



Ross Stewart
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Tēnā koe Ross

Thank you for your email of 1 September 2019, asking a number of questions about Mt Wellington Residential School. We have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

I understand you have previously requested information from us about this school. You have asked a lot of specific questions in this request, so we have again searched our records to double check if there is any further information available to answer your questions, beyond what we have already told you.

The answers we have provided to your questions are based on information contained in relevant documents we have found about the school and the matters you are querying.

- 1. What made the Department of Education's District Child Welfare Officer (DSWO) for the Auckland region him suspicious that a employee employed as a Handyman/Relief Housemaster cover for 10 hours per week at Mt.wellington residential School may have been guilty of criminal of impropriety/s for a short period of time against male's between 1960 and 1962.*
- 2. Did the Department of Education's District Child Welfare Officer (DSWO) for the Auckland region inform the headmaster of Mt.Wellington Residential School, Mr. Hill of his suspicions or evidence retaining to such impropriety's that may had been committed against males?*

The Principal, along with the Superintendent of Child Welfare, were notified by the DCWO that he had found evidence that led him to suspect the missing staff member was guilty of criminal impropriety towards males.

There is no description of what this evidence was in any of the documents we have.

- 3. Were any male/s pupil/s questioned on such impropriety's that may have been committed against them by the suspected Handyman/Relief Housemaster male staff employee?*

We have not found any records of pupils at the school being questioned about this individual.

We have also not found any records that any complaints were made to the school or the Department of Education at the time about this individual.

- 4. What if any action was taken by the headmaster of Mt.Wellington Residential School, Mr. Hill or the Department of Education's District Child Welfare Officer (DSWO) for the Auckland region in regards to the welfare or safety of any pupil whom may have been subjected to such alleged impropriety's committed against them?*

We have not found any records of what actions the Principal or the DCWO took in relation to the safety or welfare of pupils at the school who may have been abused by this individual.

5. *Was any assistance or help given to any male pupil/s whom may have been subjected to such suspected impropriety's committed against them by the said suspected male Handyman/Relief Housemaster employee?*
6. *Did the Department of Education's District Child Welfare Officer (DSWO) for the Auckland region or the headmaster of Mt.wellington Residential School, Mr. Hill notify any parent/s or guardian/s that their child may have been subjected to such impropriety/s by the suspected Handyman/Relief Housemaster staff employee?*

We have not found any records about what assistance was offered to pupils at the school who may have been abused by this individual or whether any parents were notified.

7. *Did the Department of Education's District Child Welfare Officer (DSWO) for the Auckland region or the headmaster of Mt.wellington Residential School, Mr. Hill inform the NZ Police that a criminal offence may have been committed against some pupil/s attending Mt.Wellington Residential School in there years between1960 /1962 by a suspected Handyman/Relief Housemaster employee?*

The Police were notified of this individual's disappearance by the DCWO in January 1961. We have not found any records that either the DCWO or the Principal informed Police about the DCWO's suspicions or that a criminal offence may have been committed by this individual against pupils at the school.

8. *Was the Government or the Minister for Education notified or aware of such criminal impropriety/s that may have been committed against males by a male employee of Mt.Wellington Residential School in the years of 1960-1962.*
9. *How did the Government or the Minister for Education respond or remedy the situation regarding to such allegations retaining to such suspected impropriety's that may have been committed against male/s pupils by an employee Handyman/Relief Housemaster employed at Mt.Wellington Residential School?*

We have not found any record that the Minister of Education was advised about the DCWO's suspicions regarding this individual.

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

Nāku noa, nā



Coralanne Child
Acting Deputy Secretary
Sector Enablement and Support