

Pastoral email

Dear colleagues and friends

Yesterday afternoon the Presbyterian Church was informed that after a series of consultations on the future of Turakina Māori Girls' College, the Minister of Education has decided to close the school due to concerns regarding its falling roll and the financial position this places the school in.

Consultations over the future of Turakina took place from August to November. I know that some of you made submissions in support of Turakina and will feel this upsetting news deeply.

Our Church has long been a strong supporter of Turakina. Our thoughts and prayers are with the staff, students, whanau and community of the school and our Māori Synod, Te Aka Puaho, in this time of tremendous sadness. Te Aka Puaho are onsite at the school offering pastoral care and support.

In this time of loss I want to acknowledge the long and proud history of Turakina and the many outstanding Māori women leaders it has produced who have enriched our churches, communities and country.

Please be assured that our Church's commitment to education remains strong. We will continue to support Te Aka Puaho in the education of Māori young women and we will be guided by Te Aka Puaho as to what form this might take. We pray for wisdom as together we seek ways forward.

We ask for your prayers for the staff, students and whanau of Turakina at this very difficult time.

Rev Dr Colin Marshall
Convenor of the Council of Assembly