# Child, Youth and Family Residential Care Regulations Inspection Report: 2013

## Te Poutama Arahi Rangatahi Residence

### Te Poutama Ārahi Rangatahi is a specialist residential treatment facility located in Christchurch. The service, which is managed by Barnardos under contract from Child, Youth and Family, provides residential treatment for young men aged from 12–17 years who have engaged in harmful sexual behaviour and who can no longer be safely treated within their own communities. Te Poutama Ārahi Rangatahi provides a safe, secure and therapeutic environment to assist young men to engage in their individualised treatment programmes in a positive and responsive way. Community-based treatment providers and clinical staff also work alongside families prior to, during and throughout the reintegration phase of young people’s treatment. The Ministry of Education provides an on-site school which all young people attend on a daily basis and external activities and educational and vocational opportunities are also provided, based on each young person’s individualised education plan. Treatment, which ranges from nine months to two years, is provided to young people until they are deemed ready and able to be reintegrated safely back into the community.

### Inspection Reports

The eight residences run by Child, Youth and Family and Te Poutama Ārahi Rangatahi are assessed every calendar year by the Office of the Chief Social Worker to ensure:

* compliance with the regulations as specified in the Children, Young Persons, and Their Families (Residential Care) Regulations 1996 (the Regulations)
* compliance with section 384 of the Children, Young Persons, and Their Families Act 1989
* the provision of safe, appropriate care for children and young people.

A report is produced, summarising the findings of the inspection that focuses on any non-compliance identified, and residences are required to develop a response to the report that addresses these areas for improvement.

## Inspection summary as at November 2013

### Scope

The residential care regulations are about the safety and wellbeing, and upholding of the rights of, children and young people placed in a Child, Youth and Family residence. They also outline expectations about management and inspection of the residences.

Each inspection covers the six parts of the regulations, namely:

* Part 1: Rights of children and young persons in residences
* Part 2: Limitations on powers of punishment and discipline
* Part 3: Management and inspection of residences
* Part 4: Searches
* Part 5: Secure care
* Part 6: Records.

In 2013 Te Poutama Ārahi Rangatahi achieved a 93.5 percent rate of compliance across the six parts of the regulations, for those provisions tested on the inspection.

### Overall

* Not all provisions of the residential care regulations and section 384 of the Children, Young Persons, and Their Families Act 1989 apply to every residence, on every occasion.
* Due to the nature of some regulations, non-compliance in one area can mean automatic non-compliance with other regulations as they are inherently linked.
* The inspection identified areas of strength as well as areas for improvement for Te Poutama Ārahi Rangatahi.
* An improvement plan was developed to address the identified areas of improvement and the result of this plan is outlined below.

### Areas of strength

Areas where the inspection found evidence of good practices and processes that were promoting the wellbeing and safety of children and young people included:

* individual care plans were of a high standard and were completed on time
* initial reports and assessments being completed prior to children and young people’s admission to the residence contained a good level of detail
* the plans developed at the point of admission for working with young people were thorough
* comprehensive educational programmes and activities were provided
* the health services that were provided were of an excellent standard
* personal files were well maintained and orderly
* grievances were thoroughly investigated and recorded to a high standard
* generally the standard of recording was high.

### Areas for improvement

Areas where improvement was required included:

* ensuring that where young people were being cared for in the intensive support area of the residence, they were provided with the opportunity to spend time with other young people
* ensuring that young people’s contact with their family and whānau was only supervised where there was a good reason for doing so, or there was a court order in place preventing this
* ensuring that staff utilised the full range of options for managing young people’s challenging behaviour with the minimum amount of physical intervention used only where necessary
* ensuring that the restorative-justice approach to managing behaviour was applied in a timely and proportionate manner in all circumstances
* ensuring that staff understood the regulations, and strengthening the compliance monitoring system.

### Service delivery response

In response to the identified areas for improvement, Barnardos has implemented the following actions:

* Young people who are in intensive support have an intensive therapeutic plan formulated for them to ensure that risk to themselves, and others, is minimised. The plan includes always being able to spend time with other young people in other areas of the residence as well as the community, in order to participate in activities with others that support their therapeutic intervention plan objectives.
* There has been a review of contact protocols for young people to ensure that all contact restrictions are supported by recent and relevant evidence. Where restrictions are in place, these are reviewed on a regular and ongoing basis to ensure that contact with family and whānau is not impaired by unnecessary or unsubstantiated restrictions.
* A review of the restorative framework at Te Poutama Ārahi Rangatahi has commenced. Staff will be supported by ongoing workplace training and supervision to ensure that the framework is applied consistently and any sanction used in the management of young people’s challenging behaviour is timely and proportionate to the incident concerned.
* The review of the restorative framework will assist staff in managing challenging behaviours. Staff will continue to utilise the full range of options for managing young people’s challenging behaviour with the minimum amount of physical intervention used only where necessary. Supervision, debriefing and training has also been reviewed to support staff in the management of challenging behaviours.
* A current staffing restructure is under way which will support the compliance monitoring system to be imbedded in the operation of the residence. This will provide the framework to support staff in their understanding of, and compliance with, the regulations. A new training system has also been implemented to ensure that staff are regularly educated about the regulations.