

Case Study Handout

Regional Investment Programme Review

Michael is a Principal Policy Analyst at New Zealand's Ministry of Economic Development. He has been asked to lead a strategic review of the Government's regional investment programme, which was designed to stimulate economic growth in underdeveloped, provincial areas.

Recent reports show mixed results: while some regions have experienced strong growth, others have seen limited impact. The Minister for Economic Development wants to understand whether the current investment model is delivering equitable and sustainable outcomes, particularly for Māori-owned enterprises and rural communities.

As Michael begins his review, he hears through the kūmara vine that several people in his community attempted to apply for funding through the regional investment programme but were declined. Not because their ideas lacked merit, but because they struggled with the complexity of the application process. This raises a red flag for Michael - if members of his community are facing these barriers, how many other Māori entrepreneurs are being unintentionally excluded?

