

16 February 2026

Dr Ang Jury

Board Chair, Aroturuki Tamariki Independent Children's Monitor

Level 3, 56 The Terrace

Wellington 6011

Tēnā koe Dr Jury

Thank you for sharing *Towards a Stronger Safety Net to Prevent Abuse of Children*, the second report from Aroturuki Tamariki into agency progress against recommendations from the Dame Karen Poutasi review.

We welcome this first opportunity to engage with you directly as the new board chair following Aroturuki Tamariki transitioning into an independent crown entity.

Firstly, we wish to acknowledge Dame Karen Poutasi's recent passing. As has been said by many, she was an exemplary leader in the public service. Her family acknowledged that her most recent work to better protect children was some of the most important work she led in her lifetime. As sector leaders, we recognise our role in supporting the continued impact of her legacy.

We acknowledge and value the important role that the Monitor plays in bringing transparency and accountability to our actions. The collective impact of our agencies' actions in the lives of children and families is significant, and the monitor is right to criticise where we fall short.

In relation to your findings, we acknowledge and accept that more needs to be done to ensure the risks identified by Dame Karen are addressed.

Thank you for your acknowledgment of the October 2025 announcement that the Government accepted all of Dame Karen's recommendations.

Ministers have been very clear about their expectations on us to take action and deliver with urgency for children at risk.

We know how important this work is and have worked at pace to implement the first phase of the recommendations. The recommendations are not standalone; they have common themes, crossovers, and reinforce each other. This is a significant programme of work and phased implementation is critical due to the scale of complex change and the need to manage impact on the Oranga Tamariki system.

The Ministry of Social Development, as the lead agency for the integrated response, will ensure timely monitoring and reporting of the programme with regular updates to responsible Ministers and Cabinet. We will continue to update you and the other oversight agencies as appropriate.

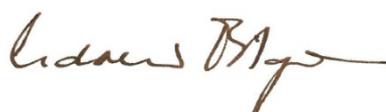
Please note that while this letter is on behalf of all agencies involved, Oranga Tamariki and the NZ Police also intend to write to you individually under Section 30 of the Oversight of Oranga Tamariki Act 2022.

We have also noted some minor factual inaccuracies in the report and general agency updates which we will provide to you separately to this letter.

Thank you. We look forward to engaging with you as this work progresses.



Debbie Power
Chief Executive
Ministry of Social Development



Andrew Bridgman
Acting Chief Executive
Oranga Tamariki



Andrew Kibblewhite
Secretary for Justice



Audrey Sonerson
Director-General
Ministry of Health



Dale Bramley
Chief Executive
Health NZ / Te Whatu Ora



Ellen MacGregor-Reid
Secretary for Education



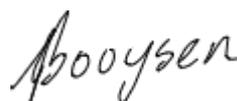
Emma Powell
Chief Executive
The Centre for Family Violence and
Sexual Violence Prevention



Jeremy Lightfoot
Chief Executive
Department of Corrections



Richard Chambers
Commissioner of Police



Ruth Shinoda (*pp Shelley Booyesen*)
Acting Chief Executive / Chief Review
Officer
Education Review Office