



Thank you for your request of 29 March 2019 to the Ministry of Education. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

1. What happens when a claim (such as those investigated relating to Campbell Park) concludes there was abuse? What is the process, who runs it, and are financial settlements part of the outcome?

We run a process to assess and respond to claims of abuse in residential special schools, including Campbell Park. All historic abuse claims are investigated and we work directly with claimants to resolve their grievances.

The process includes appointing an assessor who will meet with the claimant to discuss their complaints and explore options to help them. The assessment involves a considerable amount of research for historical documents, including personal files of the claimant plus relevant policy, staff and institutional material. The allegations are tested against all the information gathered.

Where allegations have been found to have merit, we will make an offer to resolve the claim. Offers can include a formal written apology, a contribution towards a claimant's legal costs or a financial payment where appropriate.

We have also responded to complaints about Campbell Park through claims that have involved the Ministry of Social Development (MSD). We work with MSD to resolve these claims. They are referred to as 'joint-claims' in this response.

2. Without going into specifics of the individual complaints, how many complaints overall have been investigated relating to Campbell Park as part of the historic claims process?

A total of 48 claims about Campbell Park have been progressed through the historic claims process. This includes three claims we responded to solely and 45 joint-claims with MSD.

3. Of those complaints, how many have concluded abuse occurred?

The three claims we received about Campbell Park had allegations upheld on assessment. Of the 45 joint-claims about this school, 38 were found to have merit.

4. How many of the complaints resulted in financial settlements?

Our three claims each resulted in a financial settlement being made. Of the 45 joint-claims, 38 received a financial settlement in relation to the allegations about Campbell Park. These are the same 38 joint-claims referred to in our response to your third question.

5. What is the total value of those financial settlements?

We have paid \$37,000 for historic abuse claims lodged with us about Campbell Park. We have contributed a further \$399,875 to resolve joint-claims about this school.

For information about how much MSD has contributed to these settlements, please contact them.

6. Are there any 'live' complaints being assessed at the moment? If so, how many?

We are currently assessing four historic claims about Campbell Park.

Please note, the Ministry now proactively publishes OIA responses on our website. As such, we may publish this response on our website after five working days. Your name and contact details will be removed.

Thank you again for your email. If you have further questions please feel free to contact our media team in the first instance at media@education.govt.nz. If you are unsatisfied with my response, you have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review it. You can do this by writing to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Yours sincerely



Katrina Casey
Deputy Secretary
Sector Enablement and Support