

## Theme Eight: Supporting Students and Staff After Publication of the Inquiry Report

### **Recommendation No.17: Review and enhance pastoral support.**

“We recommend that the Dilworth Trust Board reviews and enhances pastoral support and, in particular, provides additional support to current students and staff in wake of this report’s publication.”

### **Progress to date**

In preparation for the publication of the Inquiry Report, comprehensive briefings and support measures were undertaken by the Dilworth Response team, the School, and the Board Chair. This communication was extended to encompass all students, their whānau/families, and staff affiliated with Dilworth School. The objective of these initiatives was to provide guidance and assistance for those seeking pastoral support resources available within the School or the Listening Service, as well as external bodies and organisations within New Zealand. Arrangements were put in place to offer supplementary support to School staff, community, and students following the release of the Inquiry Report.

The pastoral care and support services offered at Dilworth School adhere to high standards. Ensuring students are safe, informed and are able to actively participate in the welfare and wellbeing of the School community is a top priority at the School. To this end, students are actively involved in decision-making processes, policy formulation, and policy implementation, and they are encouraged to voice any concerns or feedback they may have.

As part of our commitment to student education, the School regularly conducts safety and wellbeing presentations at each campus, in all boarding houses, and during School assemblies. Additionally, posters displayed School-wide clearly describe safeguarding policies and initiatives. The publication of the Inquiry Report has featured prominently in School communications and briefings with students.

With the direct involvement of students, the School has endeavoured to create student-friendly versions of key policies. These include the updated Supporting Positive Relationships and Addressing Bullying Policy and the newly formulated Student Empowerment Policy. Furthermore, the School has instituted various student-led committees and councils that provide mechanisms for student voice and feedback. These initiatives assist the senior leadership team in hearing and acknowledging the perspectives of current students and staff, especially in the aftermath of the Inquiry Report’s release.

## Next steps

A comprehensive Pastoral Care review is scheduled for 2024. This will be conducted by an external provider, to ensure the process remains independent. This review is intended to be incorporated into a recurring triennial cycle. The feedback from this review will be summarised and shared with the Board and if there are any actions required as a result of it, the School will advise the Board and provide recommendations as to next steps.

Plans are also in place to recruit an additional staff member with expertise in counselling to the School's Pastoral Care team to support the School Psychologist and the Safeguarding Officer. Administrative support will also be added to the team to enhance its overall effectiveness.