

5 August 2026

s9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe s9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email, received on 29 July 2026, to Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children (Oranga Tamariki) requesting information on records relating to Homai School and Elmwood School. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

You have requested:

1. *Please advise whether your agency currently holds, or has previously held, any records relating to students who, during the period 1 January 1950 to 31 December 1999, resided at:*
 - a. *Homai School; and*
 - b. *Elmwood School*
2. *If records are held, please identify the categories of records, including but not limited to:*
 - a. *residential or boarding records;*
 - b. *welfare records;*
 - c. *care plans;*
 - d. *social work records;*
 - e. *case management files;*
 - f. *complaints or incident records;*
 - g. *inspection or monitoring reports;*
 - h. *correspondence relating to individual children; and*
 - i. *any other records relating to the care, supervision or wellbeing of students.*
3. *Please advise whether your agency has ever assumed responsibility for, received, archived or managed any records relating to the residential care of children at Homai School or Elmwood School.*
4. *Please provide any agreements, memoranda, transfer documentation or correspondence relating to the transfer or custody of records between your agency (or its predecessor agencies), the Department of Education, the Ministry of Education, the Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind, or any other public agency.*
5. *If records have been transferred to another organisation, please identify:*

- a. *the receiving agency;*
 - b. *the date of transfer; and*
 - c. *any documentation recording that transfer.*
6. *If any records have been destroyed, disposed of or cannot be located, please provide:*
 - a. *the legal authority under which this occurred;*
 - b. *the applicable disposal authority or retention schedule;*
 - c. *the categories of records affected;*
 - d. *the approximate date of destruction or disposal; and*
 - e. *any documentation authorising or recording that action.*
7. *Please advise whether your agency is aware of any inspections, reviews, investigations or monitoring reports relating to residential care at Homai School or Elmwood School during the period 1950–1999.*
8. *Please advise whether your agency is aware of any historical records held by another public agency that relate to the care or welfare of children who resided at either school.*
9. *Please identify the position responsible for the custody and management of the records referred to in this request, including any Records Manager, Information Manager or Archivist responsible for those records*

The information you have requested is not held by Oranga Tamariki, but is held by the Ministry of Education. Ordinarily, we would transfer your request to them for response, but we have been advised that their team is already responding to a similar request from you. As such, you can expect to hear back from them in due course.

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. If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@ot.govt.nz. 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



Michelle Malyon
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System Leadership