

Pānui Takutai Moana

30 June 2025 – Takutai Moana Financial Assistance Scheme settings for 2025/26 financial year

E ngā whānau, ngā hapū me ngā iwi o te motu, tēnā koutou katoa. Ko te tūmanako, e ora tonu ana koutou. Pānui Takutai Moana provides you with the latest updates and developments that will help you with your takutai moana application.

This pānui provides an update on the Takutai Moana Financial Assistance Scheme settings for the 2025/26 financial year.

Interim FAS settings to continue for 2025/26 financial year

The Minister of Finance and Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations have agreed to keep the interim 2024/25 Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) settings for the 2025/26 financial year.

Officials from Te Tari Whakatau are working on longer-term changes to the FAS which will allow the fund to operate sustainably into the future.

The longer-term changes will take into account feedback received by Takutai Moana applicants during the recent consultation period (December 2024-February 2025) and public hui. This will include the opportunity for further consultation with Takutai Moana applicant groups.

The government is also considering the Waitangi Tribunal's recommendations arising from the Wai 3400 Inquiry.

Ministers will be presented with options on these settings during the 2025/26 financial year, with changes expected to take effect from 1 July 2026.

Continuing the interim settings at this time ensures the operation of the FAS while further decisions on the long-term settings are made.

The Interim FAS settings

The roll-over of interim settings means that, as was the case in the last financial year:

- All applicants will be required to have a budgeted workplan approved by Te Tari Whakatau before funding is provided.
- The Crown contribution to court costs will be capped for all scheduled hearings in the 2025/26 financial year (see below - *Crown contributions to applicants*).
- Funding levels for pre-hearing and hearing costs will be aligned with legal aid rates.

The interim settings were effective from 1 July 2024 in response to serious financial challenges that put the long-term sustainability of the FAS at risk. They were intended to ensure that the scheme could continue to operate in the 2024/25 financial year, with more long-term settings to be decided later, in consultation with applicants.

Crown contributions to applicants

To manage the FAS within the appropriation for 2025/26 financial year we will continue to prioritise funding:

- Crown engagement applicant groups who are close to seeking Ministerial determination in 2025/26 financial year i.e.: research completed; overlapping claims resolved; and public consultation completed; and

- High Court applicant groups who have High Court hearings scheduled in the 2025/26 and 2026/27 financial years.

Court costs for applicants participating in the scheduled court hearings will be funded for the 2025/26 financial year at the capped rates:

- \$140,000 per applicant for substantive High Court hearings.
- \$25,000 per applicant for wāhi tapu proceedings.
- \$30,000 per applicant for appeal proceedings.

Agreed budgeted work plans for the coming financial year

As in the 2024/25 financial year, approved budgeted workplans for the 2025/26 financial year are needed before funding is provided.

Updated guidance, tools and templates for creating a budgeted workplan are available on the [Te Tari Whakatau website](#).

Applicants can contact Te Tari Whakatau regarding proposed plans, availability of funding, and to submit their budgeted workplans by emailing fundingtakutai@whakatau.govt.nz.

How to contact us

For any queries, please contact us at takutaimoana@whakatau.govt.nz