



Niuean Language Week | Sunday 15 – Saturday 21 October

The overarching theme for the 2022 Pacific Language Weeks was sustainability, which aligned with our Pacific Languages Strategy and fed into the UNESCO Decade of Indigenous Languages to sustain and revitalise heritage languages. This theme of sustainability has resonated strongly with our Pacific communities, who have agreed to carry it over for Pacific Language Weeks 2023.

Niue is located 2400 km from New Zealand. It is one island in the middle of the Polynesian Triangle, made up of Samoan, Tonga and the Cook Islands.

Quick facts

In 1901 Niue was annexed to New Zealand. In 1974 Niue obtained self-government as part of a free association agreement with New Zealand.

The Niuean language is classified as a “definitely endangered language” by UNESCO. It is estimated that only 7,000 people speak Niuean.



Niue's population is 1,500

Everyday words you can use in person and in emails

Niuean	English
<i>Fakaalofa atu</i>	<i>Greetings/Hello</i>
<i>Fakaalofa lahi atu ki a mutolu oti</i>	<i>Greetings everyone</i>
<i>Mutolu kia</i>	<i>Goodbye – to those who are leaving</i>
<i>Nonofo ā mutolu kia/Konei a mutolu</i>	<i>Goodbye – to those who are staying</i>
<i>Fakamolemole</i>	<i>Please</i>
<i>Fakaaue Lahi oue tulou</i>	<i>Thank you</i>
<i>Fakamolemole mai</i>	<i>Sorry</i>