



9 December 2020



Tēnā koe 

I am writing to you in relation to your requests for the Specialist Advisor and Independent Investigation reports about Tai Wānanga.

Attached to this response are the five reports that are the subject of your request of 23 September 2020, and your request of 11 November 2019 that was the subject of an Ombudsman complaint investigation.

As noted in **Appendix A**, I am releasing three of the five papers to you in part, with some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons. I am releasing the final two reports to you in full.

We took their findings seriously and key findings were shared with Board members. Following that, the Board and the Ministry agreed to start work to address the issues raised.

During this period, our key concern was that the kura performs for its students, and our actions to assist the Board to date include appointing: two specialist advisers to improve Board performance, policies and processes, a financial advisor to improve financial systems, and an advisor to work on relationships between the Board and its community.

The support given by education agencies and advisors, since December 2019, has seen progress in some areas in relation to many of issues raised in the reports and we will continue to closely monitor the Board's performance to ensure the embedding and long-term sustainability of the necessary changes.

I would also like to thank you for your continued engagement around Tai Wānanga and advocating in the best interests of its students and their learning. The wellbeing of current and future students at Tai Wānanga has always been in the front of our minds. This more than anything has been why the process for releasing these reports has taken a number of months, as we maintain the privacy and confidentiality of staff and students.

You have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review this decision. You can do this by writing to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Nāku noa, nā



Katrina Casey
Deputy Secretary
Sector Enablement and Support

Cc: Shane Ngatai, Director of Education for Waikato
Sean Teddy, Deputy Secretary of the Office of the Secretary for Education