



**Teaching
Council of
Aotearoa
New Zealand**

Matatū. Tū Mataora.
Stand tall. Shape the future.

19 December 2024

Victoria and Callum Turnbull

Letter to the Chief Executive

Tēnā koe Victoria and Callum,

Thank you for your letter to me dated 3 December 2024. I appreciate your patience while I have worked through the points you have raised and carefully considered this response.

As a parent myself I want to first acknowledge the journey that your whanau has been on for the last ten years and the work you have both done to ensure that no child experiences seclusion. It is because of your positive perseverance that there has been change at a system level so that all children are able to thrive in educational settings across Aotearoa. This is not a small feat, and I hope you have taken the time to reflect on the positive change that you have achieved.

I have personally read the statement that you provided to the Royal Commission and the Ombudsman report. It has provided me with much to consider, the experience that your son encountered brings into clear focus the importance of the changes that you championed.

I have taken the time to talk with my Executive team about your situation and together we have carefully considered whether there are any further actions the Teaching Council could take on this matter. We have reached the decision that there are none.

The teachers named in your complaint have been investigated by bodies such as the Ombudsman and the NZ Police. We do not have any additional information than what was available to those bodies that would allow us to reach a different outcome.

I know this is not the response you will be hoping for, and it is one I have seriously considered. I know that your whanau has been on a long journey, and I reiterate my hope that you reflect on the positive impact your efforts have had on learners today and that those changes will continue to strengthen capabilities of teachers.

I want to assure you I am also aware that my work does not stop here. I am committed to ensuring that the Council plays its role in the education system to ensure that we all continue to learn and grow to ensure the best outcomes for learners. I am optimistic that I will find myself working alongside you in this important space in the future.

Ngā manaakitanga,

Lesley Hoskin
Tumu Whakarae | Chief Executive