

OIA-CE-2025-02869

28 April 2025

s9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe s9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email, received on 2 April 2025, to Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children (Oranga Tamariki) requesting a document around the Oranga Tamariki Military-Style Academy Pilot. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

You have requested:

- *Under the OIA can I please request a copy of the following document:
B-0450 – Interim Evaluation of the Assessment and Residence Stages of the Military-Style Academy Pilot (10 February 2025).*

Please see the attached document *B-0450 Aide Memoire Interim Evaluation of the Assessment and Residence Stages of the Military-Style Academy Pilot*. The Interim Evaluation document, referred to as Appendix One, is publicly available on the Oranga Tamariki website [here](#).

Please note some information is withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- Section 9(2)(g)(ii) in order to protect ministers, members of organisations, officers, and employees from improper pressure or harassment.

Oranga Tamariki may make the information contained in this letter available to the public by publishing this on our website with your personal details removed.

I trust you find this information useful. Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise them with Oranga Tamariki.

Alternatively, you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Information about this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by contacting them on 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'C' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Iain Chapman

Acting Deputy Chief Executive, Youth Justice Services and Residential Care

Interim evaluation of the assessment and residence stages of the Military-Style Academy Pilot

To Hon Karen Chhour, Minister for Children			
Date	7 February 2025	Deadline	Not applicable
Reference number	B-0450	Priority	Medium
Key contact	Iain Chapman, Acting Deputy Chief Executive Youth Justice Services and Residential Care	Contact number	██████████
Security	Confidential		

Purpose

- 1 This aide memoire provides a summary of the interim evaluation of the Military-Style Academy Pilot, and the plan for its public release.
- 2 The interim evaluation is included as Appendix One.

About the evaluation

- 3 The interim evaluation of the Military-Style Academy Pilot (the Pilot) provides learnings from the assessment and residence stages of the Pilot. It is not the final evaluation of the full Pilot and does not consider the transition to the community stage, or the community stage itself.
- 4 This is a 'process evaluation', which focuses on how the intended design for the Pilot was implemented in practice, along with early outcomes for the rangatahi who are participating. The interim evaluation was delivered by an external, independent provider and is intended to inform continuous improvement for the current pilot, and any potential future iterations of Military-Style Academies.

High level summary

- 5 The interim evaluation considered successes, as well as challenges, and areas for improvement. It also looked at points of difference from other youth justice residence programmes. The Pilot was an opportunity to trial a different, more intensive, and structured way of supporting rangatahi and their whānau while they are in a youth justice residence.
- 6 Successes include:
 - an in-depth assessment phase that identified rangatahi needs and informed therapeutic care;
 - having a consistent cohort who progressed through the Pilot together;

- having a comprehensive programme with flexibility to adjust programme content for rangatahi; incorporating cultural components to the programme;
- partnering with mana whenua to support delivery of the programme; and
- supporting access to healthcare and engagement in education.

7 Areas identified for improvement include:

- considerations around building the programme on te aō Māori;
- the inclusion of existing models such as Te Whare Tapa Whā;
- clarifications around the role of site social workers and how they can stay connected when rangatahi are in residence; and
- the reliance on discretionary effort from kaimahi.

8 The tight timeframes for developing and standing up the Pilot highlight the importance of evaluation findings to inform any potential future iterations of Military-Style Academies.

Next steps

- 9 By early February 2025, the first three months of the community stage have concluded. This time period was about the young people moving back into their communities.
- 10 The transition to community stage will be reported on in a further interim evaluation. That report will consider how the actions of the rangatahi compared to the expectations of how they would behave when back in community, along with the impact and effectiveness of transition planning.
- 11 The Pilot is due to finish, as planned, in July 2025.
- 12 Oranga Tamariki has committed to providing updates on the progress of the Pilot at relevant intervals. The next one is planned for mid February 2025.
- 13 Officials will provide you with a verbal update on both the interim evaluation, and the planned content of that progress update on 10 February 2025.
- 14 The interim evaluation will then be shared with key stakeholders, such as the mana whenua partner and External Reference Group.

- 15 The progress update will consist of a written update, to be published on the Oranga Tamariki website, along with publication of the interim evaluation (by close of play on 14 February 2025).

Sign-off

Oranga Tamariki



Iain Chapman

Acting Deputy Chief Executive, Youth Justice Services and Residential Care

Date signed: 7 February 2024

Minister comments

Satisfaction

Please select your level of satisfaction with this Aide Memoire

☐ Outstanding

☐ Good

☐ Acceptable

☐ Poor

☐ Unacceptable