

4 July 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 – Te Maioha o Parekarangi Youth Justice Residence

In February 2025, your monitoring team visited Te Maioha o Parekarangi Youth Justice Residence (Te Maioha) 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 Te Maioha 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 11 June 2025. Please refer to the attached table for our response to your recommendations following the monitoring team's visit.

Oranga Tamariki has accepted seven of the eight recommendations made and not accepted one recommendation. Your recommendations range from addressing concerns about the management of the administration of emergency needle-based medication, reviewing recruitment processes and timeframes, to reviewing the use of regulation 48 of the Oranga Tamariki (Residential Care) Regulations 1996.

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

Throughout the report, Mana Mokopuna has identified many strengths at Te Maioha. Connection to whānau is prioritised, including ensuring whānau are involved in decision-making regarding future plans for their rangatahi. This also links to the positive work of the employment co-ordinator who is working well with rangatahi and providing them with life-skills to utilise when they return to their community. The positive establishment of Kahui Rangatahi (youth council) also provides rangatahi with an avenue to have their voice heard directly with residence leadership and peers.

It was also pleasing to see Mana Mokopuna observed that kaimahi across the residence have strong te ao Māori values and regularly share their mātauranga Māori with rangatahi. Many opportunities for rangatahi to grow their knowledge around their own whakapapa and tikanga Māori practices are embedded across the facility. This includes the use of the Whakamana Tangata model, a Māori-centred practice approach which has relational, restorative and inclusive practice at its core to enable conflict resolution between rangatahi and between kaimahi and rangatahi.

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

Nāku noa, nā



Julie Miller

General Manager

External Monitoring and Reviews