



**OPEN HOME
FOUNDATION**

TE WHARE KAUPAPA ĀWHINA

24 January 2020

Minister for Children
Private Bag 18041
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6160

National Office
P O Box 31036
Lower Hutt

Dear Minister,

Thank you for your letter dated 9 December 2019, for the opportunity to read and consider the first report from the Independent Children's Monitor (ICM) and for the opportunity to respond.

The Open Home Foundation of New Zealand (OHF) supports the special and unique role the ICM now has in Aotearoa/New Zealand.

OHF has appreciated the approachability of the ICM and the efforts taken to ensure provider participation and to understand the sector and existing accreditation requirements. It is clear the ICM has a desire to bring a greater level of transparency and robust quality assurance to the care system.

OHF looks forward to ongoing opportunities to work with the ICM and other providers of care as the full complement of National Care Standard Regulations comes into force over the coming months. We are keen to avoid costly duplication of information whilst achieving the outcome of concise and meaningful reporting that promotes organisational learning, best practice outcomes and safe care for children and tamariki.

OHF supports the aim of robust continuous improvement as evidenced by better and more transparent systems, approaches and practice, versus merely compliance to a standard.

Thank you again for the opportunity to participate in the process of continuing to improve the overall quality of the care system with the end goal of ensuring children, tamariki and their families receive safe care in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Yours sincerely

Don Irwin
Chief Executive

Michael Duncan
Board Chair