



EDUCATION REVIEW OFFICE
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1 May 2015

The Chairperson
Ruru Specialist School
Ruru Street
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Tēnā koe Robyn

Unconfirmed Education Review Office (ERO) Report on Ruru Specialist School

Thank you for the board's response to Ruru Specialist School's unconfirmed ERO report. I have only recently received the independent report commissioned by the Ministry of Education to investigate the concerns raised by Mr and Mrs Turnbull regarding the board's handling of their complaint and the lawfulness of the Time Out facility at the school.

I understand that your board had the independent report prior to ERO's review of the school. This report was not made available during the ERO review or at the time of ERO's unconfirmed report being sent to you for comments.

The independent report raises concerns on the use of the current 'timeout/safe room' and its lawfulness, including Safety Policies and Procedures relating the use of seclusion (safe rooms) and restraint. The report contains a number of recommendations pertaining to the school board. I am informed that the Ministry of Education will be requiring your Board to develop an Action Plan that addresses all of the recommendations and to report back to the Ministry.

In the circumstances, I need to reconsider the findings in ERO's unconfirmed report, specifically in relation to the provision of a safe physical and emotional environment to students in terms National Administration Guidelines 5(a,) and the next return time to the school. I have decided to withhold confirmation of the school report until I am assured that your board has developed an Action Plan that addresses all the recommendations in the independent report as required by the Ministry of Education.

This may require a further ERO review mainly in relation to the provision of a safe physical and emotional environment to students which in turn may have implications on the next return time to the school, before the ERO report is confirmed.



At this stage I do not know details of the timeline for your board to develop the Action Plan and address the recommendations.

Please write to me to let me know of the timeline you expect the school to develop an Action Plan that addresses all of the recommendations and to report back to the Ministry.

I will decide on the next steps as outlined in paragraph four above, once I have received your feedback.

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Graham Randell', with a stylized, flowing script.

Graham Randell
Deputy Chief Review Officer
Te Waipounamu/ Southern