

26 June 2024

Hon. Louise Upston

Minister for Social Development and Employment, Minister for Child Poverty Reduction, Minister for Disability Issues

By Email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe Minister Upston,

RE: Pre-publication copy of OPCAT Monitoring Report – Korowai Manaaki Youth Justice Residence

During February 2024 our Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT) Monitoring Team carried out an unannounced visit to Korowai Manaaki based in Tamaki Makaurau. The purpose of the visit was to assess the performance of the facility against the seven domains of monitoring under our OPCAT National Preventative Mechanism mandate, to undertake preventative human rights-based monitoring of this facility in which children and young people are deprived of their liberty.

We found no evidence that mokopuna had been subjected to torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (ill-treatment) as per the OPCAT and the Crimes of Torture Act 1989 however we did raise some serious concerns directly with Oranga Tamariki relating to staff practice, leadership and culture.

The final report for this monitoring visit is attached for your information. I am available to discuss any of the findings with you. To provide you with time to consider the report, we will publish this report on the Commission's website on 30 June 2024. I also note, in line with our usual process, the findings of our visit have already been shared with Oranga Tamariki in real-time, and Oranga Tamariki officials have had the chance to provide feedback on an earlier draft version of our report.

Ngā mihi,



Dr Claire Achmad

Te Kaikōmihana Matua | Chief Children's Commissioner

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Copy to: Hon Karen Chhour – Minister for Children