop and implement a media/multimedia multilingual strategy and briefing campaign.	3	-
Action 6: Establish Auckland language ambassadors through the Auckland Council initially drawing on ethnic communities.	4	1

Goal 2: How can te reo Māori be strengthened and used more widely in Auckland?	Support for this action.	Number offering to be involved
Action 1: Begin/embed a 'kiaoracations' campaign whereby this group lobbies local government and Crown agencies to all say 'kia ora' and 'ka kite' in all interactions.	5	1
Action 2: Make formalised and on-going connections between schools and marae to impart tribal local stories, te reo tikanga in to studies.	4	-
Action 3: Te reo Māori to be made compulsory from Y1-Y10 in all schools.	24	1
Action 4: As an official language of NZ, have all official government channels/media/speeches in te reo Māori (like Parliament TV).	7	2

Goal 3: How can we ensure all Aucklanders can communicate well in English?	Support for this action.	Number offering to be involved
Action 1: Require employers to have ESOL/Literacy provision for their migrant workers (who are now New Zealanders)	4	
Action 2: Incentives for new New Zealanders to upskill in English and for New Zealanders to upskill in literacy.	3	
Action 3: Have free ESOL provision available to new New Zealanders as soon as they arrive – not waiting 2 years until they get residency.	13	
Action 4: Make information on how to access ESOL provision available in multiple languages both in New Zealand and prior to arrival (online).	5	
Action 5: Develop ‘non-text book’ programmes i.e. courses based on the needs of the learner – designed around their needs in English talking to teachers, doctors, shopping, joining the library etc...	4	

Goal 4: How can New Zealand Sign Language be more widely available and used in Auckland?	Support for this action.	Number offering to be involved
Action 1: Develop and support an initiative to make NZSL more visible in public e.g. festivals, public events, publication and broadcasting etc...	23	5
Action 2: Do a stocktake of existing language policies (e.g. te reo use policies) and use these to model NZSL usage policies.	5	3
Action 3: Encourage and support greater involvement and participation of Deaf people in mainstream council and governance boards (not just Disability related) to increase NZSL visibility and use.	3	1
Action 4: Making public information available in NZSL e.g. website, brochures, info...	7	2

Action 5: Look at supporting NZSL learning in Auckland (e.g. subsidised NZSL classes) including supporting public staff to learn it, possibly with a small financial incentive (and leaders).	6	
Action 6: Establish centralised funding for NZSL promotion and access, so that relevant departments can access funds for their NZSL initiatives (\$\$ encourages innovation too!)	2	

Goal 5: How can translation and interpreting services be more easily accessible in Auckland?	Support for this action.	Number offering to be involved
Action 1: Train more interpreters and translators at varying levels especially for minority languages.	8	3
Action 2: Professional levels of pay and recognition. Pay as professionals.	5	
Action 3: Inform and educate re: availability and access to interpreters (Auckland airport 080 number media promotion) when get visa – provide information. NZSTI – use them for database information.	2	2
Action 4: Define roles (and advertise these): interpreter; bilingual assistant; navigators; bicultural advisor; bicultural support person. All should have training/guidelines in respective areas.	4	2
Action 5: Train navigators, bicultural advisors, bicultural assistants, cross-lingual assistants and have a code of practice.	7	1
Action 6: Standardised certification for interpreters could be provided by Auckland Council.	3	1
Action 7: Institutions employ individuals with a range of cultural and linguistic backgrounds.	1	1
Action 8: Translate all official documents	1	
Action 9: Need more CABS	1	

Goal 6: How can we ensure Pacific languages flourish in Auckland?	Support for this action.	Number offering to be involved
Action 1: Engage with Church leaders that endorse the development and resource of pacific heritage languages.	1	
Action 2: Research the existing resources available for Pacific Heritage languages in the ECE, schooling, tertiary and community.	2	
Action 3: Identify from research the channels where information should flow e.g. Communications plan.	5	1
Action 4: Community voice to create demand of Pacific Heritage languages being taught/developed as a sustainable resource/tools.	5	2
Action 5: Identify the specific touchpoints linked to languages stocktake undertaken to build data for review.	4	2
Action 6: Highlight the socio-economic benefits of having Pacific Heritage languages and reward successful promotion of Pacific Heritage languages.	12	5
Action 7: Prioritise and support a Pacific Languages School for each language.	8	5

Goal 7: How can community and heritage languages in Auckland be best preserved?	Support for this action.	Number offering to be involved
Action 1: Connecting the different communities and support each other – transfer knowledge across communities (e.g. what has worked in one community that can work in another).	1	
Action 2: Support languages across educational sectors, ideally strengthening languages to be offered in schools (If L1s are valued and supported in schools then students will be motivated to uptake L2s).	11	3
Action 3: Support parents in understanding the importance of home/heritage languages and using those languages to support	6	3

learning other languages.		
Action 4: Collaboration across schools for efficient deliveries of languages e.g. clusters	3	2
Action 5: Developing cultural/language awareness on those in power (including Sign Language/Deaf Community)	1	2
Action 6: Incentivise businesses to have multilingual employees (similar to incentives for being eco-friendly) – celebrate best practice – endorsements top business for being multilingual.	2	

Goal 8: How can we increase the number of Aucklanders who have high level skills in a language suitable for trade, tourism and international relations?	Support for this action.	Number offering to be involved
Action 1: Encourage study abroad for academic credit through funding scholarships.	3	2
Action 2: National level more funding for language studies.	5	3
Action 3: As a society, we also need to acknowledge that many people already exist in Auckland with the requisite skills and look at how we can remove the barriers that prevent them from participating and to recruitment such that those with non-Anglo Saxon names have the same employment opportunities as those with (this is just an example of the said barriers)	4	2
Action 4: Encourage quality early language education from primary level. Recruit more language teachers to make structured language teaching possible.	11	2
Action 5: Language learning is not 'valued' – this needs to change in the 21 st century.	2	1
Action 6: Focus on language acquisition literature and linguistics for high level skills in a language suitable for trade, tourism...	5	1
Action 7: That Auckland Council be asked to fund the first year of strategy exploration and coordination through COMET for 1 year.	2	

Goal 9: How can sector specific plans for languages be best developed and implemented?	Support for this action.	Number offering to be involved
Action 1: Start with sector-specific needs analyses.	5	
Action 2: Collaborate with industry and trade associations to develop the plans.	2	1
Action 3: Encourage business and public sector to recruit/employ multilingual people and use those skills	16	6
Action 4: Umbrella organisation to connect plans and action across sectors.	1	
Action 5: Encourage language learning at schools, tertiary, community and employers.	3	

Goal 10: How could the establishment of an umbrella organisation for languages promote and progress languages nationally.	Support for this action.	Number offering to be involved
Action 1: Advocate to government for a national languages policy (long term).	15	2
Action 2: Promote the value of languages with the whole of the community	7	
Action 3: Advise sector-specific language inclusion of policy development and plans/delivery.	5	
Action 4: Provide a platform to share knowledge.	4	
Action 5: Define umbrella (working group, formal organisation etc...)	6	