

C J and V A Turnbull
250 West Plains Road
INVERCARGILL

9 November 2016

Murray Roberts
Southern Regional Manager
P O Box 2522
Addington
CHRISTCHURCH

Dear Sir

Regarding our letter dated 12 October 2016, and the response from Julie Anderson dated 2 November 2016, please confirm that the Ministry of Education is prepared to accept the lie Principal Erin Cairns and Ruru Specialist School Board of Trustees have told, which was detailed.

Ms Anderson expressed that it was the understanding of the Ministry of Education that the Board has the confidence of its parent community. Please advise us how the Ministry have come to that understanding.

It is reported that Principal Erin Cairns sent a letter out to the school community on 3 November 2016 defending the schools use of the seclusion room at the school. The Principal continues to mislead and influence parents and the community. It is also obvious that Principal Erin Cairns still rejects the findings of the Ministry of Education investigation.

What is also extremely concerning to us is that on 8 November 2016 we received confirmation from Detective Sergeant Brian Cameron that Principal Erin Cairns, as with other staff has declined to be interviewed by Police. How can the Ministry of Education have confidence in the Board when management and staff at the school are refusing to talk to police regarding mass allegation of unlawful detainment and assault of students?

On 28 April 2015, we met with both you and Julie Anderson to discuss the Ministry of Education investigation and at that meeting you both advised us to take our concerns to police. The stance that teachers and the principal have taken is ethically questionable, and once again highlights that vulnerable children and young people remain at risk.

Please reconsider your position and stand down the Principal and Board of Trustees of Ruru Specialist School to ensure students are provided a safe physical and emotional environment.

We look forward to your formal response before 5 pm Thursday, 10 November 2016.

Yours faithfully

Callum and Victoria Turnbull