



## AIDE MEMOIRE

### St Joseph's Māori Girls' College Hostel

Date:	14 February 2020	Priority:	Low
To:	Hon Kelvin Davis, Associate Minister Education	METIS No:	1220284
From:	Helen Hurst, Associate Deputy Secretary Operational Delivery	Security Level:	In Confidence
Key Contact	Claire Hague, Director of Education for Hawkes Bay Tairāwhiti	DDI:	s 9(2)(a)

#### Purpose

1. Your office requested information to support a meeting with Dame Georgina Kingi on Tuesday 18 February. In addition to addressing matters the Ministry thinks are likely to be raised in the meeting, please specifically:
  - confirm the status of previous fire safety issues as resolved (or otherwise)
  - provide any updates on the Ministry-school relationship in the past 30 days/since the last advice given
  - s 9(2)(f)(iv)
  - address any other matters the Ministry considers relevant for the Minister.

#### Background

2. The St Joseph's Māori Girls' College Hostel licence was renewed in June 2019.
3. Following a business case proposal to your office (refer Metis 1211878), the Ministry of Education requested reports and information from the school about the "earthquake and fire safety issues" that were mentioned in the business case.
4. The reports raised increased concern about the levels of safety for boarders and for staff. The Ministry then wrote to the Trust Board, on 20 December, requesting information. The letter sought reassurance from the Trust Board that they would meet the regulations to provide a safe environment for boarders and staff prior to them returning to the hostel at the start of Term 1, 2020.
5. Julie Tangaere, Chairperson, St Joseph's Māori Girls' College Trust Board, responded advising her disappointment in the letter and copied you in.

Update as at 13 February 2020

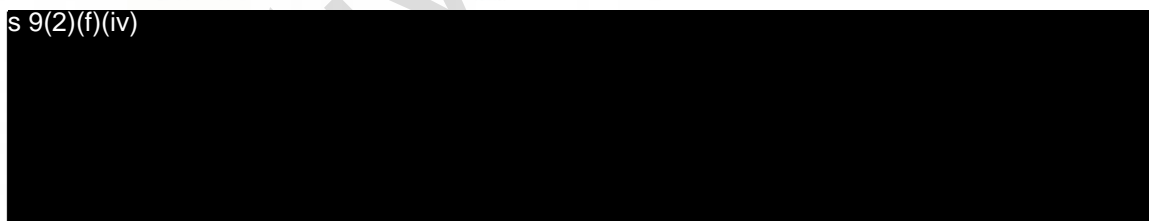
**Fire Safety Concerns Resolved**

6. On Friday 10 January, Ministry of Education officials from the Napier office met with Dame Georgina Kingi, Julie Tangaere and the hostel manager at the College (Metis 1217296 refers).
7. During the 10 January meeting, Julie Tangaere, as Board Chair, confirmed that consented work (Napier City Council number 190945) began on-site on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020 with extra staff, to recognise the urgency of the situation.
8. The work upgraded the hostel to meet minimum safety requirements in the short term, including upgrading the fire alarm system; new illuminated Exit signs, and new Emergency lighting. The work focussed on giving boarders early warning of any fire event and guiding them out of the building.
9. The project work was completed in all areas and the hostel was cleared to receive boarders ahead of their arrival on Sunday 26 January. Ministry staff visited the hostel, on 23 January, to view the completed work.
10. Almak Fire and Security provided a Producer Statement attesting the systems comply with New Zealand Standards, which will be used for establishing compliance with the City Council's Building Consent.

**School Relationship**

11. The Board Chair continued regular contact with the Ministry during January demonstrating oversight and responsiveness to the urgency of the situation. She made herself readily available during the holiday period.
12. The day to day relationship is functioning well and the Ministry's Education Advisor has plans to meet on 27 February for their regular catch-up. The Education Advisor continues to offer support to the Principal on matters regarding individual students.

s 9(2)(f)(iv)



**Other Matters**

15. The July 2019 roll for St Joseph's Māori Girl's College was 202 students. The hostel is licenced for up to 200 students. There are currently 71 students supported by the Ministry of Education's Boarding Allowances in the hostel.
16. The hostel fees are currently approximately \$13,000. Boarding Allowances provide \$7,500 to contribute towards boarding fees for hostel students. Families are responsible for funding the fee difference.
17. Dame Georgina Kingi raised concern in Term 4 2019, about the future funding availability of Boarding Allowances. The Ministry responded outlining the current funding.

## Proactive Release

18. It is intended that this Aide Memoire is proactively released as per your expectation that information be released as soon as possible. Any information which may need to be withheld will be done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

Agree / Disagree



Helen Hurst  
**Associate Deputy Secretary  
Operational Delivery**

14/2/20



Hon Kelvin Davis  
**Associate Minister of Education**

16/2/2020