



17 November 2023

Dr Claire Achmad  
Chief Children's Commissioner  
Mana Mokopuna - Children and Young People's Commission  
Sent via email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe Dr Achmad

### **Draft OPCAT Report – Te Maioha ō Parekarangi Youth Justice Residence**

In July 2023, your monitoring team visited Te Maioha ō Parekarangi Youth Justice Residence to monitor the safety and wellbeing of tamariki and rangatahi. The monitoring visit was completed as part of your role as a National Preventive Mechanism under the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT).

On 9 October 2023, you provided your draft OPCAT report for Te Maioha ō Parekarangi for our review and comment. On 20 October 2023, we provided our feedback on the factual accuracy of the draft report. Please now find enclosed our response to your report's recommendations.

We have accepted all five systemic recommendations and nine facility recommendations made in your report. We were pleased to note that your monitoring visit to Te Maioha ō Parekarangi was positive and that you found no evidence that tamariki and rangatahi had been subjected to torture, or cruel or degrading punishment.

It was also pleasing to read in your draft report that mokopuna have access to a variety of programmes and activities outside of school hours including educational opportunities, and vocational programmes. You also noted the living conditions have improved, medication errors have reduced, and that Te ao and matauranga Māori is recognised as important and integrated across all residence operations.

We acknowledge your key concerns regarding the use of secure care, inconsistencies with record-keeping, the temperature control issues, some unprofessional behaviour and training gaps. We welcome your recommendations to strengthen these areas.

As our response demonstrates, there is considerable ongoing work underway at Te Maioha ō Parekarangi and more generally across both our Care and Protection and

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Youth Justice Residences, which we look forward to continuing to share with you and your team. We have had a number of joint meetings with Mana Mokopuna and our two other Monitors, the Office of the Ombudsman and the Independent Children's Monitor and have agreed to continue to meet so that we can seek your collective input into our ongoing approach to improving the care and experiences of rangatahi in our secure residences.

I trust you find this information useful. If you have any questions or would like further information, please feel free to contact me on [REDACTED] or alternatively Julie Miller, General Manager Monitoring and External Relationships, on [REDACTED]

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'ND', with a stylized flourish extending upwards and to the right.

Nicolette Dickson  
Tumu Tuarua | Te Kōunga o te Mahi me ngā Wheako  
Deputy Chief Executive | Quality Practice & Experiences