

30.07.21

Kia orana, Talofa lava, and warm Pacific greetings Petitions Committee Members:

It feels very special for us to write to you today two days before the new date for the Dawn Raids apology. Reflecting back on what took place it was a deep privilege to present the petition we stewarded signed by 7366 people from across Aotearoa to Whaea Debbie Ngarewa-Packer MP (Te Pāti Māori).<sup>1</sup> Some of these people were whānau of those directly impacted, school and tertiary students, community advocates and activists, and people across many workplaces. Thank you Whaea Debbie for being the first MP to reply to our email inviting the five Parliamentary parties to come and meet with us as we presented the petition. Can we also please thank in the order they spoke, Anae Neru Leavasa MP (Labour), Teanau Tuiono MP (Greens), and Matt Doocey MP (National) for coming and sharing why they are in support of this petition being received and the apology. We also want to thank each of the parties for your major tautoko of the petition in the special debate being agreed to and this being held shortly, we hope that this can be a space to acknowledge and reflect on what happened during the 'Dawn Raids', also known in other circles as the 'Dog Raids,' and that there be no uncertainty from all MP's that this should never happen again. The tone and words being etched in to Hansard for us is deeply meaningful especially looking back at words said in the Chamber at that time. This is a moment of cleansing the peoples house and we are proud of this.

We wait with anticipation to hear what Government will say on Sunday. We know this will be a time of many different feelings for people in our Pacific communities, for many New Zealanders and people across the Pacific. Regardless of what is said we want to acknowledge how important culturally responsive trauma informed wellbeing spaces are, and that there is going to be a need for more of them as New Zealand is further called to unpack its colonial legacies with Pacific peoples including the horrific impacts on Barnaba

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/petitions/document/PET\\_111099/petition-of-josiah-tualamali-i-and-benji-timu-apologise](https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/petitions/document/PET_111099/petition-of-josiah-tualamali-i-and-benji-timu-apologise)

and the imbalance of the value of the Realm of New Zealand in all policies. One final hope from us is that the Government includes a financial legacy in trust, similar to the Chinese Poll Tax apology enabling some pūtea to be stewarded by the community to support more national education about this significant part of our history, and also to work to address some of the trauma and complications of what has happened. After all their advocacy we also think it is massively problematic if organisations like the Polynesian Panthers Clow which have led huge parts of the national education have to continue to rely on partial self-funding. A legacy fund should enable them to continue and deepen their mahi which is for the benefit and wellbeing of all New Zealanders.

To summarise, we ask that your committee please reflect on the outcomes of the Government's apology this weekend and if there is not a legacy fund to please raise this and test the Government's decision making in respect of what 7366 citizens of Aotearoa see is needed to resource Aotearoa having more complete histories and enabling continued healing.

Kia manuia, fa'afetai,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is 'Josiah Tualamali'i' and the signature on the right is 'Benji Timu'. Both are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Josiah Tualamali'i and Benji Timu