

11 February 2025

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 – Kaahui Whetuu ki te Pito Care and Protection Residence**

In September 2024, your monitoring team visited the Kaahui Whetuu ki te Pito Care and Protection Residence (Kaahui Whetu) to monitor the safety and wellbeing of tamariki and rangatahi. This 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 or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT).

On 19 December 2024, you provided your draft OPCAT report for Kaahui Whetuu to Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children (Oranga Tamariki) for review and comment. Our response to the factual accuracy was shared with your office on 27 January 2025.

Oranga Tamariki has accepted six of the seven recommendations made and partially accepted one recommendation. Your recommendations range from concerns about supervision and training for kaimahi, to the provision of cultural programmes and activities for tamariki and rangatahi.

We note that during this visit, Mana Mokopuna found no evidence of cruel, inhuman, degrading treatment or punishment (ill-treatment).

We acknowledge that there are areas where we need to improve, and we are committed to ensuring action is taken to address concerns that you have raised. We note the need for clarity on the long-term strategic vision for Kaahui Whetuu and are pleased to advise that this is an area where the Youth Justice Services and Residence Care leadership team are currently working to determine strategic priorities so that a clear vision for the future of Kaahui Whetuu can be implemented.

We note the concerns raised that tamariki and rangatahi placed at Kaahui Whetuu do not have consistent access to education. We are working with local schools and the Ministry of Education to ensure that tamariki and rangatahi placed at Kaahui Whetuu have access to education. We have partially accepted the recommendation that we

urgently address the “lack of education delivered at the hub” as we note that alongside Oranga Tamariki, the Ministry of Education also holds important responsibility in ensuring that tamariki and rangatahi at Kaahui Whetuu have access to education.

We acknowledge the recommendation that Oranga Tamariki investigate ways to increase mokopuna access to cultural programmes and activities, especially the carving programme. We recognise that there is always room to grow and improve in the way we deliver cultural programmes and activities at Kaahui Whetuu, however, we also recognise that there is already considerable work being done in this area.

Other concerns raised such as supervision and training for kaimahi are already being actively addressed, and Kaahui Whetuu leadership are committed to ensuring there is a high standard of ongoing support for kaimahi in both these areas.

The acknowledgement of the way kaimahi interact with tamariki and rangatahi, using their relational practice to de-escalate where required, was very pleasing to see and reflects the important work that our kaimahi at Kaahui Whetuu do each day.

I trust you find this information useful. If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact me on [REDACTED].

Nāku noa, nā



Julie Miller

**General Manager**

**External Monitoring and Reviews**