



15 August 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 – Epuni Care and Protection Residence**

In February 2025, your monitoring team visited Epuni Care and Protection Residence (Epuni) 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 27 May 2025, you provided your draft OPCAT report for Epuni to Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children (Oranga Tamariki) for review and comment. Our response to the factual accuracy of the draft report was shared with your office on 25 June 2025.

Please refer to the attached table for our response to your recommendations following the monitoring team's visit. Oranga Tamariki has accepted eight of the 10 recommendations and not accepted two. Recommendations we have accepted include the implementation of Team Leader Operations training, ensuring the development of transition plans for tamariki and rangatahi, refurbishing the secure care unit, and investing in support for kaimahi to build their cultural competency.

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

Your monitoring team noted areas of strength at Epuni, including tamariki and rangatahi having good access to advocacy and primary health care, and good engagement in education. There are also opportunities for growth and stability at Epuni, following the appointment of a permanent residence manager.

We acknowledge that there are areas where focus is required, including the need for social workers to be more engaged with tamariki, rangatahi and kaimahi, to ensure tamariki and rangatahi are visited in line with their individual plans, and to develop

IN-CONFIDENCE

plans to support tamariki and rangatahi to transition from Epuni to their next placement. We are committed to focusing on these areas and understand the importance of social workers from sites working together with Epuni kaimahi to support tamariki and rangatahi. We also note the need for completing refurbishment at Epuni, with significant progress already having been made towards achieving this goal.

I trust you find this information useful.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'C' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Iain Chapman  
**Acting Deputy Chief Executive**  
**Youth Justice Services and Residential Care**