

2.05 THE NGEN ROOM PROJECT HE POUTAMA RANGATAHI APPLICATION

Cover sheet – PGF Skills & Employment (He Poutama Rangatahi)		For: Approve	
Tier:	1 - Regional	Sector:	Skills
Background & context:		Recommendation(s):	
<p>Applicant Organisation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> He Puna Marama Trust The Trust was established in 1997 to provide bilingual education to students and whanau. Its core services are in early childhood education and the secondary sector. <p>Location:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northland <p>Proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 12 month digital technology programme for 16-24 year old rangatahi who are NEET, that combines life skills, NCEA credits (level 1-3), and work experience. <p>Funding Sought: \$990,000 (over two years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total project value: \$^{Commercial Information} PGF Funding: \$990,000 Applicant contribution: \$^{Commercial Info} <p>Background:</p> <p>The NGEN Room is a 12 month digital technology programme for 16-24 year old rangatahi Māori who are not in education, employment or training (NEET). The programme will train 20 participants each year (40 over two years), equipping them with the life skills, entry level digital skills, and NCEA credits required to place them in employment or further training.</p> <p>This training programme is part of the broader NGEN Room Digital Hub project which aims to build the Māori digital industry in Northland while ensuring rangatahi are trained to participate and lead in the space. The Digital Hub will also house digitech entrepreneurs and provide business incubation and support services. The Trust has already established an InnoNative Business Base using this model. The goal of Digital Hub is “to establish a Māori Digitech cluster to identify and</p>		<p>We recommend that the SRO(s)</p> <p>a) Approve \$990,000 from the He Poutama Rangatahi portion of the Provincial Growth Fund towards the NGEN Room project.</p> <p>b) Note the applicant is contributing \$^{Commercial Info} to the project.</p> <p>c) Note the NGEN Room project will provide digital technology training, including NCEA credits, and pastoral support for 40 rangatahi who are NEET over two years.</p> <p>d) Note that ^{Comm} rangatahi are expected to go into employment or further training as a result of the programme.</p> <p>e) Note the applicant has a strong record of delivery with rangatahi NEET in Northland.</p> <p>f) Commercial Information</p>	

address barriers for Māori participation in the digital technology industry and leverage economic and work opportunities in the sector.”

The goal of this programme is to provide rangatahi who are NEET with the training, work experience and shift in attitude needed to participate in the digital sector. The Trust has a record of success working with a similar target group. The Trust runs Leadership Academy for 15-18 year old Māori boys who are struggling in the school system and are often from dysfunctional whanau. Around 80% of these young men have gone on to employment or further education or training.

This programme will be underpinned by the same kaupapa Māori philosophy as the Leadership Academy. Pastoral support, provided by a dedicated Pastoral Support Worker, and the learning environment are based on three Pou:

- 1) Kia Māori (Be Māori – BE)
- 2) Kia Mātau (Be Educated – KNOW)
- 3) Kia Tu Rangatira Ai (Be Rangatira – DO).

The 12 month programme has three stages:

- 1) Literacy and numeracy programme and/or NCEA IT unit standards, physical fitness, soft skills and life skills, introduction to options in the IT industry, development of a Personal Navigational Plan
- 2) Immersion in a range of digital technology areas including coding, electronics, robotics, social media, graphic design and web design. Participants learn entry level IT skills
- 3) Work experience. simulated client assignments followed by work experience in the industry.

By the end of the programme, participants will have gained:

- Soft skills, work ethic, physical and emotional fitness
- Relevant NCEA credits in literacy, numeracy, IT
- Entry level IT skills across a range of digital technology options
- Work experience

The applicant anticipates that 80% of participants will then transition into an advanced IT course or employment in Northland or nationally.

He Puna Marama Trust is applying for HPR funding for two years for:

