



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

10 July 2024

IN CONFIDENCE

Arran Jones
Chief Executive, Aroturuki Tamariki Independent Children's Monitor
PO Box 202
Wellington 6140

Tēnā koe Arran

Thank you for your report 'A review of the implementation of the recommendations of Dame Karen Poutasi following the death of Malachi Subecz' and for the opportunity to provide feedback throughout the development.

We acknowledge your key finding that you are not confident that tamariki in similar situations are more likely to be kept safe now than when Malachi died. The Ministry of Social Development's (MSD) response to the Monitors' findings related to Dame Karen Poutasi's recommendations will be reflected in the joint agency response, but I would like to respond to you separately regarding the MSD section in your report.

While MSDs primary role in the children's system is preventative, ensuring families and caregivers have the financial, employment and housing supports that they need, we remain committed to improving our own child protection practices.

As you know, at the time your report was being finalised, one of our internal initiatives was complete, with significant progress made on the other two. I am pleased to advise that since then, we consider initiative one (*review and refresh of MSD's existing MAP and Doogle pages to ensure the information available to staff is clear, relevant and current*) is now complete. The updates that were in progress at the time have now been published. It would be appreciated if your report could be revised to acknowledge this.

We will be completing the implementation of our final initiative (*Delivering existing training on MSD's Child Protection Policy to staff in the next year, and frontline-focused training to be adapted for non-frontline staff*) throughout 2024/early 2025 through:

- the rollout of training from a specialist family violence awareness provider to all client facing managers and
- the expansion of family violence awareness training to include all client-facing managers followed by all MSD staff.

We will of course continue to monitor the uptake of family violence awareness training and the ChildSAFE module.

I also note the Monitor's intent to speak to frontline MSD staff about how the training and information they are provided helps them to identify and respond to potential child abuse. We are very happy to facilitate this; please feel free to get in touch with myself or my office to arrange this.

Yours sincerely

Debbie Power
Chief Executive, Ministry of Social Development