



04 October 2023

Chappie Te Kani
Chief Executive Officer
Oranga Tamariki

cc: Phil Grady and Nicolette Dickson

Tēnā koe Chappie,

RE: OPCAT Monitoring Report – Te Puna Wai ō Tuhinapo, Youth Justice Residence

In June 2023, members from the Monitoring Team of the Office of the Children's Commissioner carried out an unannounced monitoring visit to Te Puna Wai ō Tuhinapo Youth Justice residence in Christchurch.

The purpose of the visit was to assess the progress of the facility against recommendations made relevant to the Children's Commissioner's role as a National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT).

The OCC found evidence of ill-treatment at Te Puna Wai ō Tuhinapo

The report documents the following findings:

- There were allegations of sexually inappropriate behaviour by staff. OCC logged a Report of Concern regarding this alleged behaviour with the Oranga Tamariki National Contact Centre on 15 June 2023.
- The safety of mokopuna residing in Te Puna Wai ō Tuhinapo cannot be guaranteed. Violent acts between mokopuna are frequent and unprovoked.
- There are high levels of contraband entering the residence and some of this is being brought in by staff. Mokopuna are making weapons out of everyday items.
- Staff practice by those working directly with mokopuna in the units is unprofessional and unsafe.
- There continues to be a high use of secure care and restraint holds which are resulting in injury to mokopuna. The legal grounds for admission into secure care are not clearly documented in unit logbooks.
- Mokopuna Māori are overlooked and over-represented.
- Material conditions within the residence are inadequate.
- Many mokopuna are refusing to go to school and there is a lack of pro-social activity available for mokopuna.

- There is a communication breakdown between professionals in the residence and site social workers which is resulting in inconsistent social work practice.

An oral report was provided directly to you at the conclusion of the visit. OCC also logged a Report of Concern which directly relates to the treatment received by mokopuna in Te Puna Wai ō Tuhinapo. OCC notes these concerns have been brought under the scope of the 'Rapid Review' being led by Mike Bush for Oranga Tamariki announced in June 2023.

The final report is attached for your information. I am available to discuss the findings with you.

Ngā mihi,



Judge Frances Eivers

Te Kaikōmihana mō ngā Tamariki | Children's Commissioner

Te Tari o te Kaikomihana mō ngā Tamariki | Office of the Children's Commissioner

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