



## GOVERNMENT OF NIUE

MEDIA RELEASE

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### CHRISTCHURCH NIUE COMMUNITY CELEBRATES 125 YEARS OF THE NIUE–NEW ZEALAND REALM RELATIONSHIP

**Christchurch, New Zealand – 13 June 2026** - The Niue community in Christchurch marked the 125th Anniversary of the Niue–New Zealand Realm Relationship.

Representing the Prime Minister, Hon. Dalton Tagelagi, and the Government and people of Niue, the Minister for Home Affairs, Hon. Richie Mautama attended the celebration. The Governor-General of New Zealand, The R Hon Dame Cindy Kiro, also joined the commemorative event.

In his remarks, Minister Mautama reflected on the leadership of Patuiki Fataiki, who wrote to Queen Victoria in 1887 and 1889 seeking protection for the people of Niue. His vision and determination helped shape Niue's future, leading to Niue becoming part of what is now the Realm of New Zealand on 11 June 1901.

Minister Mautama also acknowledged the importance of self-determination, noting that in 1974 the people of Niue chose self-government in free association with New Zealand while remaining part of the Realm of New Zealand.

Today, the close Niue and New Zealand relationship is reflected in the strong Niuean community across New Zealand, with around 35,000 people of Niue descent residing there.

Reflecting on the occasion, Minister Mautama thanked the Niue community in Christchurch for its continued commitment to preserving and celebrating Niuean culture and heritage. He thanked the community and its President Mr. Riki Welsh for the invitation to join the celebration. “This anniversary is an opportunity to reflect on our shared history, celebrate how far we have come, and look ahead with confidence to the future of the Niue-New Zealand relationship”.

The Government of Niue congratulates the Christchurch Niue community on this significant commemorative occasion and acknowledges its ongoing contribution to preserving Niuean culture, heritage and identity for future generations.

**ENDS**

**For further information, please contact:**

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