

Hon Chris Hipkins  
Minister of Education  
Email: [chris.hipkins@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:chris.hipkins@parliament.govt.nz)

Wednesday, 12 December 2018

Hon Aupito William Sio  
Minister of Pacific Peoples  
Email: [Aupito.William.Sio@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Aupito.William.Sio@parliament.govt.nz)

Hon Jenny Salesa  
Associate Minister of Education  
Email: [jenny.salesa@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:jenny.salesa@parliament.govt.nz)

Dear Ministers,

We refer to our letter of alert on 16 November 2018 and wish to record our continued dissatisfaction of health and safety risks of the property that has been offered to Rise UP Academy from 2019.

#### **Atkinson Avenue**

- The property is a commercial building situated on a busy road with a speed limit of 50km. We understand that there is a 40km speed limit restriction outside a school zone;
- There is no grass area for our children to play on. The majority of our students are kinaesthetic learners and need the outdoor space to bring out the best in them;
- Drop off and pick up area will be shared with restaurant patrons on the ground floor;
- The interior of the premises is an impediment for special learning and special learning styles;
- Internal noise levels from all students and staff being on the same level;
- Diminished parent interest;
- Staff wellbeing, recruitment and retention;
- Co-locating with potentially high risk students from Pacific Advance Secondary School;
- Environmental effects;
- Lack of parking for staff, parents and visitors;
- Junk food establishments and signage in vicinity of premises;
- Area allocated for children's play area is not big enough to accommodate 101 students;
- Children have to navigate their way from the front of the building down a public driveway, past a driveway at the back of the building used by the restaurant on the ground floor to get to the play area safely;
- Our children will be confronted by cigarette butts, empty alcohol bottles and the like when they arrive at the front door of the building.

These high risk factors do not provide for a high quality learning or safe environment for our children. It portrays a picture of our students being set up to fail.

Our parents have entrusted us with their children's learning since the school was established in 2014. It would be irresponsible of our EBOT to allow their children to be taught in such a volatile environment.

#### **Rosella Road**

We have an extension to our current lease at Rosella Road to April 2019. We are confident that we can obtain a further extension provided MOE are prepared to pay the asking rent to enable MOE officials to explore other appropriate locations.

Rise UP Academy is committed to providing a healthy and safe environment in order to provide the best possible learning outcomes for our children. We are now asking MOE to support our commitment to provide that environment at whatever cost.

#### **Manukau PIC Church, Wyllie Road, Papatoetoe**

We have met with the executive of this church who have agreed in principle to allow our school to operate on their property. However the area they allocated for us was not sufficient for the number of buildings we require.

They have now advised that they would be prepared to sell part of the land for a new school to be built on.

This could be explored as a permanent location for Rise UP Academy in the future.

#### **Mangere PIC Church, Lyncroft Street, Mangere**

This property is the same as the Wyllie Road property. The church would like to sell the area of land at the rear of the church buildings. This is also a possible permanent location for our school.

We ask that an Auckland based official be dedicated with sourcing a safe location for our school.

As stated in our previous letter, our parents are prepared to go to the media if necessary. We are hopeful that will not be necessary.

We therefore respectfully ask that you take our concerns into consideration in determining the best outcome for our students.

With thanks and appreciations.



**Sally Ikinofu MNZM**

Chairperson

Rise UP Academy EBOT