Staff: \$^{Commercial Info}

- Commercial Information

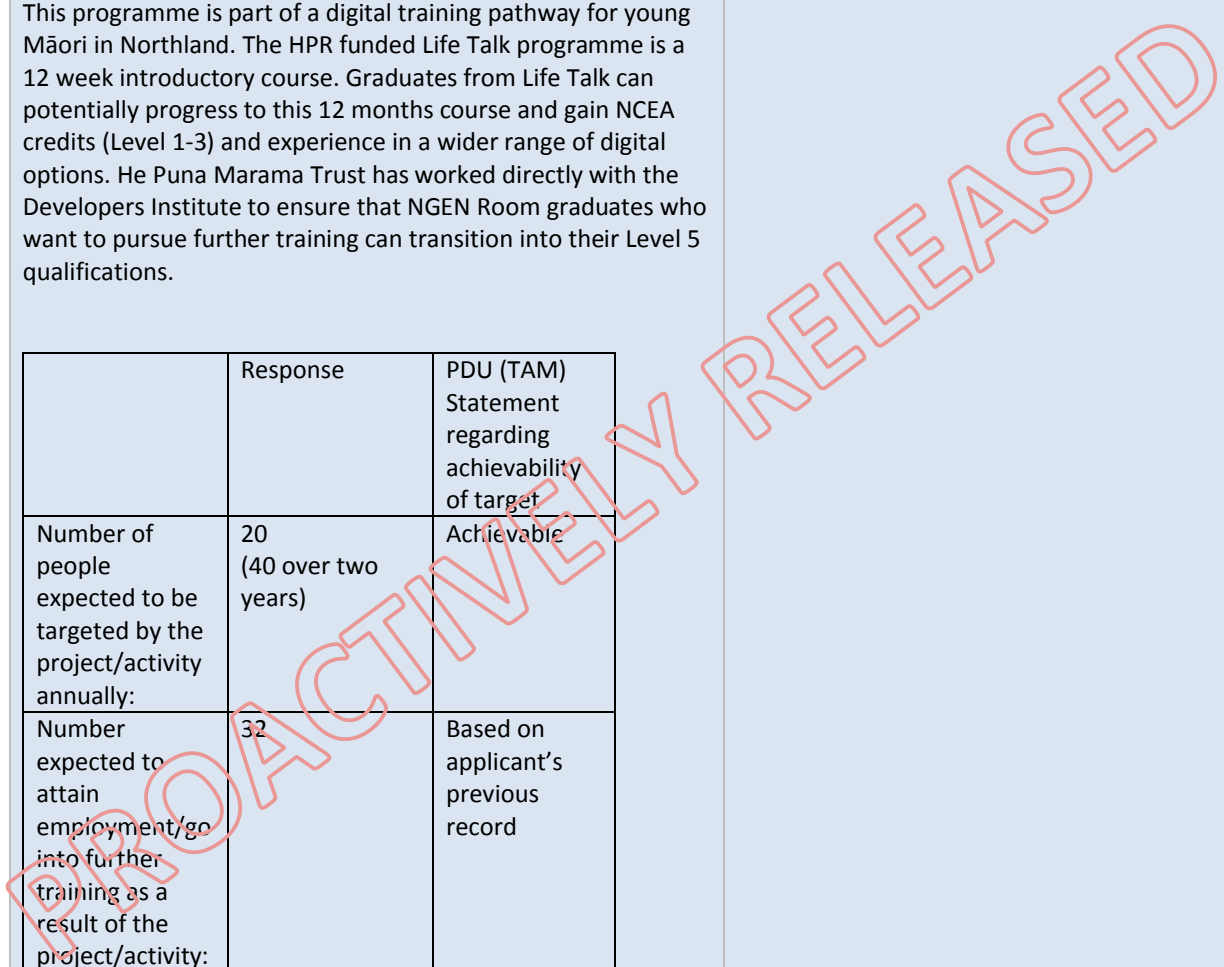
Programme costs: \$^{Commercial Inform}

- Training (e.g. tutors for NCEA credits and IT skills); PC

leases; software; training space fit out, including scratchpad; office equipment; administrative expenses. The trust will contribute \$^{Commercial Info} to the cost of the training facility.

This programme is part of a digital training pathway for young Māori in Northland. The HPR funded Life Talk programme is a 12 week introductory course. Graduates from Life Talk can potentially progress to this 12 months course and gain NCEA credits (Level 1-3) and experience in a wider range of digital options. He Puna Marama Trust has worked directly with the Developers Institute to ensure that NGEN Room graduates who want to pursue further training can transition into their Level 5 qualifications.

	Response	PDU (TAM) Statement regarding achievability of target
Number of people expected to be targeted by the project/activity annually:	20 (40 over two years)	Achievable
Number expected to attain employment/go into further training as a result of the project/activity:	32	Based on applicant's previous record
High level outcomes sought by the project/activity:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction of rangatahi NEET • Meeting employer demand for digital skills • Development of the Māori digitech sector 	
Detail of who else is involved in funding the project/activity:	The applicant is contributing \$ ^{Commercial Info}	



PGF Skills & Employment criteria that this proposal supports:		
Te Ara Mahi Criteria	Assessment Commentary	Met (Y /N/Partial)
Link with fund and government outcomes – delivers benefit to communities		
Acts as a catalyst for improving productivity potential in the region (s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributes to the development of a highly skilled workforce in Northland and the growth of the region's digital sector 	Y
Aligns with relevant regional economic and employment plans and priorities, including any Māori development plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aligns with Tai Tokerau Northland Economic Action Plan by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building skills and capability in Northland Supporting the development of digital industries Reducing the proportion of Northlanders who are NEET Reducing Māori unemployment 	Y
Demonstrates potential to meet the current or future labour market skill needs of the region, including those resulting from PGF Tier 2 and 3 investments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helps to meet the identified labour shortage in the digital technology sector Northland has specifically identified digital industries as a potential growth area in the Tai Tokerau Northland Economic Action Plan 	Y
Reduces the rates of people not in employment, education and training, with an emphasis on Māori	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The target group for the programme are all currently young rangatahi not in employment, education or training Most, if not all, participants will be Māori 	Y
Increases local employment and earning potential, by supporting local people into local jobs, with an emphasis on sustainable employment outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graduates will be employed in the local digital sector (with whom the applicant has established links) The programme is based in a Digital Hub that is also a base for digitech entrepreneurs, creating networks and incubation support for graduates who want to develop their own business 	Y
Additionality – adds value by building on what is already there		
Addresses a gap in current service provision e.g. does not cover activities that are already funded for (unless funding is to up-scale or re-start, existing projects)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addresses a gap in the digital training pathway for young Māori in Northland. Current providers offer either a short introductory course (Life Talk) or tertiary level training. This 12 month programme includes Level 1-3 NCEA credits and a direct transition into tertiary courses offered by Whangarei PTEs This programme is unique in its location within a Digital Hub for Māori digitech entrepreneurs 	Y
Demonstrates why third party	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to commercial funding is not an option for a 	Y

funding, including other government agencies, cannot be used to address the current gap in service provision	<p>training programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The programme is beyond the remit of MSD both in terms of services offered and potential participation of non-beneficiaries (e.g. 16 and 17 year olds). 	
Demonstrates awareness of and ability to connect to other services/initiatives that are complementary to the project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a potential next step for graduates of the Life Talk HPR course or participants in MSD's He Poutama Taitamariki programme 	Y
Connected to regional stakeholders and frameworks		
<p>Has support and input, where applicable, from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local; industry, employers, community groups and employment bodies/governance mechanisms central and local government agencies iwi and other Māori governance mechanisms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commercial Information [REDACTED] Commercial Information [REDACTED] Commercial Information [REDACTED] Applicant has network of local and national digitech employers Commercial Information [REDACTED] 	Y
Governance, risk management and project execution		
Has robust project management and governance systems planned or in place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established robust project management and governance systems demonstrated 	Y
Demonstrates the capacity and technical capabilities to effectively implement the initiative e.g. has experience in building local capacity, lifting work readiness and knowledge of the local labour market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Trust is an established education provider, having established the Leadership Academy of A Company in 2009, a kura for young Māori men that pays tribute to the 28 Māori Battalion A Company The Trust is accredited by NZQA to deliver NCEA level 1-3 unit standards Trustees include a chartered accountant, lawyer, education professor, kaumatua and experienced CEO The Trust has established regional, national and global digital technology sector networks 	Y
Risk management approach outlined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk management approach outlined 	Y
Future ownership / operational management identified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> He Puna Marama Trust will maintain future ownership and operational management 	Y
The purpose of this briefing is to consider recommending PGF funds for The NGEN Room project		

Regional Governance Group View:

At time of submission, the application is with the Tai Tokerau Skills and Employment Steering Group for endorsement. A verbal update will be provided at the SRO meeting.

Risks and Issues:

- Commercial Information

The NGEN Room is a standalone project that is not dependent on the approval of funding for the other projects.

Eligibility points of note:

- Due diligence*:- Due diligence is currently being undertaken (noting the provider already has accreditation with NZQA). Funding will be conditional on due diligence being to the satisfaction of the Head of the PDU Investment Team .
- Conflict(s) of interest*:- Based on the information provided no conflict of interest is evident.
- Illegal Activity*:- Based on the application information provided and feedback from other agencies there is no indication that the applicant or project has been involved in, or associated with illegal activity.
- Alignment with Regional development plans*:- Aligned with the Tai Tokerau Northland Economic Action Plan
- Commercial funding availability*:- Given the nature of the project (training and skills development) access to commercial funding is not considered a feasible option.

Consultation undertaken or implications:

Legal	N/A	HR	N/A	Finance	N/A	MBIE policy	N/A	Other	
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Cross agency feedback (national offices):

Commercial Information

Advice from regional and any other PDU teams:

Privacy of natural persons has worked directly with He Puna Marama Trust to develop the application

Supporting proposal:

Yes

Appendices:

Yes - Applications and supporting letters are as annexes

Sponsor(s):

N/A

Manager/Author of paper:

Stephen Ruddell/Hilary Pearse